

## THE MUSEUM TEAM AND FRIENDS OF THE PRINZHORN COLLECTION MOURN THE LOSS OF HANS GERCKE (1941–2025)

Art historian Hans Gercke shaped cultural life in Heidelberg from the 1970s onwards. With his passionate commitment to art, which for him always included art on the margins, he became a pioneer of outsider art in Heidelberg. As the long-time director of the Kunstverein, he was an early advocate of the Prinzhorn Collection and participated in the traveling exhibition "Die Prinzhornsammlung" in 1980. It was shown not only in Heidelberg, but also in Hamburg, Stuttgart, Munich, and Basel, among other places, and made the collection known throughout the German-speaking world. In addition, Gercke supported the collection for several years as chairman of the Friends' Association, organized art trips to places of outsider art for its members, and wrote expert opinions on works of art acquired by the museum. In 2017, he donated the large canvas "Das Totenmahl" (1992) by Matthias Maaß to the Prinzhorn Collection. Gercke was also active on the board of the Society of Friends at Haus Cajeth and, together with museum director Thomas Röske, wrote the first book about this museum and exhibition house. We mourn the loss of a passionate companion and are very grateful to him for his tireless dedication. We will sorely miss his keen eye, his advice, and his unwavering commitment.



In a [YouTube video](#)  in 2022, Hans Gercke described how he became aware of the Prinzhorn Collection.