

Raven Row  
56 Artillery Lane  
London E1 7LS  
+44 (0)20 7377 4300  
ravenrow.org

*brecht: fragments*

**15 June to 18 August 2024**

Exhibition open Wed–Sun, 11am–9pm.  
Performances at **3.30pm and 7pm**, until 28 July.  
Email [brecht@ravenrow.org](mailto:brecht@ravenrow.org) to reserve a free ticket.

This exhibition will be the first dedicated to the visual production of legendary German playwright Bertolt Brecht (1898–1956). It features original material from the Bertolt Brecht Archive in Berlin, most of it never-before exhibited, alongside performances of a set of scenes from his early unfinished plays.

Throughout his working life, Brecht cut out and organised visual material from sources ranging from newspapers and magazines to labels and packaging. He accumulated images to inform his theatre, from medieval paintings and Chinese theatre to contemporary clothing and industrial production, and also recorded social and political events and their actors – politicians, soldiers, workers and people on the street – in a collage project that played out across notebooks, journals and manuscripts. Brecht’s dramatic works were often constructed in fragments of text, cut out and reorganised as montages on large sheets of paper. Alongside a selection of these, the exhibition will display original manuscripts, made by Brecht while in exile, that document the devastation of the Second World War. With the exception of *War Primer*, Brecht’s image-text essay about war under capitalism, most of this material remains little-known.

Twice a day throughout the exhibition, actors will lead visitors through Raven Row, performing dramatic fragments from four of Brecht’s unfinished plays from the 1920s, showing how montage and snapshot techniques played a crucial part in his conception of playwriting. Audiences will be asked to consider class conflict and poverty in *The Breadshop*, the excesses of stock trading in *Fleischhacker*, a man-made apocalypse in *The Flood* and a tank crew deserting the front line in *Fatzer*. Sets for these performances will further animate Brecht’s archive, reproducing his writing about the plays as well as research material he gathered to inform them, and revealing the profound role that visual conceptualisation played in his creative and political thinking.

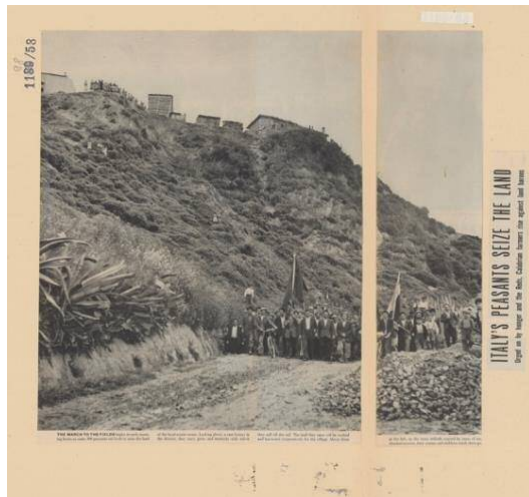
*brecht: fragments* is curated by Phoebe von Held, in collaboration with Tom Kuhn, Alex Sainsbury, and Iliane Thiemann from the Bertolt Brecht Archive at the Akademie der Künste, Berlin. With thanks to the Akademie der Künste for their invaluable support in developing this exhibition.

Raven Row  
56 Artillery Lane  
London E1 7LS  
+44 (0)20 7377 4300  
ravenrow.org

brecht: fragments  
15 June to 18 August 2024

Image captions

For all press enquiries, and high-resolution images, contact Sam Talbot e: [sam@sam-talbot.com](mailto:sam@sam-talbot.com) t: 07725184630



01. BBA 1198/058.tif

Bertolt Brecht, from an album compiled in the late-1940s  
Courtesy the Bertolt Brecht Archive, Akademie der Künste,  
Berlin (BBA 1198/058)



02. BBA 0174/001.tif

Bertolt Brecht, title page of *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*  
manuscript, 1941  
Courtesy the Bertolt Brecht Archive, Akademie der Künste,  
Berlin (BBA 0174/001)



