

# VICTOR CHOCQUET

Art Collector and Friend of the Impressionists

RENOIR, CEZANNE, MONET, MANET

21 FEBRUARY TO 7 JUNE 2015

Curated by Mariantonia Reinhard-Felice,  
Director of the Oskar Reinhart Collection 'Am Römerholz', Winterthur

In 2015 the 'Römerholz' will present the first ever exhibition where the collector Victor Chocquet (1821–1891) takes centre stage. This exhibition will in essence 'reconstruct' his art collection, thereby illuminating the fascinating story of a pioneer in the fight for Modernism.

In Paris Chocquet recognised the innovative nature of Impressionist painting very early on, at a time when Impressionism was still widely derided. Despite having only the limited means of a customs officer, Chocquet nevertheless succeeded in amassing one of the best collections of paintings by the main exponents of Impressionism – Renoir, Monet and Cézanne. His collection also included an important ensemble of works by Delacroix and outstanding paintings by Courbet and Manet.

The special quality of Victor Chocquet's collection, which was dissolved in 1899, was no doubt due to the numerous works by Cézanne, which also take pride of place in the exhibition. Works by Delacroix build the second focus of the exhibition, for it was the French Romantic Delacroix who first kindled Chocquet's love of art and also opened Chocquet's eyes to modern painting. In the exhibition, selected paintings by Renoir, Monet and Manet represent the third main focus of his collection.

The exhibition at the 'Römerholz' concentrates on works that reveal their connection to Chocquet with particular clarity and that also exemplify the importance of his collection. In that context the portraits of Chocquet by Renoir and Cézanne constitute a particular highlight. The unusually large number of these portraits and their powerful expressivity attest to the deep friendship that united the collector and his 'protégés' and reflect the selfless determination with which he fought for their recognition.

Renoir's *Portrait de Monsieur Chocquet*, which was originally owned by Chocquet himself and is now in the Oskar Reinhart Collection 'Am Römerholz', is one of the most expressive portrayals of this courageous art patron. At the same time it clearly documents the affinity of these two collections. Chocquet's collection paved the way for a culture of collecting that soon expanded internationally and that Oskar Reinhart (1885–1965) took on in a personal impressive manner in the early 1920s. Thus, the exhibition also pays tribute to Oskar Reinhart as a collector, on the 50th anniversary of his death.

The exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue in German, published by the Hirmer Verlag in Munich (248 pages with numerous illustrations, ISBN 978-3-7774-2416-3). The essays as well as the contributions to the 32 exhibited works are written by Anne Distel, Inken Freudenberg, Kerstin Richter, Mariantonia Reinhard-Felice, Arlette Sérullaz and Jayne Warman. They are the result of intensive research concerning the subject of the exhibition and they create an enhanced, fascinating picture of Chocquet's personality, his influence and his collection. Available in the Römerholz shop for 48 francs.



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**Collection Oskar Reinhart «Am Römerholz»**

Haldenstrasse 95, CH-8400 Winterthur  
Tel. 0041 (0)58 466 77 41

**Media contacts Collection Oskar Reinhart «Am Römerholz», Winterthur**

Dr. Mariantonia Reinhard-Felice, director  
Maria Larsson, public relations  
Tel. 0041 (79) 341 89 79

**Opening hours of the Museum**

Tuesday to Sunday 10 am to 5 pm, Wednesday 10 am to 8 pm

**Opening hours Café «Am Römerholz»**

Tuesday to Sunday 10 am to 5 pm, Wednesday 10 am to 9 pm,  
Saturday 10 am to 11 pm  
Closed Monday