

XANTI SCHAWINSKY

HEAD DRAWINGS AND

FACES OF WAR

8 JANUARY – 28 FEBRUARY
KUNSTHALLEN

Curated by Brett Littman

Alexander 'Xanti' Schawinsky was a first generation Bauhaus artist who studied in Weimar under Oskar Schlemmer, László Moholy-Nagy and Walter Gropius during the late 1920s. Originally trained as an architect, Schawinsky's prolific work encompassed a range of social and political investigations, and included painting, graphic design and experimental photography. He was also deeply engaged in the Bauhaus' theater workshop, as a set and costume designer, creator of performances, actor and musician.

A Swiss-born, Polish Jew, in 1936 he fled Nazi Germany, moving briefly to Milan before joining Josef Albers as a teacher at the Black Mountain College in North Carolina, and then settling in New York.

This exhibition - which was originally presented at The Drawing Center, New York in 2014 - focuses on two bodies of work that Schawinsky made in the US between 1941 and 1946: "Faces of War" and the "Head Drawings".

"Faces of War" is a series of Arcimboldo-like images of man-machine hybrids that might represent either an aggressive enemy or a powerful avenger — or perhaps an identity that encompasses both. Made during the year that the US declared war on Germany, their break from the utopian optimism of the early Bauhaus fascination with man and machine reveals the existential struggle of an artist coping with his own identity and the devastation of the war.

The "Head Drawings", by contrast, appear more classical in nature, but they too evoke a powerful fragmentation of the subject. Schawinsky assembles his delicate trompe l'oeil portraits through various materials and matter, both man-made and natural - an attempt perhaps to reimagine and remake himself in the face of the shattering experiences of World War II.

Xanti Schawinsky was born 1904 in Basel, Switzerland, died 1979 in Locarno, Switzerland.

In NO.5 Bergen Kunsthall revisits selected artworks and exhibitions, previously presented elsewhere in the world. Initiated in response to the increasing acceleration of both the production and reception of art, NO.5 provides an opportunity to slow down, focus on, and look again at particular works, exhibitions or fragments of exhibitions. "Xanti Schawinsky: Head Drawings and Faces of War" was first shown at The Drawing Center, NY, during fall 2014, curated by Brett Littman. For this exhibition Bergen Kunsthall has commissioned a new text by Milena Høgsberg.

Xanti Schawinsky: Head Drawings and Faces of War is made possible by the support of The Kind World Foundation, the Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia, Daniel Schawinsky and the Xanti Schawinsky Estate, and Fiona and Eric Rudin. Special thanks to Anke Kempkes and BROADWAY 1602.

