

Visitor Information

Chamber of the Heart

30 Years of the Museum Langmatt

1st March to 6th of December 2020

In early 2020, the Museum Langmatt will be 30 years old. When the doors opened to the public on the 21st of April 1990, a multitude streamed into the Langmatt to see the outstanding French Impressionist artworks for the very first time.

Sidney and Jenny Brown, one of the founding families of the BBC (today the ABB), accumulated the greater part of their collection between 1908 and 1919. At the time, they could have had no idea of what these paintings would one day be worth, as even the experts were still disagreeing about the validity of Impressionism. The style was rejected by the public. Thus, they cannot have been motivated by prestige or financial gain. For the Browns, collecting was a labour of love. Today, the Museum Langmatt is one of the most significant private collections of French Impressionist works in Europe.

To celebrate this anniversary, we are holding a large-scale exhibition of artworks from the collection which will see the most significant and interesting pictures and objects displayed in the painting gallery – the “heart” of the Langmatt. The spectrum ranges from outstanding masterpieces of French Impressionism to selected highlights from the sections featuring craftwork, furnishings, Asian ceramics and porcelain, alongside significant donations from contemporary artists of recent years. On display will be paintings and works of art by Mary Cassatt, Paul Cézanne, Camille Corot, Edgar Degas, Paul Gauguin, Claude Monet, Alfred Sisley, Camille Pissarro, and Pierre-Auguste Renoir, alongside works by contemporary artists such as Margot Bergman, Joëlle Flumet, Katrin Freisager, Renée Levi, and Léopold Rabus. The exhibition begins in the library, with portraits of Sidney and Jenny Brown. At the turn of the century, she was taking painting lessons; this gave her an unusually wide perspective on the Impressionists, more so than most collectors. Joëlle Flumet’s video installation vividly presents the Langmatt, both past and present.

Recreating the Browns’ own era, pictures, artistic craftwork, furniture, and tapestries will be displayed together in a packed and positively baroque presentation. The exhibition explores the question: what is the essence of Langmatt? What is its “spirit”?

Which are the artworks that form the heart of the collection? What shows us the bold pioneer spirit of Sidney and Jenny Brown? And is it still alive today?

The exhibition *Herzkammer* (Chamber of the Heart) will be accompanied by a comprehensive **publication** on the major works in the exhibition, with texts from contemporary witnesses, personalities, and artworks connected with the Langmatt. Markus Stegmann (ed.), *Herzkammer – 30 Jahre Museum Langmatt*, Museum Langmatt Baden, Verlag Hatje Cantz Berlin, German / English, Hardcover, 232 pages, 78 illustrations., CHF 38.00 / 25.00.

An **audioguide** is provided to give a tour of the *Herzkammer* and to offer background information on the most important Impressionist works. It can be loaded onto your own smartphone in app form easily (and for free) using a QR code. Tablets can also be borrowed from the museum ticket desk (for free) with the audioguide already loaded.

As *Herzkammer’s* guest artist **Sandra Senn** (* 1973 in Baden, lives in Berlin and Baden) is exhibiting 38 subtle text interventions, created for the rooms of the Langmatt, the historic annexe building, and other locations in the park. These short, lyrical speech-images capture the atmosphere of these locations, or give form to a daydream, a memory. Sometimes they connect with an object in the collection or a detail of the rooms; sometimes they allow one’s thoughts free rein. The spectrum ranges from individual, visually vivid words to pregnant aphorisms and lyrical speech with plenty of humour and hidden depths. In the Grüner Salon, Sandra Senn is displaying new artistic photographs, taken during her researches in the Langmatt in autumn 2019.

A **plan** showing all locations of texts by Sandra Senn within the Langmatt and outside in the park is obtainable from the museum ticket desk (for free).

All the texts and photographs in the exhibition by Sandra Senn are documented in a **publication**: *Sandra Senn – Ich stell die Wiese in die Vase*, Museum Langmatt Baden, brochure, 48 pages, 12 illustrations, CHF 19.80 / 13.80.

LANGMATT

Museum Langmatt
Stiftung Langmatt Sidney und Jenny Brown
Römerstrasse 30
CH-5401 Baden

info@langmatt.ch
+41 (0)56 200 86 70
www.langmatt.ch