

Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum New York comes to Amstelveen

- **51 *Tastebreakers* from the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum collection come to the Cobra Museum of Modern Art Amstelveen**
- **Thirteen of these works were prominent in the Guggenheim's inaugural exhibition in 1959, marking the opening of the iconic Frank Lloyd Wright building**
- **For five months, works by Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko, Willem de Kooning, Louise Bourgeois, George Mathieu and 39 other international artists brings the iconic Guggenheim to Amstelveen**
- **Karel Appel, Asger Jorn and Pierre Alechinsky in the Guggenheim core collection reflect an international appreciation of CoBrA**



Mark Rothko, *Untitled*, 1947. Oil on canvas, 121 × 90.1 cm. Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, Gift Mark Rothko Foundation, Inc. © 2014 Kate Rothko Prizel & Christopher Rothko / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

On 4 April, 2014, the Cobra Museum of Modern Art will open an exhibition of 51 works by 44 artists from the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum's core collection of mid-20th-century abstraction. The majority of these works were collected in the 1950s by James Johnson Sweeney, then-director of the Guggenheim. Several artworks were prominent in the

Guggenheim's inaugural exhibition in 1959, which marked the opening of the institution's iconic Frank Lloyd Wright building.

That groundbreaking exhibition revealed James Johnson Sweeney's visionary focus on post-World War II art, including an array of new international abstractionists, whom he referred to as 'tastebreakers' for defying established artistic norms. The exhibition also confirmed that the centre of modern art in the West was no longer Paris, but New York.

Never before have so many works from the Guggenheim collection been seen in the Netherlands. The Cobra Museum presents major works by such great modernists as Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko, Willem de Kooning and Louise Bourgeois, alongside surprising discoveries by less well-known artists, including Willem Baziotes, José Geurrero and Conrad Marca-Relli. In addition, several works by European abstract artists, including CoBrA artists Pierre Alechinsky, Asger Jorn and Karel Appel, will be on view in Europe for the first time since their creation in the 1950s.

For five months, from 5 April through 31 August, the focal point of modern art in the Netherlands will be here in Amstelveen. Amstelveen Mayor Fred de Graaf explains, 'A fantastic presentation by the Cobra Museum! It is unique that art from the world-famous Guggenheim is coming to Amstelveen - and in the year that we celebrate Amstelveen's 50th anniversary! Art lovers can rejoice!'



Jackson Pollock, *Number 18*, 1950. Oil and enamel on Masonite, 56 × 56.7 cm. Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, Gift, Janet C. Hauck, © 2014 Pollock-Krasner Foundation / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

This exciting collaboration between the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York and the Cobra Museum of Modern Art in Amstelveen reflects the Cobra Museum's ongoing ambition to bring the innovative importance of the CoBrA movement to greater international attention. *Spirit of Cobra*, an exhibition curated by the Cobra Museum, opened in November 2013 at the Museum of Art Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA. Next year, a CoBrA exhibition travels to the United Arab Emirates.

The collaboration between the Cobra Museum of Modern Art and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum began in 2012, when the Guggenheim's *Art of Another Kind*, curated by Tracey Bashkoff and Megan Fontanella, was presented in New York. The Cobra artists and their ideas had a prominent role in that exhibition, and it now serves as a model for the presentation in Amstelveen. As Katja Weitering, artistic director of the Cobra Museum, explains, 'The focus of the Guggenheim has always been international, positioning the museum as a vital organism, as James Johnson Sweeney put it. Our international collaboration with the Guggenheim Museum in New York is part of an ongoing, shared commitment to the research and presentation of the legacy of pioneering post-World War II artists.'

Press Release,
Amstelveen, The Netherlands
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- attached: PDF with images and captions for the press

This exhibition is made possible with the support of the VSB Fonds, SNS-REAAL Fonds, ZABAWAS, Cobra Business Club and Cobra Entrepreneurs. The Cobra Museum is generously supported by the BankGiro Loterij and the City of Amstelveen.

For more information, high-resolution images and/or an invitation to the meeting with the press, with the Guggenheim's Senior Curator Tracey Bashkoff, on 3 April, please contact Eric Wie, head of communications, Cobra Museum, at E.wie@cobra-museum.nl, or +31-(0)20-5475052.