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HOUSE OF BALAGAN

Anniversary! 10 Years of the Philara Collection

27 June 2026 – 14 February 2027

Press Preview: 26 June 2026, 11 am

Opening: 27 June 2026, 4 pm – 8 pm

Press release

To celebrate its tenth anniversary in Düsseldorf Flingern, the Philara Collection is delighted to present *HOUSE OF BALAGAN*, an extensive survey of the collection, opening in June 2026. The exhibition, featuring well over 100 works by more than 80 artists, will extend from the spacious main hall across all the exhibition areas of the Philara Collection.

The exhibition presents a condensed but representative selection from Gil and Anat Bronner's collection, which today comprises over 2,000 works. The presentation is complemented by works chosen from the collection of Bronner's parents, who were a formative influence on their son's passion for collecting. Pieces from the collections of his children, Philip and Lara, after whom the exhibition space is named, are also represented.

In *HOUSE OF BALAGAN*, the Philara Collection highlights the broad spectrum and diverse connections of its holdings. Here, large-scale installations, such as **Melissa Gordon's** *Double Perspective* (2010) and **Tarik Kiswanson's** *... of ..., at..., at..., in..., Flower in the crannied wall (the weavers' machines)* (2016) encounter small, intimate drawings on paper by **Rosa Loy** and **Corinne von Lebusa**.

With works of:
Rita Ackermann
Maurizio Anzeri
Ei Arakawa
Art & Language
Leilah Babirye
Edouard Baribeaud
Tilo Baumgärtel
Kerstin Brätsch
Miguel Ángel Campano
Eduardo Chillida
Tatjana Danneberg
Hanne Darboven
Ferdinand Dölberg
Iris van Dongen
Rowena Dring
Marcel Dzama
Nicole Eisenman
Cerith Wyn Evans
Urs Fischer
Sylvie Fleury
Galli
General Idea
Isa Genzken
Sebastian Gögel
Melissa Gordon
Lothar Götz
George Grosz
Heidi Hahn
Camille Henrot
Marc Henry
Erika Hock
Margarete Jakschik
Allison Katz
Tarik Kiswanson
Karin Kneffel
Takehito Koganezawa
Kinke Kooi
Friedrich Kunath
Corinne von Lebusa
Leigh Ledare
Rosa Loy
Caroline Mesquita
Meuser
Sarah Morris
Oscar Murillo
Marcel Odenbach
Rory Pilgrim
Sigmar Polke
Charlotte Posenenske
Neo Rauch
Anys Reimann
Daniel Richter
Gerhard Richter
Gabriel Rico
Ugo Rondinone
Christoph Ruckhäberle
Nadin Maria Rüfenacht
Sibylle Ruppert
Michael Sailstorfer
Anri Sala
Thomas Scheibitz
Dasha Shishkin
Katharina Sieverding
Amy Sillman
Marianna Simnett
Wolfgang Tillmans
Kiriakos Tompolidis
Rosemarie Trockel
Ignacio Uriarte
J. Parker Valentine
Matthias Weischer
Christoph Westermeier
Michaela Yearwood-Dan
Thomas Zipp
and others

Ignacio Uriarte's *Ringbinder Circle* (2014), explores the aesthetics and functionality of office supplies. The work is made from 180 Leitz-brand ringbinders — a serendipitous reference to the former Leitz factory in Düsseldorf-Reisholz, the previous base of the collection before it moved to Birkenstrasse. Gil and Anat Bronner's very first acquisition, which laid the foundation for the collection in Barcelona in the early 1990s, is also featured in the exhibition: *Der Seher* (1990), a painting by **Miguel Ángel Campano**, regarded as a key figure in Spanish painting of the 1980s and 1990s. **Christoph Westermeier's** photographs provide further, more personal insights, offering glimpses into the parents' private apartment, as well as into the home and collection of Gil and Anat Bronner.

Another section of the exhibition is devoted to works with a common thematic content, such as corporeality. **Anys Reimann's** collage *Die Nacht* (2021) and the paintings *End. Résumé #6* (2025) and *ScreenColors 2* (2025), by **Heidi Hahn** and **Rita Ackermann** respectively, use widely differing artistic techniques to explore embodiments of femininity. Others, including those by **Matthias Weischer**, **Michaela Yearwood-Dan** and **Cerith Wyn Evans**, engage with themes of domesticity and domestication.



