

# Otto Neumann:

A Reluctant Modernist

## Otto Neumann A Reluctant Modernist

Otto Neumann (1891-1971) was a German architect, designer, and artist. He is best known for his work in the field of modern architecture, particularly his collaboration with Walter Gropius at the Bauhaus. Neumann's work was characterized by its functional and minimalist approach, reflecting the principles of the Bauhaus movement. He was also a prominent figure in the German Expressionist movement, particularly in the field of graphic design and book design. His work was influenced by the ideas of Wassily Kandinsky and Piet Mondrian, and he played a key role in the development of the Bauhaus style. Neumann's work was characterized by its clarity and precision, and it was a major influence on the development of modern architecture and design.

For this exhibition, the museum has loaned several works by Otto Neumann, including a drawing of a reclining figure and a painting of a reclining figure. The drawing is a study of the human form, showing the figure in a relaxed, reclining position. The painting is a more expressive work, showing the figure in a similar pose but with a more vibrant color palette. Both works are characteristic of Neumann's style, which combines functional design with artistic expression. The exhibition also includes a selection of Neumann's architectural drawings and designs, which show his influence on the Bauhaus movement and modern architecture.

Selected drawings and paintings are a gift from Frank White, Chicago, IL. The drawing is a study of the human form, showing the figure in a relaxed, reclining position. The painting is a more expressive work, showing the figure in a similar pose but with a more vibrant color palette.



Reclining Figure, 1920s  
Reclining Figure, 1920s



## Otto Neumann A Reluctant Modernist

Otto Neumann (1867–1915) lived through revolutionary changes in the art world of Germany and Austria. He drew inspiration from earlier artists and contemporaries, often and looked to literary and scientific sources for subject matter and inspiration.

Today, Neumann is best known for his highly stylized, black and white illustrations of horses, riders, and abstract forms created in the last 20 years of his life. His earlier work, however, spans an often overlooked and unexplored part of his career. Works from his formative years include his series of graphic illustrations based on Cesare's *De Re Venatoria*, the engineering publications he created during his early scientific work, and his historical prints based on Richard Blüthner's *Illustrationen der Jagd*, 1814 and 1816.

For this exhibition, the museum has loaned several works on the artist's figurative work. Through the development of the artist's engagement with the figure, we can witness how the modernist aesthetic took hold in his approach to the form. The artist is exhibited in a Reluctant Modernist for Neumann was in his most abstract work, which is seen here through the figure's impact and inspiration.

This exhibition includes works from the museum's own collection of works by Neumann and works on loan from the artist's family. The museum has organized this exhibition as an introduction to the artist's work, which is best experienced in his original context. Thank you to the artist's family for their generous donation of these works, and to the artist's family for their generous donation of these works.

Gallery fundings are supported by a gift from Foster Wheeler Beagle P.A.  
The artwork on display is made possible with support from the Robert and Family.







Small white informational label on the white wall.

Otto Neumann  
A Retrospective





Small informational plaque below the large artwork on the left.



Small informational plaque below the medium artwork in the center-left.



Three small informational plaques stacked vertically below the cluster of three artworks.



Small informational plaque below the artwork on the right.

EXIT



Small rectangular label with illegible text.



Small rectangular label with illegible text.

Three stacked rectangular labels with illegible text.



Small rectangular label with illegible text.







Lansdowne Gallery



Louvre Museum Gallery