03. BBA 0174/042.tif

Bertolt Brecht, from *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*  
manuscript, 1941  
Courtesy the Bertolt Brecht Archive, Akademie der Künste,  
Berlin (BBA 0174/042)



04. BBA 0111/062.tif

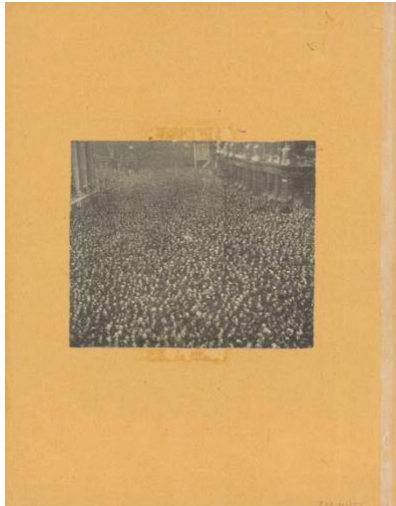
Bertolt Brecht, image from research for *Fatzer*, c.1926–30  
Courtesy the Bertolt Brecht Archive, Akademie der Künste,  
Berlin (BBA 0111/062)

Raven Row  
56 Artillery Lane  
London E1 7LS  
+44 (0)20 7377 4300  
ravenrow.org

*brecht: fragments*  
15 June to 18 August 2024

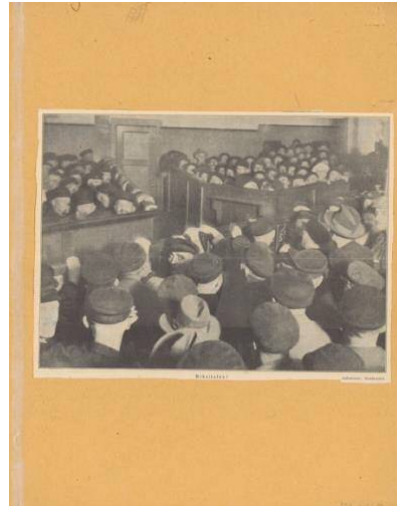
Image captions

For all press enquiries, and high-resolution images, contact Sam Talbot e: [sam@sam-talbot.com](mailto:sam@sam-talbot.com) t: 07725184630



**05. BBA 0113/007.tif**

Bertolt Brecht, from a manuscript folder for *Saint Joan of the Stockyards*, c.1929–31  
Courtesy the Bertolt Brecht Archive, Akademie der Künste, Berlin (BBA 0113/007)



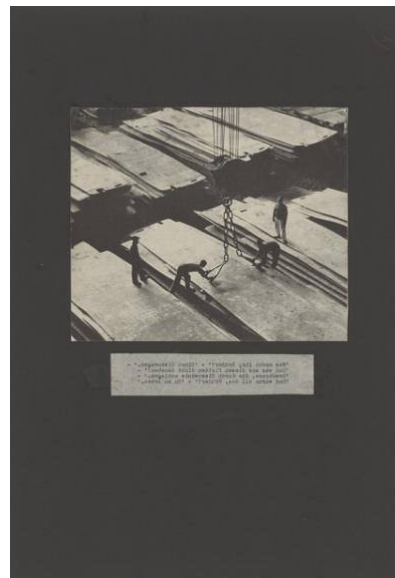
**06. BBA 0113/019.tif**

Bertolt Brecht, from a manuscript folder for *Saint Joan of the Stockyards*, c.1929–31  
Courtesy the Bertolt Brecht Archive, Akademie der Künste, Berlin (BBA 0113/019)



**07. BBA 0277/037.tif**

Bertolt Brecht, *Journal* (detail), 24 August 1940  
Courtesy the Bertolt Brecht Archive, Akademie der Künste, Berlin (BBA 0277/037)



**08. BBA 2096/38.tif**

Bertolt Brecht in collaboration with Ruth Berlau, paste-up for a page of *War Primer*, c.1940–1949  
Courtesy the Bertolt Brecht Archive, Akademie der Künste, Berlin (BBA 2096/38)