

berlin mitte

artotel

G. Baselitz

g. baselitz exhibition



## georg baselitz

at art'otel berlin mitte, georg baselitz – one of the most significant contemporary artists of our time – is exhibiting an excellent collection of his works in a museum-like permanent exhibition, opening to their guests the unique opportunity to get closer to the painter and engraver than ever before. each of the 109 rooms of the hotel is furnished with original works by the artist. the collection of 328 graphic works in this modern hotel in berlin's wallstrasse offers comprehensive overview of baselitz's oeuvre; the historic ermeler house (integrated into the hotel complex) contains works by renowned contemporary artists such as penck, strawalade, christo and vostell – a stimulating contrast to the ornamental baroque décor.

### artist background

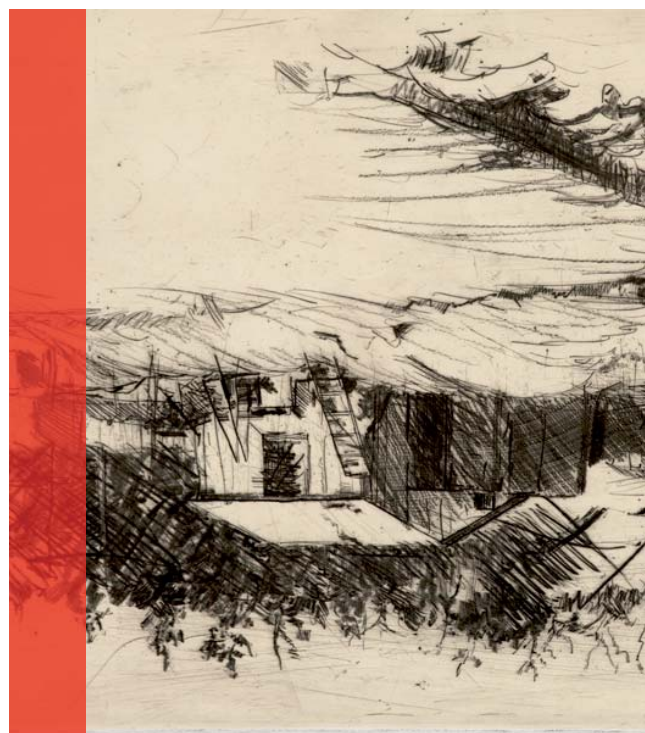
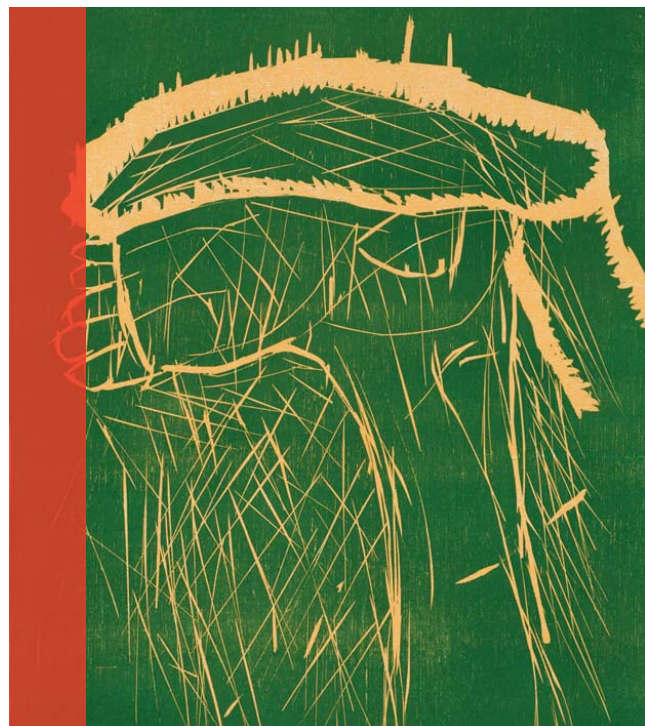
born georg kern in deutschbaselitz in sachsen, germany, in 1938, georg baselitz grew up in the former gdr and studied in east – later in west – berlin. baselitz sought out new possibilities for expression and he strove to distinguish himself from others by departing from existing painting traditions. he grappled with painting intensively and by destroying the pictorial content and traditional composition he developed his own language of images and forms in his paintings, sketches and graphic works, which found their unmistakable expression in the seventies when he turned the image depicted on its head. the object, the motif, loses in this inversion its interpretability, thus liberating one's vision for direct contemplation of the drawing itself.

### art in the hotel

prints have a special place in baselitz's composition. the painter acquired a broad range of printing techniques, ranging from etchings and woodcuttings to linocuts. three large-format linocuts welcome the guests in the reception hall, among them an eagle motif that appears again and again in baselitz's works. the eagle, a reference to the changing history of germany, appears as a tissue of lines and strokes, changing from a symbol to a pure drawing. on the way to the restaurant you can see the artist baselitz at work in a picture taken by benjamin katz. katz was baselitz's gallerist during the 1960s. in one of their exhibitions two of baselitz's paintings were seized by the authorities due to their purported "immoral" content. whereas provocative and violent subjects often stood at the centre of his paintings, the graphic works speak a gentler language. thus the hallways of the first, second and third floors exhibit the etchings from the group of works entitled trees (1974) in which baselitz does not so much realistically depict the rich variety of forms of individual trees and tree groups, but rather recreates them pictorially out of lines and strokes – like the pages of the series huts (1972) on display in the hallways on the fourth and fifth floors. on the sixth floor you can view the etchings from 1973 in which baselitz alludes to his own drawings from 1959, translating them to the medium of print. the retrospective allusion to past themes and works is characteristic of baselitz's oeuvre and typical of his works particularly since the 1990s. each series in the corridors is accompanied by framed book pages showing the master at work and quoting some of his statements explaining his artistic development. baselitz's friendship with ralf winkler, who under the name a. r. penck has become one of the most significant post-bellum artists, is reflected in the restaurant with a series of silk prints. via the restaurant the guests can enter the historical ermeler house that has been integrated into the hotel. the rooms on the first floor captivate with their restored intricate rococo ceiling paintings. the new minimalist furniture and the contemporary works by strawalade, christo and vostell offer an exciting contrast in a harmonic combination between old and new.

total numbers of artworks: 328

best known artworks: sea eagle, huts, feminine act on kitchen chair



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