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# Egg

**Julius von Bismarck / Björn Braun / Marcel Broodthaers /  
Nathalie Djurberg & Hans Berg / Peter Carl Fabergé /  
Siri Hagberg / Agata Ingarden / Benjamin Patterson /  
Kirsten Pieroth / Katarzyna Przeważńska / Josefine Reisch /  
Karin Sander / Pedro Wirz / He Xiangyu**

March 20th till June 28th, 2020

**What a surprise it was when it became known that the tsar's jeweler, Peter Carl Fabergé (1846-1920), had paused for some time in the world cultural city of Wiesbaden on his flight as a result of the October Revolution, undetected and withdrawn. In homage to the jeweler, who achieved world fame especially with his imperial Easter eggs, the egg is illuminated as a central motif of contemporary art in the international group exhibition at the Nassauischer Kunstverein.**

"Everything is eggs. The world is an egg. The world is born from the big egg yolk, the sun." With these words, the Belgian artist Marcel Broodthaers describes the universal power of the small and highly complex structure of nature. The egg is the symbol of the perfect unity of minimalism, form and infinite creativity.

The seemingly simple form of a self-contained system offers the developing being a nourishing and protective space for a limited period of time. The egg is of ascetic beauty and has an incredible, wonderful content: life. The egg has therefore always played a special role in the world's cultures. As world egg, it is the starting point for the entire history of creation, as the egg of Columbus it offers an amazingly simple solution to a seemingly unsolvable problem and since Plutarch, brooding over whether the egg or the hen was first has been one of our fundamental philosophical questions.

The egg is particularly prominent at Easter. Originally for practical reasons, during Lent the eggs were boiled for preservation and colored to distinguish them from the unboiled eggs. This resulted in real art forms, in which the oval shape became a scope for a variety of surprises.

In 1885, the jeweler Peter Carl Fabergé designed a very special Easter gift for the tsar's wife: a hinged egg made of white enamel, in which, within a golden yolk, he placed a golden chicken with rubies. Not only the entire courtyard was thrilled. In the following years, around fifty Imperial ceremonial eggs were created in the Fabergé workshop, along with

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numerous other eggs of immeasurable value for noble or upper-class clients. The takeover of power by the Russian Communist Bolsheviks forced Fabergé to flee from Russia - from St. Petersburg via Riga in spring 1918 he found himself in the "World Cultural City of Wiesbaden" for a short while.

In the international group exhibition about the egg in contemporary art, no two eggs are eggsactly the same. The works of Julius von Bismarck, Björn Braun, Marcel Broodthaers, Natalie Djuberg & Hans Berg, Peter Carl Fabergé, Siri Hagberg, Agata Ingarden, Ben Patterson, Kirsten Pieroth, Katarzyna Przezwańska, Josefine Reisch, Karin Sander, Pedro Wirz and He Xiangyu retrieve some surprise (eggs).

The exhibition is part of the Jugendstiljahr Wiesbaden 2019/20.



The Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden is institutionally supported by the Office of Culture of the state capital Wiesbaden.



We appreciate your interest.

For further information, we are available by phone or e-mail.

**Press contact /**

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## **Program /**

**Slowing the spread of Covid-19 is our primary goal as is minimizing the risk of infection for our visitors and employees. The event and guided tour programs are therefore cancelled until further notice.**

### **What's on? /**

Virtual tours of the current exhibitions

Video tour with Elke Gruhn / 360° tour through the Nassauischer Kunstverein  
visit [www.kunstverein-wiesbaden.de](http://www.kunstverein-wiesbaden.de)

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## Press Images /

Please consider the copyright. The use of the images in connection with the news coverage of the exhibition is permitted. We will gladly provide you with the requested pictures in printable solution. In return, we look forward to receiving a voucher copy/document link.



### Julius von Bismarck

Apocalypsoïd, 2018

Installation view Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden, 2020

© The artist and VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn, 2020

Courtesy: Sammlung Haus N, Kiel/Berlin/Athen

Photo: Janine Drewes



### Björn Braun

Untitled (zebra finch nest), 2013

Installation view Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden, 2020

© The artist

Courtesy: The artist and Meyer Riegger, Berlin/Karlsruhe

Photo: Janine Drewes



### Marcel Broodthaers

Phantomas, 1966

Installation view Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden, 2020

© The artist and VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn, 2020

Courtesy: KEWENIG, Berlin

Photo: Christian Lauer

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**Nathalie Djurberg & Hans Berg**

I am Saving This Egg for Later, 2011

Installation view Nassauischer  
Kunstverein Wiesbaden, 2020

©: The artists and VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn,  
2020

Courtesy: Lisson Gallery, London

Photo: Christian Lauer



**Peter Carl Fabergé**

Watercress-Egg, around 1900

Frog, around 1900

Installation view Nassauischer  
Kunstverein Wiesbaden, 2020

Courtesy: private collection, Wiesbaden

Photo: Christian Lauer



**Siri Hagberg**

Jay, Warbler, Magpie, 2019

Installation view Nassauischer  
Kunstverein Wiesbaden, 2020

© and Courtesy: The artist

Photo: Janine Drewes

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**Agata Ingarden**

Plant Power Egg, 2019

Installation view Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden, 2020

© The artist  
 Courtesy: Berthold Pott, Köln  
 Photo: Christian Lauer



**Benjamin Patterson**

Portrait of Egg, 1962/1998

Installation view Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden, 2020

© and Courtesy: Estate Benjamin Patterson, Hamburg  
 Photo: Christian Lauer



**Kirsten Pieroth**

Imperial Egg I, 2012

© and Courtesy: The artist

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**Katarzyna Przezwańska**

Untitled, 2018

Installation view Nassauischer  
Kunstverein Wiesbaden, 2020

© The artist  
Courtesy: The artist and Dawid  
Radziszewski Gallery  
Photo: Janine Drewes



**Josefine Reisch**

Fabergé Coronation Egg, 2018

Installation view Nassauischer  
Kunstverein Wiesbaden, 2020

© The artist  
Courtesy: Sammlung Minkwitz  
Photo: Christian Lauer



**Karin Sander**

Chicken's Egg, Polished, Raw, Size 0,  
1994

Installation view Nassauischer  
Kunstverein Wiesbaden, 2020

© The artist and VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn,  
2020  
Courtesy: The artist and Esther Schipper,  
Berlin  
Photo: Janine Drewes

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**Pedro Wirz**

“Ovo por Olho” (Cocoon/Eggs) #5, 2017

Installation view Nassauischer  
Kunstverein Wiesbaden, 2020

© The artist  
Courtesy: Sammlung Haus N,  
Kiel/Berlin/Athen  
Photo: Janine Drewes



**He Xiangyu**

Thursday, 2018

Installation view Nassauischer  
Kunstverein Wiesbaden, 2020

© and Courtesy: The artist  
Photo: Christian Lauer