



## Wolf Vostell's "Hours of Fun" gifted

A great bonus for the Berlinische  
Galerie Collection

Wolf Vostell's "Hours of Fun" (1962/68) ranks as one of his major works from the early 1960s. It was acquired in 1995 by the Grundkreditbank Berlin, which later became the Berliner Volksbank. Since then it has been on permanent loan to the Berlinische Galerie, where it has been shown several times, most recently in 2014 at the exhibition "Art in Berlin 1945 until now". Now Stiftung KUNSTFORUM, the foundation attached to Berliner Volksbank gGmbH, has donated the work to Berlin's public museum of modern art.

### "Hours of fun"

This large-format piece pivots between the early and late oeuvre of Wolf Vostell. It might be seen as a response to British and American pop art, which also sought to integrate political, social and trivial everyday matters into artworks. "Hours of Fun" is a visual collage featuring a variety of pictorial principles typical of Vostell, such as assemblage, blurring, spraying and concreting, as well as disparate materials such as press pictures, toys and spoons. In this instance, war images from Iwo Jima, Hiroshima and Vietnam mingle with photographs taken from adverts and packaging for toy missiles sold in the United States. Aided by additional smears of paint, the fragments of documentary history strung together here resemble strips torn from a wall where posters have been stuck on top of each other. The title of the work derives from the product description issued with the American toy, which promises "hours of fun" firing missiles

### The artist

Wolf Vostell (1932–1998) studied at the School of Industrial Art in Wuppertal before leaving for Paris in 1954, where he established the artistic principle of décollage, tearing away swathes of billboard posters to expose the layers underneath.

In the ensuing years he broadened his concept to include action art, creating "happenings" in public and institutional space. He was one of the first, alongside the Korean artist Nam June Paik, to include TV screens in his works. From 1971 Vostell lived in Berlin, where the Neue Nationalgalerie staged a major retrospective in 1974. The Berlinische Galerie has taken a great interest in his work ever since he settled in the city and has accumulated a significant Vostell collection.



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Admission 10€, concessions 6€

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Tue closed

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