In 1942 Christian Schad arrived in Aschaffenburg for lucrative public and private commissions. When his Berlin studio was destroyed in aerial bombing, his future wife Bettina saved the artworks in a spectacular action and brought them to him. An initially provisional arrangement turned into a stay of four decades.

In 2002 Bettina Schad founded the Christian Schad Foundation in Aschaffenburg. The collection consists of over 3,200 works, which will soon be displayed in the heart of the historical city of Aschaffenburg in a continuously varying selection and in a range unique throughout the world. Visitors to the Christian Schad Museum can look forward to paintings, drawings, prints, collages, and Schadographs from all of the artist’s creative periods, including rare documents of the Dada movement in particular.

Christian Schad (1894–1982) is one of the most important protagonists of Modernism. His life is connected to the centers of the European avant-garde: Zurich, Geneva, Rome, Vienna, and Berlin. It reflects in an exemplary way the art movements of the twentieth century: from Dada, Expressionism, and New Objectivity up to Magical Realism after 1945.

Next to his “icons” of New Objectivity, his world fame was based on the camera-less photograph, or Schadograph. The Christian Schad Museum introduces the figure of the artist and his work in the context of social developments.

CHRISTIAN SCHAD
A TWENTIETH-CENTURY ARTIST
A New Museum of the City of Aschaffenburg Is Dedicated to His Oeuvre

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Christian Schad was a pioneer on the path to artistic abstraction after the First World War. With his Schado-
graphs he attempted to turn away from realistic repre-
sentation within the Dada movement.

Schadograph No. 11 was created in Geneva in 1919. It originated in the collection of the Dada theorist Tristan
Tzara (1896–1963) and was able to be acquired from private holdings for the museum’s founding with the help of numerous donors. The Christian Schad Museum is up to now the only German institution possessing one of these important and rare early documents.

Its acquisition was supported by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media through a decree of the German Bundestag, the Cultural Foundation of the German States, the Ernst von Siemens Art Foundation, the Cultural Foundation of Lower Franconia, the Kurt Gerd Runkel Foundation Aschaffenburg, and the Sparkasse Aschaffenburg-Alzenau.

The Christian Schad Foundation in Aschaffenburg researches, presents, and – in a targeted way – acquires Schad’s works. It publishes the catalogue raisonné, made up of five volumes, in German and English and supports international research and exhibition projects.
Christian Schad Museum

Autumn 2018: The First Component of the Aschaffenburg Museum Quarter

The museum strategy in Aschaffenburg is based on a museum development plan. The concept plans a museum quarter with several different use components in the area around the former Jesuit college.

The first step on the way to the “Aschaffenburg Museum Mile”, which runs from the Stiftsmuseum and its collections to Johannisburg Palace, is being taken by the Christian Schad Museum, located directly adjacent to the Jesuit Church Art Gallery (Kunsthalle Jesuitenkirche).

With the construction and furnishing of the Christian Schad Museum the city is setting a sign in the heart of Aschaffenburg. The architecturally and thematically dynamic and contemporary museum will open in June 28, 2019.

Supported by the Federal Republic of Germany in the joint federal-state funding program “Aktive Stadt- und Ortsteilzentren” and the Free State of Bavaria:

The museum’s new construction has received generous public support from:

Sponsors (updated December 2016):

The Christian Schad Museum will be built in the heart of Aschaffenburg’s old city.

The Schadograph is the leitmotiv of the museum’s exterior design.

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