RELATED EVENTS

OPENING

8 January, 8pm

GUIDED TOURS

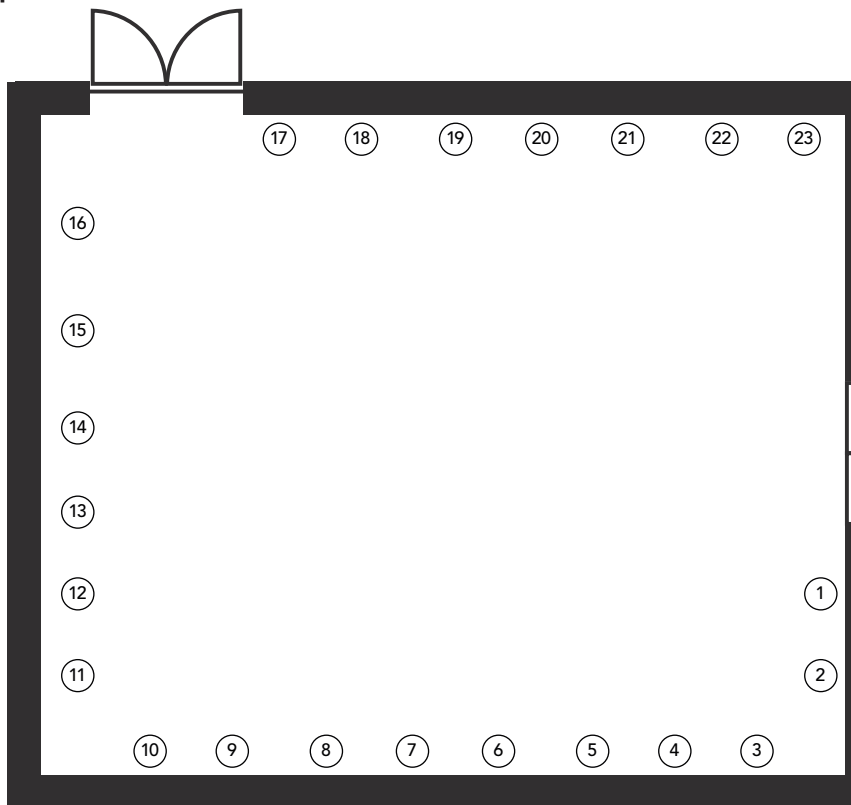
Every Sunday, 2pm

7 January, 6pm – Members

10 January, 1pm – Families

Exhibition Map

No.5



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| <p>1 <i>Untitled (War Face and Child)</i>, 1942
Gouache on paper, b&w photo cut out
72.39 x 52.07 cm</p> <p>2 <i>Untitled (Three Green War Faces)</i>, 1942
Gouache on paper
72.39 x 52.07 cm</p> <p>3 <i>The General (Faces of War)</i>, 1942
Mixed media, watercolor and pen
80 x 60 cm</p> <p>4 <i>The Soldier (Faces of War)</i>, 1942
Mixed media, watercolor and black pen
72 x 52.6 cm</p> <p>5 <i>The Enemy (Faces of War)</i>, 1942
Mixed media, watercolor and black pen on paper
72.6 x 52.4 cm</p> <p>6 <i>The Admiral (Faces of War)</i>, 1942
Mixed media, watercolor and black pen on paper
74.6 x 54.4 cm</p> <p>7 <i>The Gunner (Faces of War)</i>, 1942
Mixed technique, aqueous and black pen
73 x 53.6 cm</p> <p>8 <i>Untitled (War 1169)</i>, 1942
Mixed technique, aqueous and pen
80 x 60 cm</p> <p>9 <i>The Parachutist (Faces of War)</i>, 1942
Mixed media, watercolor and black pen
74.2 x 53.3 cm</p> <p>10 <i>Architectural Design</i>, 1945
Mixed media, water color and black pen
52.7 x 73.4 cm</p> <p>11 <i>Crystal Head (Head Drawings)</i>, 1943
Graphite on paper
78.74 x 57.15 cm</p> <p>12 <i>Euclidian (Head Drawings)</i>, 1945
Graphite on paper
80.01 x 58.42 cm</p> | <p>13 <i>Domestic, (Head Drawings)</i>, 1943-46
Graphite on paper
86 x 64.3 x 3.8 cm
Courtesy of Beth Rudin DeWoody</p> <p>14 <i>Medusa (Head Drawings)</i>, 1945
Graphite on paper
78.74 x 55.88 cm</p> <p>15 <i>Above the Waters (Head Drawings)</i>, 1944
Graphite on paper
80.01 x 57.15 cm</p> <p>16 <i>Antique Shop (Head Drawings)</i>, 1945
Graphite on paper
78.74 x 57.15 cm</p> <p>17 <i>The Soldier (Head Drawings)</i>, 1941-44
Graphite on paper
78.74 x 52.07 cm</p> <p>18 <i>Head Drawings (1208)</i>, 1945
Pencil on paper
77.98 x 57.15 cm</p> <p>19 <i>Head Drawings (Artwork for print)</i>, 1943
Pencil on paper
77.98 x 57.91 cm</p> <p>20 <i>Water Man (Head Drawings)</i>, 1945
Graphite on paper
78.74 x 57.15 cm</p> <p>21 <i>Laundry Man (Head Drawings)</i>, 1944
Graphite on paper
78.74 x 57.15 cm</p> <p>22 <i>Rope Head (Head Drawings)</i>, 1944
Graphite on paper
78.74 x 55.88 cm</p> <p>23 <i>Sewing Hour (Head Drawings)</i>, 1941
Graphite on paper
77.47 x 55.88 cm</p> |
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Courtesy of The Xanti Schawinsky Estate unless noted otherwise.