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PRESS RELEASE

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Signal for the Nationalgalerie's Museum des 20. Jahrhunderts: Gerhard Richter Art Foundation and SPK sign a long-term loan agreement for 100 works

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Gerhard Richter is making an important selection of 100 works available for the Museum des 20. Jahrhunderts (Museum of the 20th Century), which forms part of the Nationalgalerie. Works by the artist will be on display in the Neue Nationalgalerie from 2023 onward, and after that in the new building at the Kulturforum. In addition, there will be cooperation with the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden (Dresden State Art Collections).

A long-term loan agreement between the Gerhard Richter Kunststiftung (Gerhard Richter Art Foundation) and the Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz (Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation) was signed today in Cologne. From the beginning of 2023, forty works and sixty overpainted photographs will be in the curatorial care of the Nationalgalerie. These include individual pieces such as *Squatters' House* (1989), important glass-and-mirror works such as *Mirror, Grey* (1991), painting series from later in the artist's oeuvre such as *4900 Colours* (2007) and *Strip* (2013), and abstract works created over the years. The four-part cycle *Birkenau* (2014) is a central component of the long-term loan program; until the beginning of October, it was displayed in a special exhibition at the Alte Nationalgalerie. Owing to its significance and the eminent importance of its subject matter in the history of Germany, this cycle will be on permanent display at the Kulturforum from 2023 onward, on the premises of the Nationalgalerie of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin (National Museums in Berlin).

The works will initially be shown in the Neue Nationalgalerie before moving to a room dedicated to Gerhard Richter on the upper floor of the Museum des 20. Jahrhunderts. Designed by Herzog & de Meuron architects, the latter building is currently under construction.

This will allow Gerhard Richter's works to be presented in a meaningful context alongside the Nationalgalerie collection, and to serve as an ideal complement to the contemporary art owned by the Nationalgalerie and other private loans. The Nationalgalerie will regularly be producing new

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presentations for this room with the aim of exploring new perspectives on Gerhard Richter's work itself.

The agreement also includes a cooperative arrangement with the Dresden State Art Collections, where the archive of Gerhard Richter's work is located and where other works are to be displayed on permanent loan. In addition to furthering the active exchange of information, this will enable regular loans of works by Gerhard Richter.

Gerhard Richter: "Now that I have fulfilled a lifelong dream with my foundation, it is a delightful accolade that these works will find a home in Berlin."

Hermann Parzinger, President of the Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz: "The special agreement that we are signing today was carefully prepared years ago, step by step, by Sabine Moritz-Richter, Gerhard Richter, and the then director of the Nationalgalerie, Udo Kittelmann. For the Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz and its Staatliche Museen, and for the Nationalgalerie in particular, this long-term loan is not only an honor; it is an incentive for us to make Berlin's Kulturforum a place where the art of the twentieth century is not only viewed, but also stimulates or even disconcerts people, continually setting off debates that open up new perspectives. Gerhard Richter's works belong in this city and I am sure that they will remain a permanent attraction for many visitors."

Joachim Jäger, the acting director of the Nationalgalerie and head of the Neue Nationalgalerie, adds: "100 works by Gerhard Richter for Berlin: that is – and will remain – sensational. Few artists have influenced the recent course of art history as much as Gerhard Richter has. The large selection assembled for Berlin offers a variety of profound insights into the main themes and discourses that arise in connection with his artistic work. The *Birkenau* cycle plays a central role. This work, which is also especially important to Gerhard Richter himself, not only keeps the memory of the Holocaust alive, but also continues to raise the question of how to deal with that unprecedented crime against humanity."

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