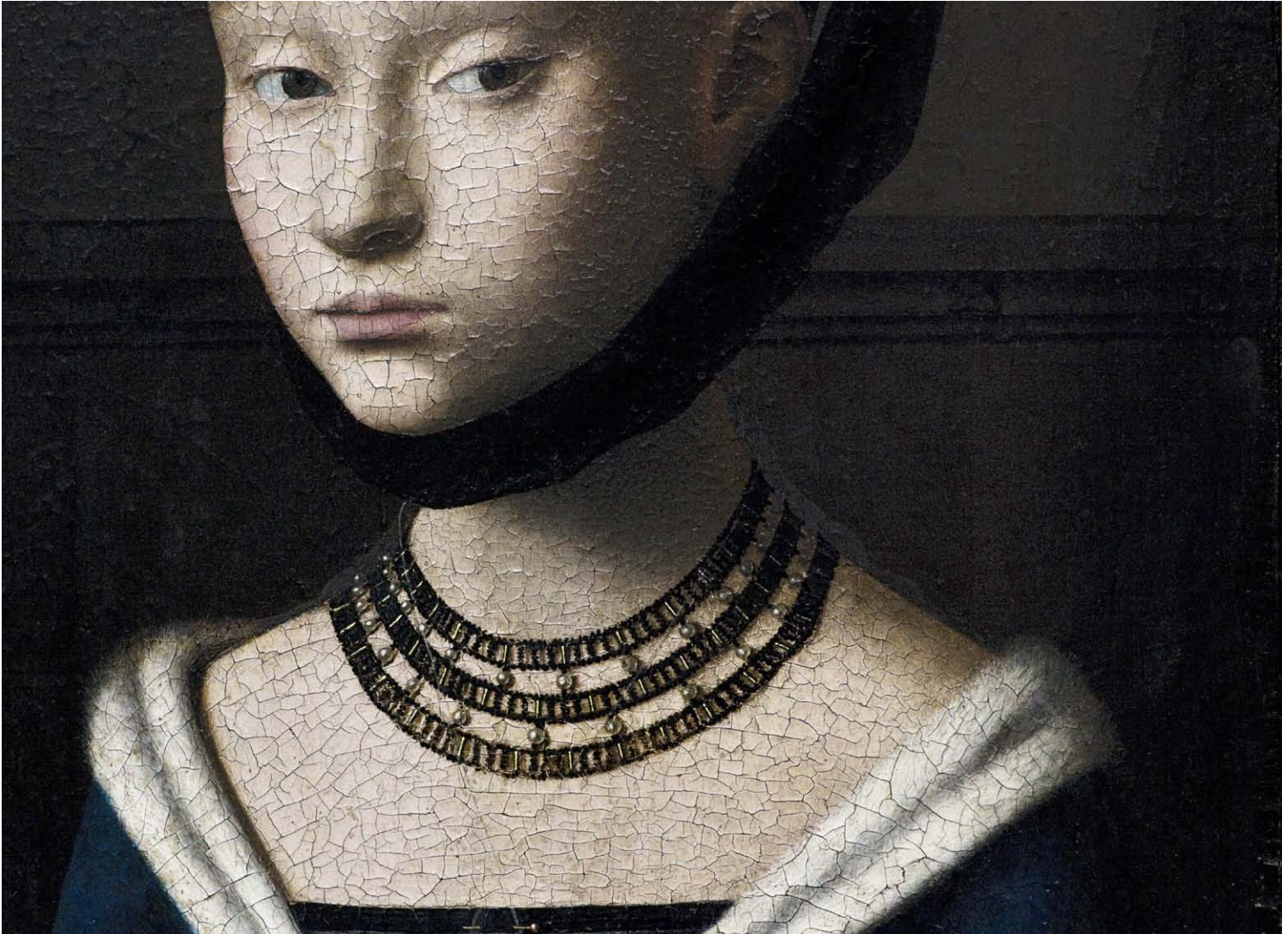




# WFFM 2014

XV CONGRESS OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF FRIENDS OF MUSEUMS



Petrus Christus, Portrait of a Young Girl, c. 1470 | Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Gemäldegalerie

## NEWSLETTER #1

### THE MUSEUM ISLAND

A survey of the history of development of Berlin's museums

### THE KFMV

Since 1897, for Gemäldegalerie and Skulpturensammlung

### HAUS AM WALDSEE

A place worth visiting



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# EDITORIAL

Dear art and culture friends,

welcome to our very first newsletter!

“If I could say it in words there would be no reason to paint“.  
Edward Hopper

The particularity of art lies in its power to comment on society and culture. Sometimes loud and clear. Sometimes silently and fine. Artists have the ability to expand our horizons. It is on the friends and supporters of the art and artists that they can continue to make our world more diverse and nurture our cultural identity.

A variety of newsletters will be published in preparation for the upcoming XV congress of the world federation of friends of museums.

Enjoy reading this issue of our little congress art magazine!

Seasons greetings and a happy New Year!

