



Press Release – Prague, 22 May 2025

Kunsthalle Praha to hold the first joint retrospective of pioneering abstract artist couple, Anna-Eva Bergman and Hans Hartung

Opening on 5 June 2025 at Kunsthalle Praha, the exhibition *And We'll Never Be Parted* sheds new light on one of the most singular and quietly radical artist couples of the 20th century. The art of Anna-Eva Bergman and Hans Hartung will be presented together in a major exhibition exploring the full scope of their intertwined lives and artistic practices. The exhibition brings together over 300 pieces—landmark paintings, rarely seen sketches, photographs, studio objects, personal artefacts, correspondence and artworks the couple gifted each other. Co-curated by Theo Carnegy-Tan and Pierre Wat, and realised in collaboration with the Fondation Hartung-Bergman, the exhibition offers an intimate insight into a decades-long artistic dialogue shaped by separation, reunion, and lasting creative kinship.



Unknown photographer Anna-Eva Bergman and Hans Hartung, Leucate, 1929.

Anna-Eva Bergman & Hans Hartung: And We'll Never Be Parted

5 June– 13 October 2025

Galleries 1 & 2, 900 m²

Curated by Theo Carnegy-Tan (Kunsthalle Praha), Pierre Wat (Fondation Hartung-Bergman)

In collaboration with Christelle Havranek (Chief Curator at Kunsthalle Praha) and Thomas Schlessler (Director of the Fondation Hartung-Bergman)

**Kunsthalle
Praha**

"We believe it is our responsibility to revisit art historical narratives and contribute to a more nuanced understanding of the past. This retrospective seeks to shed new light on the artistic dialogue between Anna-Eva Bergman and Hans Hartung, and to give Bergman the recognition she deserves—her work having long been overshadowed by her partner's fame," explains Christelle Havranek, chief curator at Kunsthalle Praha.

Bergman and Hartung met in 1929 in Paris, married the same year, and quickly became partners in both art and life. They travelled widely and exchanged ideas constantly, designing a home in Menorca and exploring Europe together while developing their own distinct practices. After their separation in 1937, they spent fifteen years apart—years marked by war, illness and transformation. Hartung, wounded in the Second World War, redefined his technique through urgency and improvisation. Bergman returned to Norway, where she developed her refined visual language inspired by geology, mythology, and northern light. They reunited in 1952 and married again in 1957 to live alongside each other, independent, yet deeply in dialogue. Over time, they became one of the most significant artist couples of the 20th century, alongside the likes of Sonia and Robert Delaunay or Sophie Taeuber and Hans Arp.

"The fascinating thing about Hans Hartung and Anna-Eva Bergman is that they were simultaneously very close and very independent. For two artists who spent most of their lives together, they forged totally different styles from a range of shared interests including the natural elements, the cosmos and music. At the same time, they were each invaluable to the shaping of the other's art. This counterpoint of commonality and difference is precisely what the exhibition explores," says curator Theo Carnegie-Tan.

The exhibition traces this ongoing exchange and the development of their studios and home in Antibes, France, where the couple lived and worked until the end of their lives. Hartung was instrumental in the development of gestural abstraction, and his expressive works stand in contrast to Bergman's luminous compositions, inspired by landscapes and natural forms. Their visions were shaped by elemental forces—air, fire, stone, water—and by a shared fascination with cosmic space, musical harmony, and architectural order. Their separate studios, daily rhythms, and rituals of artistic gift-giving reveal a bond that prioritised both closeness and autonomy.

"Our exhibition is like a braid, interweaving two trajectories, two destinies and two bodies of work as they come together, again and again, yet never merge," adds curator Pierre Wat.

Visitors to Kunsthalle Praha will encounter not only major works from across six decades, but also photographs, intimate letters, studio tools and archive material that illuminate the artists' inner worlds. Among the most moving features of the show are the artworks they exchanged throughout their life together, offering a rare glimpse into mutual recognition as a creative act.

Developed in close collaboration with the Fondation Hartung-Bergman—based in Antibes, France, where the couple spent the final decades of their lives—the exhibition would not have been possible without the Fondation's generous support. As the steward of their shared legacy, it has contributed key works, archival materials and deep curatorial insight. Its ongoing mission is to preserve, research and promote the work of both artists, and to support new perspectives on their significance within modern and contemporary art.

A richly illustrated catalogue will accompany the exhibition, co-published with Berlin-based Hatje Cantz. In addition to extensive photographic documentation, the book features curatorial essays and new contributions by Theo Carnegie-Tan, Pierre Wat, Thomas Schlessner, Pauline Mari, Catherine Millet and Camille Morineau.

Further engaging audiences throughout the exhibition's run, the accompanying public programme includes walk-in guided tours, creative workshops with local artists and designers, and a new edition of Kunsthalle's lecture series TransformArt.