Sammlung Philara
Birkenstraße 47 a
40233 Düsseldorf

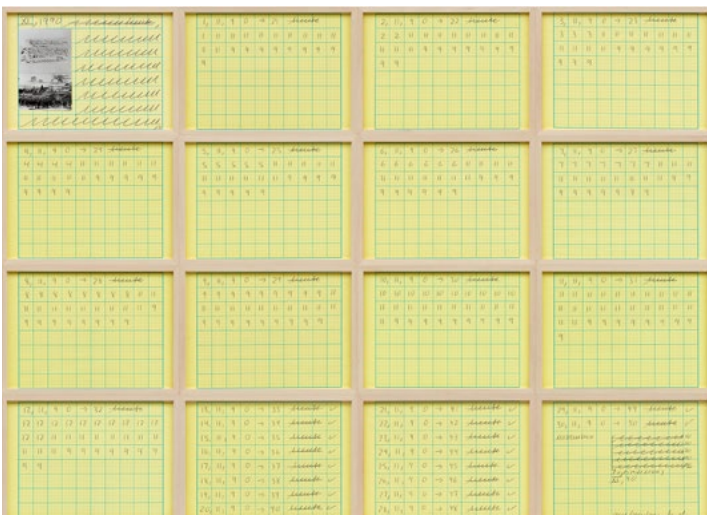
Opening hours:
Fri, 4–8 pm
Sat, 2–6 pm
Sun, 2–6 pm

www.philara.de

Heidi Hahn, *End. Résumé #6*,
2025, Courtesy of Sammlung
Philara, Düsseldorf
© VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn 2026

Rita Ackermann,
ScreenColors 2, 2025,
Courtesy of Sammlung
Philara, Düsseldorf
© Rita Ackermann

Many other works address social or political issues. In his drawing *Die sind nun Minister* (1924) **George Grosz** references the Reichstag election of 1924, during the Weimar Republic, and its consequences. **Hanne Darboven** explores the representation of time: in her work, history is always an integral component of the present. Over several years, during their investigations of language, symbolism and aesthetics, **General Idea**, the artists' collective founded in 1968 by **AA Bronson**, **Felix Partz** and **Jorge Zontal**, created fictional heraldic crests that reflected the effects of mass media, including advertising. For her part, in her large-format paintings, which are at times reminiscent of graphic design, **Sarah Morris** examines the psychogeography of urban environments and their architecture.



Hanne Darboven,
Dostojewski, 12 Monate
(*November*), 1990, Courtesy
of Sammlung Philara,
Düsseldorf © VG Bild-Kunst,
Bonn 2026, photo: Sascha
Fuis Photographie, Cologne

Hito Steyerl, *Animal Spirits:*
Herb Sphere, 2023,
Courtesy of Sammlung
Philara, Düsseldorf
© VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn 2026,
photo: CHROMA

In addition, the exhibition features several artists representative of the art scene in eastern Germany. In works such as *Trinkhalle* (2003) **Christoph Ruckhäberle** depicts apparently timeless, cinematic scenes, while **Sebastian Gögel** draws attention to issues including social ills in expressive paintings such as *Signum* (2013). In **Nadin Maria Rüfenacht's** collages, including *Mary's Garden* (2011) and *Fisher's Blue* (2011), human, animal and plant forms intermingle.

A further section of the exhibition is devoted to a solo presentation of selected works by **Marcel Dzama**, some of which are from the collection.

The Collection and Exhibition Space

Gil and Anat Bronner have been collecting art since the 1990s. At that time, influenced by living in Leipzig as well as the family background, they initially concentrated mainly on acquiring work by East German artists. However, after moving to Düsseldorf, the scope of the collection broadened to include artists associated with the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf. Over the years, the Bronners have followed the careers of many of these artists, often through direct communication and studio visits.

After conversion of the former Glaserie Lennarz buildings into its exhibition space, the Philara Collection moved into its current home on Birkenstrasse in 2016. Since then, its holdings have continued to expand, with a deliberate focus on larger-scale works. The collection now extends from the post-war period to international contemporary art, and the work of emerging student artists, encompassing painting, sculpture, photography, and film, and includes conceptual art and works engaging with socio-political issues.

Since the Philara Collection moved to Birkenstrasse, 35 temporary exhibitions and 10 collection presentations have been realised in its exhibition space, under the curatorial direction of Katharina Klang, Julika Bosch, and Hannah Niemeier.

Accompanying programme

A programme of events to accompany the anniversary exhibition is planned. Further details will be announced in June 2026.

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Credits Cover:

1. **Sarah Morris**, *Insane*, 1996, Courtesy of Sammlung Philara, Düsseldorf © Sarah Morris
2. **Thomas Scheibitz**, *Idol*, 2015, Courtesy of Sammlung Philara, Düsseldorf © VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn 2026
3. **Ugo Rondinone**, *Steinfigur*, 2026, Courtesy of Sammlung Philara, Düsseldorf © Ugo Rondinone
4. **Katharina Sieverding**, *Maton*, 1969-72, Courtesy of Sammlung Philara, Düsseldorf © VG Bild Kunst, Bonn 2026