



# GLENN BROWN THE REAL THING

24.2 TO 18.6.23

For the first time in the history of the two institutions, the Landesmuseum Hannover and the Sprengel Museum Hannover are presenting a joint exhibition entitled *The Real Thing*: to this end, the British artist Glenn Brown has taken on the two art collections and temporarily extended them with his own works. Located in close proximity, the two institutions are going new ways in close cooperation by staging the show curated by Brown at the two venues and are presenting an exhibition in order to stimulate a discussion about the relationship between historical and contemporary art.

Together, the Landesmuseum Hannover and the Sprengel Museum Hannover cover art output since the Middle Ages: while the collection of the Landesgalerie concentrates on the Old and New Masters up to the 1920s, the spectrum of the Sprengel Museum Hannover ranges from Classical Modernism to the present day. What happens when an artist is given unrestricted access to the collections of two leading museums and combines these works with those of his own is what *The Real Thing* sets out to show.

## ABOUT GLENN BROWN

Born in 1966, Brown executes his paintings in Old Masterly manner with thin, swirling brushstrokes that create the illusion of an almost photographically flat surface. The effect is powerful and creates an artistic language that transcends time and pictorial conventions.

As Brown explained in an interview with Reinhard Spieler, he tries to make art more attractive, open and captivating: "So whether it is my painting or somebody else's, I want to encourage the audience to look at something for a bit longer." It is very difficult to make out how he paints his pictures because they conceal the production process pretty well. "You have to look very closely... to see the real brushstrokes," is how Brown describes his painting style.

The British artist is known for the use of art-historical references in his paintings. Taking works by other artists as his point of departure, he transforms the adopted image by modifying colour, position and size. He says he is happy when his works are seen next to other paintings. Likewise when he creates inversions of them.

"My brain is made of other artists, they are all inside me. And I can't separate myself from the history of art. It is all the same thing," says Brown in an interview that can be found in the catalogue accompanying the exhibition.



Glenn Brown has had a number of solo exhibitions: at the Serpentine Gallery in London in 2004, at the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna in 2008, at Tate Liverpool in 2009 (later shown at the Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo in Turin), at the Ludwig Múzeum in Budapest in 2010, and at the Fondation Vincent Van Gogh in Arles, in Provence, in 2016.

GLENN BROWN

AT THE LANDESMUSEUM HANNOVER

With works ranging from the Middle Ages to the early 20th century – unique altars, Italian Baroque and Dutch painting, and one of the largest collections of German Impressionism and early Expressionism – the collection of the Landesmuseum Hannover offers Glenn Brown plenty of cues for entering into dialogue.

Alongside works by Gustave Courbet, Arnold Böcklin and Ferdinand Hodler, Brown's points of reference include the works of German landscape painters, including Gustav Hausmann and Theodor Kotsch. Anthonis van Dyck, Paula Modersohn Becker and landscape paintings and still lifes by Gabriele Münter – Glenn Brown not only fuses his own works with the collection, but also elaborates strong connections within the encountered works. The exhibition is supplemented with loans of modern and contemporary art from the Sprengel Museum Hannover.

Katja Lembke, Director of the Landesmuseum Hannover, comments:

"Each work of art was topical in its time. With his selection and the works' arrangement, Glenn Brown has erased the boundaries between old and new. At the same time, he places his own works in the tradition of the Old Masters. An exciting experiment that I find utterly accomplished."

GLENN BROWN

AT THE SPRENGEL MUSEUM HANNOVER

The Sprengel Museum has one of Germany's foremost collections of modern art with an international focus. Here, *The Real Thing* consists of two parts with a solo exhibition of works by Glenn Brown and thematic interventions in the rooms of the permanent collection. The monographic show can be seen at Sprengel Focus, while other works are mixed into the Elementary Parts collection presentation between works by Kurt Schwitters, Niki de Saint Phalle, Georg Baselitz and Gerhard Richter. The British artist is restructuring the existing chapters of Colour, Material and Faces of the collection presentation and giving them a new narrative.

Director Reinhard Spieler:

"Playfully and humorously, and also with a keen eye for the characteristic features of paintings in terms of composition, colour, ductus and subject, Glenn Brown establishes surprising links between a wide variety of works – and in doing so, in his dual role as a curator and painter, teaches us an entirely new way of seeing."

## PRESS RELEASE

3/3

23.2.23



### LAUFZEIT

24.2. BIS 18.6.23

### PRESSEKONFERENZ

Donnerstag, 23.2.23, 10.00 Uhr

Start im Landesmuseum Hannover, anschließend  
Sprengel Museum Hannover

### Es sprechen

Katja Lembke

Direktorin / Director Landesmuseum Hannover

Reinhard Spieler

Direktor / Director Sprengel Museum Hannover

Glenn Brown

Künstler und Kurator der Ausstellung / Artist and Curator

### ERÖFFNUNG

Donnerstag, 23.2.23

6 pm Exhibition Visit / Drinks

8 pm Exhibition Visits / Welcome Adresses

### Begrüßung

Katja Lembke & Reinhard Spieler

Direktorin Landesmuseum Hannover / Direktor Sprengel  
Museum Hannover

### Grußworte

Belit Onay

Oberbürgermeister der Landeshauptstadt Hannover /

Mayor of the City of Hanover

Falko Mohrs

Niedersächsischer Minister für Wissenschaft und Kultur /

Minister for Science and Culture, Lower Saxony

### Einführung (in engl. Sprache) / Introduction

Glenn Brown

Im Gespräch mit Katja Lembke und Reinhard Spieler

### CATALOG

The exhibition will be accompanied by a catalog.  
Holzwarth Publications, 35 Euro.

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### PRESSE- UND ÖFFENTLICHKEITSARBEIT

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