

## The Ateneum Art Museum – classic with a twist

The Ateneum is Finland's leading art museum, with a collection that includes art dating from the 19th century to the modern age. The Ateneum houses Finland's largest collection of paintings, sculptures and prints, with a total of more than 20,000 works. In addition to Finnish and Scandinavian artists - such as **Akseli Gallen-Kallela**, **Hugo Simberg**, **Ellen Thesleff** and **Anders Zorn** – the international names featured in the collection include **Paul Cézanne**, **Marc Chagall**, **Paul Gauguin**, **Vincent van Gogh** and **Fernand Léger**. Works are added to the collection through acquisitions and donations.

The Ateneum's hugely popular exhibitions of Finnish and international art open up new perspectives into the past and the future. The museum has held temporary exhibitions of works by artists such as **Tove Jansson**, **Carl Larsson**, **Pablo Picasso** and **Helene Schjerfbeck**.

To be on display until 2020, the colourful *Stories of Finnish Art* exhibition celebrates the Ateneum collections. The exhibition guides visitors through the development of Finnish art, from 1809 up until the 1960s. On display, side by side, are Finnish and international masterpieces from the Ateneum collections, such as **Le Corbusier's** *Two Women* (1939), **Eero Järnefelt's** *Under the Yoke (Burning the Brushwood)* (1893), **Edvard Munch's** *Bathing Men* (1907–08) and **Ilya Repin's** *Portrait of Natalia Nordmann* (1900).

The Ateneum is home to events of all kinds: workshops, lectures, guided tours and club evenings are held at the museum every month. The conferences held in conjunction with the exhibitions feature speeches by top Finnish and international experts.

The collections of the Finnish Art Society, which was founded in 1846, form the basis for the Ateneum operations. Today, these collections are part of the national heritage of all Finnish people. Operations at the Ateneum building began in 1888. In addition to the Ateneum Art Museum, up until 1982, the building housed an industrial arts school (currently the Aalto University School of Arts, Design and Architecture), and up until 1984, the Drawing School of the Finnish Art Society (currently the Academy of Fine Arts, the University of the Arts Helsinki). Today, the Ateneum Art Museum is part of the Finnish National Gallery, together with the Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma, and the Sinebrychoff Art Museum.