

## General Information about Museum Ritter

Rising up in the midst of the lush green countryside is a striking limestone cube: Museum Ritter near Waldenbuch, 30 km south of Stuttgart. In 2005, the Swiss architect Max Dudler created an eloquent place for Marli Hoppe-Ritter's art collection beside the Ritter Sport chocolate factory. Based on a square ground plan, it contains 700 square metres for presentations of the collection and special exhibitions on the square in art. Its bright and varied accompanying programme is free of the educational mandate set by the public sector, and supported purely by the Marli Hoppe-Ritter Foundation for the Promotion of Art.

As co-owner of Ritter sport, Marli Hoppe-Ritter has built up a unique collection. Around 1,200 paintings, drawings and objects from the 20th and 21st centuries present the motif of the square as viewed by art. What might first look like a simple transfer of the famous chocolate brand's trademark to art reveals, on closer inspection, complex connections between artistic practices that focus in various ways on the basic forms of geometry.

Together with the circle and the triangle, the square has been a particular source of inspiration for contemporary artists. Kasimir Malevich, for example, founded his legendary oeuvre at the beginning of the 20th century with *The Black Square* (2015). The Russian Suprematist saw it as symbolising a totally new beginning and a pure sensibility that goes beyond the representationalism and the functional aims of traditional art. To this day, artists reference his equilateral icon – in every hue, and from monochrome to motley, serious to playful, mathematically exact to spiritually open, and analytical to humorous. The Marli Hoppe-Ritter Collection ranges from Russian Constructivism to the Zurich Concretists, Italian Arte Programmata, Op Art and the ZERO group, to the latest approaches in contemporary art. The developments in Geometric Abstractionism are impressively illustrated by the example of the square.

Four exhibitions are mounted every year to promote abstract geometric art. Visitors receive complementary audio tours in German or English. The free accompanying programme includes overview tours, musical tours, scholarly talks, open panels with artists or curators, and also exclusive rounds of the exhibitions with the collector Marli Hoppe-Ritter.

The Museum's commitment to children and young people comes from the heart. Special offers are designed to stimulate budding creativity and awaken an enthusiasm for art. Children and young adolescents enjoy free admission. There is a special audio guide for the youngest target group, as well as guided tours for children and a playful art puzzle for each exhibition. Individual birthday parties and, last but not least, the Kimuri Art Studio extend a warm welcome to children at Museum Ritter!

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