

Emil Nolde's Painting Technique (online/Munich, 2–3 Dec 21)

Online / Ernst von Siemens-Auditorium, Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich, Dec 2–03, 2021

Registration deadline: Dec 10, 2021

Hanna Kirst

"I want so much for my work to grow out of the material..."

Emil Nolde's Painting Technique

Emil Nolde (1867–1956) is one of the most well-known and important representatives of German Expressionism. His work captivates through both its expressivity and the brilliance of his palette. Throughout, Nolde plays with the countless possibilities of the application of paint and the use of colour. The Lecture Days will present the results of a collaborative research project, ongoing from 2018 to 2022, dedicated to the study of Emil Nolde's painting techniques and materials. The partners in this interdisciplinary research project are the Doerner Institut of the Bayerische Staatsgemäldesammlungen, Munich, the Foundation Seebüll Ada und Emil Nolde in North Friesland and the Hamburger Kunsthalle in cooperation with the Universität Hamburg and the Hochschule der Bildenden Künste Dresden.

In two Lecture Days, the essential research results will be presented to an international audience of specialists in the field and opened up to discussion.

The Foundation Seebüll Ada und Emil Nolde, as the administrator of Nolde's estate, and located in the artist's onetime home and studio, houses the most comprehensive existing collection of his works, an archive comprising 25,000 documents, as well as an extensive collection of artefacts from his studio. For the first time, it has been possible to catalogue and evaluate the archive and Nolde's studio paraphernalia from the perspective of his painting technique. Researchers have carried out technological investigations of 45 paintings, from the three collections in Seebüll, Hamburg, and Munich, using a broad spectrum of material analysis and imaging techniques in search of both visible and invisible traces of the painting process. Particular importance was given to understanding the artist's various work phases and to a collaborative investigatory approach by the art historians, painting conservators, and natural scientists.

Throughout his life, Emil Nolde's painting technique was highly varied, and his handling of materials and colour was characterized by an impressive degree of technical prowess. The range of lecture themes will amply illustrate this, highlighting for example his sometimes unique utilization of painting supports and their frequent preparation with coloured grounds, his complex, often multi-level pictorial composition, and his use of a large assortment of painting techniques and tools. Late-work examples of medial transfer in various techniques, especially from watercolour into oil,

will be presented. Also on the agenda is a discussion of Emil Nolde's thirty-year-long preference for the oil and resin-based oil paint of the now largely forgotten company of Fritz Behrendt. Special attention will be given to Nolde's numerous changes of format and reworkings of his paintings – sometimes even decades after these had been finished.

Participation in the Lecture Days is possible online as well as on location, with a limited attendance, at the Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich. The lectures will remain available for the participants after the event as well, up until 10 December 2022.

Contact: nolde2021@doernerinstitut.pinakothek.de

Registration and Programme: <https://express.converia.de/frontend/index.php?sub=651>

The project and the event have been made possible by the generous support of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), under the auspices of the funding program "The Language of Objects – Material Culture in the Context of Societal Developments."

PROGRAM

Thursday, December 02

1 pm

Greeting

Bernhard Maaz, Eva Ortner

1:15 pm

Project Introduction

Heike Stege, Silvia Castro

1:30 pm

Emil Nolde – Person and Painter

Astrid Becker

1:50 pm

„...I Write to You with Colourfully Stained Hands.“ Art-technological Evaluation of the Archive of the Nolde Foundation Seebüll

Hanna Kirst

2:20 pm

Questions & Answers

2:35 pm

Coffee Break

2:55 pm

Canvas Choice and Stretching – the First Step towards a Visual Idea

Silvia Castro

3:15 pm

White, Green, Blue and More – Nolde`s Grounds

Jeanine Walcher

3:35 pm

Between Drawing and Painting – the Compositional Lay-in

Irene Glanzer

4 pm

Questions & Answers

4:15 pm

Coffee Break

4:35 pm

Paint in All Facets – Looking at Nolde`s Painting Technique (Part I)

Jeanine Walcher

4:55 pm

Paint in All Facets – Looking at Nolde`s Painting Technique (Part II)

Irene Glanzer

5:15 pm

„Fully Valid Time“. The Late Period of Nolde

Astrid Becker

5:35 pm

In Focus: Gentleman and Lady (in the Red Room)

Silvia Castro

5:45 pm

Questions & Answers

6 pm

End of Day 1

Friday, December 03

9 am

In Focus: Wild Animals

Irene Glanzer

9:10 am

Nolde`s Favoured Oil Paints – the Artists` Colours by Fritz Behrendt

Manuela Hörmann

9:30 am

Balancing Mobility, Versality and Diagnostic Power – the Methodological Approach for Pigment Analyses

Sebastian Bosch

9:50 am

Traditional or Innovative? Nolde`s Pigment Palette in the Course of Time

Heike Stege

10:15 am

Questions & Answers

10:30 am

Coffee Break

10:50 am

Materials and Properties – the Binding Media of Nolde`s Grounds and Paints

Patrick Dietemann

11:15 am

In Focus: Large Poppies (Red, Red, Red)

Hanna Kirst

11:25 am

Final Decisions – Signature, Title and Frame

Heike Schreiber

11:45 am

Discarded, Cut and Overpainted – Characteristics of Nolde`s Later Reworking

Astrid Becker, Jeanine Walcher

12:15 pm

Questions & Answers

12:30 pm

Résumé and Farewell

Heike Stege

12:45 pm

End of Day 2

Reference:

CONF: Emil Nolde`s Painting Technique (online/Munich, 2-3 Dec 21). In: ArtHist.net, Oct 24, 2021
(accessed Jul 13, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/35137>>.