



BERLINISCHE GALERIE

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KUNST, FOTOGRAFIE UND ARCHITEKTUR
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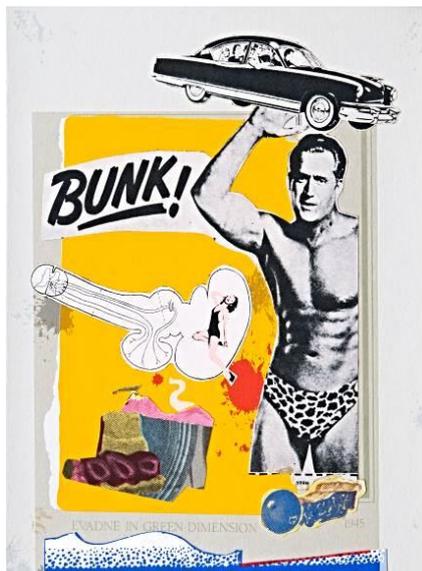
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Berlin, 25 January 2018

Eduardo Paolozzi Lots of Pictures – Lots of Fun 09.02.–28.05.2018

Press conference: 08.02.2018, 11 AM, Opening: 08.02.2018, 7 PM

Children's Opening: 11.02.2018, 3–5 PM



Eduardo Paolozzi, Bunk: Evadne in Green
Dimension, 1952 – 1972,
© Trustees of the Paolozzi Foundation,
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Born in Edinburgh, the sculptor and graphic artist Eduardo Paolozzi (1924–2005) was one of the most innovative and irreverent artists of the British postwar period. He co-founded the influential London Independent Group, a union of British artists from different disciplines formed during the war that broke with the conventions of aesthetic and academic practice. Paolozzi was one of the first to embrace consumer culture and mass production in the UK. In his glued pictorial worlds, modern cards, aliens, pin up girls and figures from comic books collide upon one another – a diverse mix rendered in brash colours that was soon to make art history as Pop Art.

In the following years, Paolozzi used the collage technique as an artistic strategy, innovatively applying it to the mediums of sculpture and print. His expressive works explore the intersections between man and machine. The product of the artist's particular interest in science and technology, they are part of his search for a new visual language and iconography for mass culture and industrialised society.

This exhibition is based on Whitechapel Gallery's 2017 Eduardo Paolozzi retrospective in London which showed the complete works of the artist. In contrast to the London show, the Berlinische Galerie focuses on his idiosyncratic and experimental work of the 1940s to the 1970s with which the artist attracted much international acclaim. The exhibition brings together his most significant works from private and public collections worldwide, joined by numerous works from the collection of the Berlinische Galerie. The **first chapter** of the exhibition focuses on **Paolozzi's early work**. His drawings and sculptures from the early 1950s are influenced by Surrealism. Paolozzi was inspired by the art of Pablo Picasso and Alberto Giacometti.



He also took an early interest in popular culture and mined American magazines and comics for his early pop collages. Paolozzi's intention to break with tradition and use new materials and industrial processes in his sculptures and print work is the theme of the **second chapter**.

This **radicalisation of sculpture** started in the 1950s with his development of brutalist bronze pieces that recalled the wounds of war. Their charred and eroded looking surfaces gave them their aesthetic impact and accusatory tone. Later Paolozzi created metal sculptures made from industrially produced elements, some of which he painted. He also broke new ground in print and was the first to use silkscreen printing in art. Its commercial use and the number of copies it allowed made silkscreen printing the medium of the masses. This appealed to Paolozzi, whose aim was to eradicate the boundaries between high culture and popular art.

The **third chapter** of the exhibition centres around Paolozzi's productive stay in **Berlin in 1974/75**. In his studio in Kreuzberg around Kottbusser Damm, the artist developed new series of graphic works inspired by music like *The Ravel Suite* and *Calcium Light Night*. Here, graphic and linear elements merged to form abstracts compositions reminiscent of cityscapes from a bird's eye perspective, topographic maps and circuit boards. In his reliefs from this time he translated the formal language of silkscreen printing into three dimensional space. The artist also left traces in the cityscape and its large public collections. For instance, he painted a monumental black and white mural in Kurfürstenstraße which has not been preserved.

The **final chapter** of the exhibition is dedicated to Paolozzi's pioneering spirit. His irreverent approach to art continues to inspire young artists and graphic designers. His broad definition of collage, early forms of sampling, print and presentation techniques, innovative film piece and passion for mass media and for the technology of his time paved the way for a new kind of understanding of art that shapes us to this day.

The exhibition is accompanied by a comprehensive German catalogue (270 pages, 200 colour plates, Deutscher Kunstverlag, 29.80 €). It draws on Whitechapel Gallery's English catalogue, featuring a selection of essays and an additional chapter on Berlin. The catalogue places the artist into an international context and reevaluates his oeuvre as a whole using notable academics' latest research, including that of Daniel Herrmann, Hal Foster and Jon Wood.

For the first time, the Berlinische Galerie will host a **children's opening** on Sunday 11.02 from 3 PM to 5 PM. Families are warmly invited to attend. In cooperation with Jugend im Museum e.V., free entrance (no need to register)

The exhibition *Eduardo Paolozzi. Lots of Pictures - Lots of Fun* is organised by the Whitechapel Gallery, London in cooperation with the Berlinische Galerie. The exhibition is under the patronage of Sir Sebastian Wood, British ambassador in Germany.

Exhibition architecture and colour design: david saik studio

Press Conference and Accreditation

We are pleased to invite you to the press conference with the director Dr. Thomas Köhler and Dr. Stefanie Heckmann, head of the visual art collection and curator of the exhibition, on Thursday, 08.02.2018 at 11 AM. The initiator and curator of the Whitechapel Gallery exhibition,

Daniel F. Herrmann, who has been appointed curator of special projects at the National Gallery London since December 2017, will also participate in the press conference. **Please apply for accreditation by the 02.02.2018: Bureau N, Gudrun Landl, gudrun.landl@bureau-n.de.**

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