'Raising timeless questions about what it means to be deeply connected to someone and yet stay true to oneself, about one's relationship to art, nature, the universe and the sublime, the exhibition "And We'll Never Be Parted" resonates profoundly today. It is particularly meaningful to host this major artistic reunion in Prague, as the city occupies a special place in Bergman and Hartung's intertwined lives,' concludes Ivana Goossen, director of Kunsthalle Praha.

Visitors under the age of 26 are eligible for complimentary membership, allowing access to all Kunsthalle Praha exhibitions for free.

The exhibition is held under the honorary patronage of the Embassy of France in the Czech Republic.

Kunsthalle Praha extends its thanks to its partners (The Pudil Family Foundation, My Clinic, Dentons).

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

Anna-Eva Bergman (1909–1987)

Anna-Eva Bergman was born in Stockholm to a Norwegian mother and a Swedish father. In 1929, she moved to Paris and enrolled at the André Lhote Academy where she met Hans Hartung, to whom she got married the same year. From 1933 to 1934, the couple lived on the island of Menorca in the Balearic Islands, where her interest in the golden ratio and architecture resulted in simple and constructed forms in her paintings and watercolours. In the post-war period, she made her first paintings using gold-leaf, and in 1951, following several summers spent in Citadelloya (southern Norway), Bergman produced paintings and drawings depicting the structure of rocks worn by the sea. From this Bergman developed her repertoire of forms: stones, trees, mountains, tombs, and planets. These archetypal forms inspired by Scandinavian nature and the powerful Nordic light would become the central elements of Bergman's work. The couple moved to Antibes in 1973 where together they designed their house and studios which later became the Fondation Hartung-Bergman. Bergman's work evolved towards increasingly simpler forms and a restricted colour palette. She abandoned the construction of her paintings based on the golden ratio and added two themes to her vocabulary of forms: waves and rain. Anna-Eva Bergman died on Friday, 24 July 1987 at the hospital in Grasse.

Hans Hartung (1904–1989)

Hans Hartung achieved international recognition as a seminal figure of art informel, which arose in France during World War II. Beyond the apparent spontaneity of his distinctively bold and almost calligraphic gestural abstraction, rationalism equally informed his style, which arose out of an early interest in the relationship between aesthetics and mathematics - particularly the harmony of the golden ratio - but also out of necessity: early in his career, he meticulously squared up his successful abstract sketches in order to reproduce them on larger canvases, which he could not afford to risk losing to improvisation. The Grand International Prize for Painting, which he won at the 1960 Venice Biennale, marked a decisive turn in his practice. Hartung began improvising directly onto canvas and experimenting with new media, namely fast-drying acrylic and vinyl paints, as well as scraping and spraying techniques. The quest for balance between spontaneity and perfection remained at the core of Hartung's painterly aesthetics until the end of his life, in 1989.

Fondation Hartung-Bergman

Founded in 1994, the Fondation Hartung-Bergman stems from the lives and wishes of two key modern painters: Hans Hartung and Anna-Eva Bergman. In the 1960s, the two artists acquired a two-hectare olive grove on the hills above Antibes and built their villa and studios there. This place, where they lived and worked until the end of their lives, is now a foundation that preserves an exceptional collection of works and archives. A public-interest organization, its mission is to preserve, disseminate, and exhibit the work of Anna-Eva Bergman and Hans Hartung, in Antibes and throughout the world.

Kunsthalle Praha

Kunsthalle Praha is a unique arts institution in the heart of Prague's vibrant cultural scene. It presents art exhibitions, actively supports both Czech and international artists in developing and presenting new work and hosts engaging programmes and cultural events. Located in a former electric substation, the Kunsthalle building was awarded the Czech National Architecture Prize in 2022 for its transformation. Visitors can also enjoy a design shop and a café with a historic terrace offering views of Petřín Hill and Prague Castle.

Kunsthalle Praha's mission is to connect the Czech and international art scenes, present innovative perspectives on 20th and 21st century art and culture, and engage diverse audiences through a dynamic, interdisciplinary programme. The institution also holds its own art collection, focused on modern, post-war, and contemporary art. While not on permanent display, selected works are featured in exhibitions and accessible online. Kunsthalle Praha was established as a non-governmental, non-profit platform by The Pudil Family Foundation, founded by Pavlína and Petr Pudil.

[instagram.com/kunsthallepraha](https://www.kunsthallepraha.org/en/instagram)

[kunsthallepraha.org](https://www.kunsthallepraha.org)

Open daily (11 am–7 pm) and on Wednesdays (11 am–9 pm). Closed on Tuesdays.

Free as a Member, <https://www.kunsthallepraha.org/en/become-a-member>

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