Yours

**Sarah Bórquez**  
Editor In Chief

# THE MUSEUM ISLAND

A survey of the history of development of Berlin's museums

**Billie Pittke**

The idea of creating a museum in Berlin was basically the idea of the bourgeoisie in the beginning of the 19th century, but it was King Friedrich Wilhelm III, who ordered to layout plans for a public and well chosen art collection. 1822 Karl Friedrich Schinkel, the most important German architect of the early 19th century, started to plan the museum, which was opened 1830 as Königliches Museum (Royal Museum), prominently located opposite the palace. With the opening of a second museum just 15 years later the concept of an island only for museums was set up. Three more museums fulfilled this plan: Nationalgalerie (1876), Kaiser-Friedrich-Museum (1904) and Pergamonmuseum (1930). This area was and is known as Museumsinsel (Museum Island) and since 1999 on the list of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

With the beginning of World War II the curators started to shelter the paintings, sculptures, prints and books, first into protective places in Berlin, later into the countryside. As some of the artwork was discovered by the Western Allies and some by the Soviet Army, the collec-



tions were split into two parts, returning either to the western or eastern part of the then divided city and were only united again with the German reunification in 1990, a process that is yet not finished.

Today the Museum Island houses in 6 museums, e.g. the Egyptian and the Classical Antiquity Collection, the Prehistory and Early History Collection, and not to forget the Collection of Neoclassical to Modernist artwork. The other museums under the roof of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin are spread out over the city: Gemäldegalerie (Old Master Paintings), Kunstgewerbemuseum (Decorative Arts), Neue Nationalgalerie (20th century) or Hamburger Bahnhof (Contemporary Art) are other examples of the 17 Staatliche Museen.

The museum scene in Berlin is completed by other highlights such as the Bauhaus-Archiv, the Berlinische Galerie or the Liebermann-Villa and the Käthe-Kollwitz-Museum, dedicated to single artists and their time and of course the Jüdisches Museum, with its most ambitious Liebeskind building.

Billie Pittke is art historian.



# THE KFMV KAISER FRIEDRICH-MUSEUMS-VEREIN

## Since 1897, for Gemäldegalerie and Bode-Museum

**Dr. Bettina Held**

Our association was founded in 1897 by Wilhelm von Bode, director of the royal Prussian museums at that very time. He wanted to have a “tool” to buy Old Master’s art, painting and sculpture, whenever he had the chance to get a brilliant piece of art for his museums. He didn’t want to wait for long bureaucratic decision-making processes. He found this “tool” in a group of friends, most of them very rich art-collectors, which he used to advise with his broad connoisseurship in art. That’s how our society started.

The name “KAISER FRIEDRICH-MUSEUMS-VEREIN” was given referring to the name of the museum where its acquired artwork was exposed. In 1956 the museum changed its name to Bode-Museum, but the society of friends kept sticking to the former one. Until today the KFMV constantly continues in buying painting and sculpture, keeping these

pieces of art in our own property and giving them as a permanent loan to the Gemäldegalerie and the Bode-Museum. 110 paintings and about 170 sculptures are in the possession of

action in the Bode-Museum. Today our society has about 650 members. Advantages of membership is a Museum-Membercard for all collections and exhibitions of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin.

Furthermore we offer a yearly program of lectures, guided tours, excursions and two art-trips a year, with focus on European painting and sculpture from the early middle ages to around 1800, exclusively for our members, mostly hosted by the art historians of the two museums.

We also offer the membership for young people (18-35 years of age) since 2009. They call themselves “Junge Kaiser” and have their own program but may also

attend the “classical” programs. With our long tradition we feel responsible for the future of the “Old Masters”, for the visitors of tomorrow and the day after tomorrow.

[www.kaiserfriedrich-museums-verein.de](http://www.kaiserfriedrich-museums-verein.de)

Dr. Bettina Held is head of the coordination office at the KFMV



Germain Pilon (?), Bust of a Youthful Prince, c. 1555/60  
Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Bode-Museum

the KFMV, amongst which are quite some masterworks of the galleries as Giotto, Schongauer, Boucher and della Robbia. The latest major acquisition was the 16th century bust of a charming young prince, purchased 2012 for the sculpture coll-

# HAUS AM WALDSEE

Association of friends and supporters  
of the “Haus am Waldsee”

Annette Frohn



## The house

Haus am Waldsee is among the leading exhibition spaces for international contemporary art in Berlin. For more than 60 years the house has shown contemporary art by artists of international repute. Up to five major shows are realised each year including a program of accompanying events such as symposia, artist's talks, artist's dinners, workshops for adults and children, guided tours for the public or by private arrangement and concerts amidst the art. At Haus am Waldsee with its sculpture park – the small “Louisiana of Berlin” – visitors of all ages are able to experience first-hand the artistic process of how the new enters the world.

## The association

The association aims to make Haus am Waldsee and its artistic activities sustainable. It does so by maintaining and expanding an ambitious program of the highest possible standard. The friends and supporters are committed to lend support to the artistic activities of the house in material as well as non-material ways. They also contribute to financing the exhibitions by their subscriptions and donations.

The association was founded in the mid-1990s. These days the association has over 600 members, a number that continues to grow steadily. The members

are private individuals and companies with a passion for the arts. They hail from Berlin and far beyond.

The friends and supporters have the opportunity of experiencing art and culture at one of the loveliest, and most intimate, locations the city has to offer. They are invited to join the lively debate of positions in contemporary art. Additionally they are entitled to join:

- exclusive members' preview to every exhibition
- private tours to galleries and studios
- private tours to collectors and their collections

- guided tours with the curator and receptions
- visits of other cultural institutions
- the opportunity to buy special editions to current exhibitions

[www.hausamwaldsee.de](http://www.hausamwaldsee.de)

Annette Frohn is responsible for the Office of the association „Haus am Waldsee - Friends and Supporters e.V.“



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