

Museum Berggruen Gets Board, Barracks

BERLIN—The family of Heinz Berggruen, a prominent German Jewish art collector who died last February, has announced that it will make a long-term loan of 50 works from Berggruen's collection to Berlin, the city he fled in 1936 and later forgave.

The works, by such artists as Cézanne, Matisse, and Picasso, belong to Berggruen's four children and his wife, Bettina. To house them, the city is donating a former barracks next to the

anniversary of the Prussian Cultural Property Foundation, which oversees the Museum Berggruen and other institutions.

Born in Berlin in 1914, Berggruen emigrated to the United States during the rise of Nazism. A tour of duty in the U.S. Army deposited him in Paris after the war, and he began a career as an art dealer, befriending Picasso and buying many works by him and other major artists of the period. In 1980 he gave up dealing to focus on his own collection; in 2000 he sold the works in the Museum Berggruen to Berlin as a "gesture of reconciliation," he said at the time.

Last summer Nicolas Berggruen, the collector's youngest son and chair of the museum, established a board of trustees that he says will be "active in prolonging my father's desires to keep the museum alive." A New York-based investor with real estate holdings in Berlin, the younger Berggruen told *ARTnews* that he is considering founding a separate contemporary-art museum in Berlin to house works from his own collection, which includes pieces by Damien Hirst, Jeff Koons, and Andy Warhol. This museum would also display commissioned works and provide artists with studio space, he says.

Nicolas Berggruen says he is keen to find a space for his own collection but adds that "at the moment, the museum of my father takes priority." He gives a simple explanation for the family's continued generosity toward the city despite Heinz Berggruen's experiences under the Nazis. "My father felt very comfortable in Berlin," he says. "I feel very comfortable in Berlin as well."

—Robert Rigney



A 1943 book-jacket design by Matisse is among the works being loaned to Berlin from Heinz Berggruen's collection.

Museum Berggruen, which opened in 1997 and contains more than 100 objects that the city has acquired from Berggruen's collection. Renovation of the new annex, to be completed next year, is expected to cost €3.5 million (\$4.8 million) and will include a skywalk connecting the two buildings.

André Schmitz, Berlin's culture secretary, calls the loan "a birthday present of a special kind," coinciding with the 50-year

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