

Contents

7 Foreword

9 Introduction

Essays

Michael Krapf

15 Franz Xaver Messerschmidt's Life and Work

The career of a difficult one

Michael Krapf

33 The "Character Heads"

From the "simple heads conformable with nature" to the convulsive works

Michael Krapf

49 Patrons and Friends

with special regard to the role of the "magnetizer" F. A. Mesmer

Almut Krapf-Weiler

61 Messerschmidt and Contemporary Art

The reception of his oeuvre during the second half of the 20th century

Catalog

75 compiled by Michael Krapf

Appendix

221 Chronological table regarding Franz Xaver Messerschmidt's biography

223 Bibliography

228 Credits

228 Lenders

229 Photo credits