

## Information on MUSEUM RITTER

Nestling on the edge of the town of Waldenbuch, 30 km south of Stuttgart, is a striking rectangular block of limestone. The newly built MUSEUM RITTER next to the grounds of the RITTER SPORT company was designed specially for Marli Hoppe-Ritter's extensive collection by Swiss architect Max Dudler and opened in September 2005. As a private institution, the Museum is independent of the public sector, with all costs borne by the Marli Hoppe-Ritter-Stiftung zur Förderung der Kunst. Changing exhibitions of works from the collection together with temporary exhibitions on geometrical abstraction are constantly on show in the 700 m<sup>2</sup> exhibition space. Presenting historical developments in the field of geometrical abstraction is no less a goal of the Museum than showing major international representatives of this artistic direction. A wide-ranging programme of events for young and old accompanies the exhibitions and makes MUSEUM RITTER a place that brings art to life.

After around 15 years of intensive collecting, Marli Hoppe-Ritter, joint owner of the RITTER SPORT company, has mounted a unique collection. By now it includes over 1,000 paintings, drawings and objects by leading artists of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries who have all turned their minds to the subject of the square.

This at first might sound as if the trade mark of the RITTER SPORT company has simply been transposed to art. But anyone who takes a closer look at the large collection will recognise that it is more than just that: the square constitutes a geometrical ideal, like the circle or the triangle, which time and again has fascinated artists throughout the twentieth century and prompted them to take a deeper look at it. The square in art already became famous at the start of the twentieth century when it was taken by Russian constructivist Kasimir Malevich as his subject. He saw it as a symbol of a completely new artistic departure far from any form of representation or ascribed purpose. To this day the square has inspired artists to a wide variety of works. Whether playful, mathematical or spiritual, analytical or humorous – the possibilities which artists explore in this field are virtually inexhaustible and have an impact not only on concrete-constructive art, but also on other artistic concepts. Indeed, this choice of focus has not proved to be a restriction. Rather, concentrating on the square has enabled

the history of geometrical abstraction to be illustrated in a quite exemplary way, from its inception to the present day.

MUSEUM RITTER actively aims at conveying geometrical abstraction and knowledge about it to as many people as possible. Which is why every visitor receives a cost-free audio guide in German or English. In addition, a rich and varied programme opens up a dialogue and gives a lasting impetus. The range of events spans general tours of the museum, themed viewings of the exhibitions, lectures, discussions with artists and curators, and even guided tours with the collector Marli Hoppe-Ritter. Visitors can all participate in the art-in-education events free of charge.

A particular concern at MUSEUM RITTER is giving children and adolescents purposeful stimulation and encouragement; promoting their creativity during their visits to the Museum and firing their enthusiasm for art are an important task. For this reason admission is free for children and youngsters aged up to 18. With a wide range of offers, such as tours for children, an art puzzle, children's birthdays and the creativity workshop, we invite our youngest museum-goers to thrilling encounters with art.