

Press release

Exhibitions

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# From Cubism to Concretism

## Early Norwegian Avant-Garde

Wing 1.12.2004 - 30.1.2005

**Exhibition From Cubism to Concretism at Pori Art Museum presents paintings from the heyday of Norwegian abstract avant-garde art in the 1920s – 1950s.**

Newly recovered from the First World War, Europa was attracting young Norwegian artists to explore the inspiring artistic world of Paris. The Norwegian artists Ragnhild Kaarbø (1888-1949), Ragnhild Keyser (1889-1943), Charlotte Wankel (1888-1969) and Thorvald Hellesén (1888-1937) may be considered the first Cubists in their country, pioneers of nonfigurative art. Full of novelty and boldness, the works they created in Paris were composed of colours, geometric and asymmetric forms, and in their newness they sought their place in the Norwegian field of art. The works received both admiration and disgust, the reactions that new unprecedented art still induces.

After the Second World War the Norwegian art audience witnessed a second heyday of nonfigurative art, with Gunnar S. Gundersen (1921-1983), Ludvig Eikaas (1920-) and Jakob Weidemann (1923-2001) painting geometric works. Differing from or making references to the works of their predecessors, theirs were built on concrete forms, colours and surfaces. The works are characterised by independence and freedom from reference to the surrounding real world.

In the informative section of the exhibition, the public may study the chronological development of Norwegian nonfigurative art from a timeline and texts arranged on a wall.

The exhibition was compiled from the collections of Lillehammer Art Museum, Oslo Museum of Contemporary Art, Bergen Art Museum and Henie Onstad Kunstsenter.

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