

Andrew and Christine
Hall of the Hall Art
Foundation, Schloss
Dernburg Museum



ROAD LESS TAKEN

WITH ART LOVERS IN
MIND, ANDREW HALL
PUTS HIS COLLECTION
AND HIS HOPES IN A
RENOVATED MEDIEVAL
GERMAN CASTLE

BY NICHOLAS FORREST

PHOTO: WOLFGANG DÄMMIG

The veteran Wall Street oil trader Andrew Hall could have directed the fruits of his labor toward any number of passions or pursuits. But thankfully for the global art scene, the chairman and chief executive of the oil-focused hedge fund Astenbeck Capital Management chose to focus his attention on his love for art, not just as a collector but also as a patron.

About 15 years ago, Andrew and his wife Christine, a fellow art lover, took the step from long-time buyers of art to serious collectors, and have since built one of the world's greatest private art collections.

In 2007, Andrew and Christine established the Hall Art Foundation with the aim of making their collection of Postwar and Contemporary art available for the enjoyment and education of the public. Today, the Hall Art Foundation collections consist of more than 5,000 works by several hundred artists including the likes of Richard Artschwager, Georg Baselitz, Joseph Beuys, Olafur Eliasson, Eric Fischl, Jörg Immendorff, Anselm Kiefer, Malcolm Morley, A. R. Penck, Julian Schnabel, Ed Ruscha, Andy Warhol, and Franz West.

The Hall Art Foundation is more than just a conduit for organizing loans of the Hall's art collection, it's also a platform for facilitating exhibitions at the foundation's two museum spaces—in Derneburg in Germany and in the American town of Reading, Vermont. The foundation also acts as a platform for developing exhibition collaborations with public institutions, such as the foundation's current partnerships with the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (MASS MoCA) and the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, England.

On July 1, 2017, the Hall Art Foundation inaugurated its Schloss Derneburg Museum with a program including several solo exhibitions as well as a group show of cinematic works, titled "The Truth of Uncertainty: Moving Image Works from the Hall Collection," curated by Chrissie Iles, in addition to an exhibition honoring the recently deceased gallerist Barbara Weiss, titled "Für Barbara" and curated by Leo Koenig.

Schloss Derneburg, near Hannover, has a history that spans almost 1,000 years. Originally a fortified castle, the structure has had many roles, including as the home of various religious orders and a residence for the Anglo-Hanoverian Münster family. The castle was the home and studio of artist Georg Baselitz from 1976 until 2006 when it was purchased from the artist by the Hall Art Foundation, which has since carried out extensive renovations to turn it into a public museum.

To find out more about the new Schloss Derneburg Museum, BLOUIN ARTINFO's Nicholas Forrest interviewed Andrew Hall.



A view of the Hall Art Foundation | Schloss Derneburg Museum, in Derneburg near Hannover in Germany

IMAGE © HALL ART FOUNDATION. PHOTO: STEFAN NEUENHAUSEN



Left and above: Views of the exhibition "Für Barbara," curated by Leo Koenig, which is dedicated to the memory of Berlin gallerist Barbara Weiss. This is one of the seven inaugural exhibitions at the Hall Art Foundation | Schloss Derneburg Museum

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Could you tell us a bit about the Hall Art Foundation and its primary aims, goals, and activities?

We established it about 10 years ago with the aim of showing works from our personal collection for the enjoyment and education of the public. HAF now also has its own collection. It makes and facilitates loans from both collections to museums all over the world. HAF also operates a number of public museums itself. The first was in collaboration with MASS MoCA in North Adams, Massachusetts, where we repurposed a building on their campus for a long-term installation of large-scale works by Anselm Kiefer. We then converted a former dairy farm in Reading, Vermont, into a series of art galleries where we change the shows annually. HAF has also presented a number of single artist shows drawn from the collections at other museums. For example, last year we did an Andy Warhol show at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford that received critical acclaim.

What was the motivation and inspiration to open the museum at the Schloss Derneburg?

Schloss Derneburg had been the home and studio of Georg Baselitz for some 30 years. We have a large collection of works by Baselitz and his German contemporaries. Exhibiting them at Derneburg seemed a logical thing to do: Derneburg is in an attractive part of the country, and the combination of art, architecture and the local environment makes for



Works from the Antony Gormley retrospective, "Being," including "European Field" (below)



a unique experience.

What are the exhibitions that compose the inaugural program at Schloss Derneburg and how do they reflect the aims and goals of the Hall Foundation and its collection?

There are seven different shows: a permanent installation by Hermann Nitsch in the crypt of the old Cistercian chapel; a retrospective of works by Antony Gormley which includes "European Field" comprising over 35,000 elements; a retrospective of paintings by Malcolm Morley along with a group of more recent works; a retrospective of works by Barry Le Va; an installation of early sculptures and paintings by Julian Schnabel; "The Truth of Uncertainty," a selection of moving images works from our collection curated by Chrissie Iles, and "Für Barbara," curated by Leo Koenig, which is dedicated to the memory of Barbara Weiss, the Berlin gallerist, and is a selection of works by female artists. We generally try to exhibit shows that present in-depth surveys of an individual artist's works and the first five shows do exactly that. The two



Installation view of the retrospective of Barry Le Va

IMAGE: © MARY ANNE SCHINDLER / PHOTO: BRUNO HENRI

Right and below: A view of the permanent installation of Hermann Nitsch's works in the crypt of the old Cistercian chapel at the museum.



curated shows present works from the collection within the context of a particular theme or idea.

Could you tell us a bit about the location of the museum and why you chose it?

It's in Lower Saxony, about 30 minutes south of Hannover, in the foothills of the Harz mountains. We didn't choose it: it chose us. As I mentioned earlier, there was a certain logic to showing our collection there.

What are your plans and aspirations for the future of Schloss Derneburg Museum?

We intend to change a number of the shows annually. We want to make Derneburg as accessible as possible to visitors,



IMAGE: © MALL ART FOUNDATION. PHOTO: BRUNO HENRI



A view of Malcolm Morley's paintings at the Schloss Dornburg Museum

IMAGE: © HALL ART FOUNDATION; PHOTO: HEINRICH HECHT



Early sculptures and paintings by Julian Schnabel



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especially those who are passionate about art and are seeking a unique experience. It's a little off the beaten path so you really have to want to go there. But once you do, you won't be disappointed. In time, we hope to establish various special events and programs there, perhaps involving performance and other cultural activities. We may also have an artist-in-residence program. Actually, the possibilities are limitless.

How does the Schloss Derneburg Museum help fulfill your own personal ambitions as a patron of the arts?

Schloss Derneburg is in a sense a canvas. By combining great works of art with the natural beauty and architecture of Derneburg I hope we have created a "Gesamtkunstwerk" that art lovers from everywhere will visit and enjoy as much as I do. *MP*



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Above and right: "The Truth of Uncertainty," a selection of moving images: works from the Hall collection, curated by Chrissie lies

Top right: "Between You and I," 2006 by Anthony McCall. Light installation, dimensions variable, part of the exhibition "The Truth of Uncertainty"

