

## Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen presents major solo exhibition by YOKO ONO

### YOKO ONO. MUSIC OF THE MIND

September 28, 2024 – March 16, 2025

K20 – Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf

**Press conference and preview:** Thursday, September 26, 2024, 11 am at K20

**Opening:** Friday, September 27, 2024, 7 pm at K20, free admission

From September 2024, the Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, in cooperation with Tate Modern, presents a comprehensive solo exhibition celebrating the groundbreaking and influential work of artist and activist Yoko Ono (b. 1933 in Tokyo). Ono is a trailblazer of early conceptual and participatory art, film and performance, a celebrated musician, and a formidable campaigner for world peace. Spanning seven decades of the artist's powerful, multi-disciplinary practice from the mid-1950s to now, *YOKO ONO. MUSIC OF THE MIND* traces the development of her innovative work and its enduring impact on contemporary culture.

With more than 200 works, *YOKO ONO. MUSIC OF THE MIND* outlines Ono's radical approach to art, language and participation, from her early 'instruction' pieces to her recent, large-scale installations. During this time, Ono moved between Japan, the US and the UK, before settling in New York in 1971. Following a loose chronology, the exhibition highlights recurring themes in Ono's work, such as her championing of ideas as the foundation of art-making, her engagement with feminist thought, or her anti-war activism.

Ono's art takes many forms. It includes scores, performances, objects, film, music, sound and events. In 1964, Ono published *Grapefruit*, her foundational book of instruction works. These concise texts, somewhere between poem and score, aim to unlock the mind. Instructions are presented throughout the exhibition, calling the visitors to participate, often in interaction with others.

The exhibition takes its title from the artist's desire to stimulate the imagination. Ono notes, 'The only sound that exists to me is the sound of the mind. My works are only to induce music of the mind in people ... In the mind-world, things spread out and go beyond time.'

This expansive logic also extends to the exhibition format itself. As part of the exhibition, works by Ono are presented across K20. Visitors are invited to share their wishes for peace on a *Wish Tree* close to the entrance to the exhibition. Ono's instruction *Painting to Be Constructed In Your Head* ('Observe three paintings carefully. Mix them well in your head.') will be on view in the collection display. And *PEACE is POWER* will spread to both

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the façade of the museum as well as to the windows of Salon20, where it will guide the view from the inside of the museum onto Düsseldorf's lively Grabbeplatz.

*YOKO ONO. MUSIC OF THE MIND* is organised by Tate Modern, London in collaboration with Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf.

The exhibition is curated by Patrizia Dander, Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, and Juliet Bingham, Curator, International Art, Tate Modern, with Ursula Pokorny and Catherine Frèrejean, Assistant Curators, Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen and Andrew de Brún, Assistant Curator, International Art, Tate Modern.

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