

Museums and exhibitions



Art, Beuys & the city

Düsseldorf
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Between Rhine, Kunstakademie and Hofgarten

An astonishing wealth of art is on display in Düsseldorf in a relatively small area. Numerous museums and galleries – all within walking distance of the Rhine and Hofgarten – provide for extraordinary art experiences all year round. Apart from the works of both young and established contemporary artists, there are also modernist works to discover. In summer, the inner courtyard of Ehrenhof is a sought-after spot for many museum visitors.



There is no other city of this size which is home to so many important international artists, where there are so many galleries, and where art is so much a part of everyday life.

Düsseldorf's Kunstakademie is the heart and soul of the city. Illustrious artists, the likes of Joseph Beuys, Sigmar Polke, Jörg Immendorf, Gerhard Richter, Andreas Gursky or Katharina Fritsch, have always studied and taught here, and today Düsseldorf's world-class standing as an art city still rests on the Kunstakademie. The academy opens its doors to the public twice a year when students show their new work.

The fact that art can be found on every street corner in Düsseldorf is also down to Joseph Beuys who came to fame with felt and fat. Beuys, who was a Kunstakademie professor from 1961 to 1972, provoked with his works and ideas. The law suit about the "fat corner" which a janitor had mopped away is famous. He left the city a mantra that continues to shape it today: "Everybody is an artist."

An art city by tradition:

The path leads from the "Düsseldorf School of Painting" of the 19th century to Paul Klee, the "ZERO" artists Heinz Mack, Otto Piene and Günther Uecker, and the great photographers of the Becher School right up to the present day.



Joseph Beuys, Scheveningen, 1976.
Photo: Caroline Tisdall

beuys 2021. 100 years of joseph beuys

Joseph Beuys was one of the 20th century's most important artists. The centenary of his birth in 2021 offers an opportunity for around 20 museums and cultural institutions in North Rhine-Westphalia to recognise, rediscover and critically examine the artist, his complex work and his international standing.

The exhibition "Joseph Beuys – Everybody is an Artist" at K20 in Düsseldorf offers an insight into the artist's cosmopolitan attitude as manifested in his actions. Works will be on display that show Beuys as a revolutionary or shaman, or occasionally as an alchemist, fool, researcher, gardener, politician, redeemer, artist, teacher or animal.

The Rhenish photo miracle

Those who speak today about German photography are thinking first and foremost about pictures by representatives of the Düsseldorf School of Photography, also known as the Becher School. It is

seen worldwide as a trademark that stands for high artistic quality and for a fundamental upheaval in photographic practices. The school of photography founded in the 1970s by Bernd and Hilla Becher generated important momentum for the international art scene. The Bechers' typical style became a global export hit for Düsseldorf.

Affectionately called the "Struffskys" by New York's Village Voice, Thomas Struth, Thomas Ruff and Andreas Gursky achieved world fame with their large-scale, unconventional photographic works. Candida Höfer and Axel Hütte also launched international careers. In this way photography made the leap from simple document to work of art that nowadays contests museum space with the more traditional oil painting.

New collection:
"This purchase is more than a coup. It is an avowal," wrote the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* when the City of Düsseldorf purchased the important Kicken Collection for the Kunstpalast. It contains pictures by famous photographers such as August Sander, Bernd and Hilla Becher, Robert Capa, Horst P. Horst and Helmut Newton.

The Rhine as inspiration:
Andreas Gursky's photograph "Rhine II", taken in Düsseldorf-Oberkassel, was sold in New York in 2011 for 3.1 million euros.



Ludwig Windstosser, Düsseldorf (pedestrian bridge), 1950s. Kunstpalast, Düsseldorf. © Ludwig Windstosser

The world of gallery owners and collectors

In the area of visual arts Düsseldorf offers a broad alternative scene, numerous foundations and well over 100 galleries. Thanks to the huge commitment of many patrons, art institutions and collections have been created such as the Julia Stoschek Collection in Oberkassel, the Philara Collection in Flingern or KAI 10 at the MedienHafen.

The galleries here see themselves as forums for the vibrant local art scene. Focal points here are the presentation and communication of young artists

and graduates of Düsseldorf's Kunstakademie.

At the DC Open in September, from Friday to Sunday galleries in Düsseldorf and Cologne will be showing established and upcoming artists. Art Düsseldorf takes place every year at Areal Böhler in Oberkassel – young art comes together with old industrial architecture.



The Sound of Düsseldorf

Over the last 50 years Düsseldorf has provided inspiration to many innovative artists – not only painters, photographers and sculptors, but also musicians. The Düsseldorf band NEU! – which influenced David Bowie, Blur, Placebo, Radiohead, Sonic Youth and Stereolab – was formed

at Kunsthalle. The first concerts by Kraftwerk – one of pop history's most influential bands – were held at Creamcheese, where Joseph Beuys, Anatol Herzfeld and Günther Uecker numbered among the regulars.

So much art in the city!

Rhineland Independent

An initiative of private collections and foundations for modern and contemporary art in the Rhineland.

B Julia Stoschek Collection

Schanzenstraße 54 | 40549 Düsseldorf
www.jsc.art

On the other side of the Rhine, Julia Stoschek has enriched Düsseldorf by giving it a private museum. The Julia Stoschek Collection presents contemporary art which focuses on time-based media. Stoschek's preference is for video work, installations and photography: "My generation's art," as the collector puts it.

K Langen Foundation

Raketenstation Hombroich 1 | 41472 Neuss
www.langenfoundation.de

The Langen Foundation has its roots in the collection of founder Marianne Langen and her husband, Viktor. The gallery of the Japanese architect Tadao Ando is itself a work of art. The Langen Foundation's programme is devoted to dialogue between Eastern and Western culture, and particularly to engaging with contemporary art.

K Just a stone's throw away

Just outside the city, the Museum Insel Hombroich, surrounded by greenery, is a world in itself. This museum in Neuss, only half an hour away from Düsseldorf, consists of over a dozen buildings scattered around sprawling landscaped

Getting there: by car (30 minutes from Düsseldorf city centre)
Further information: www.inselhombroich.de

I KAI 10 | Arthena Foundation

Kaistraße 10 | 40221 Düsseldorf
www.kaistrasse10.de

KAI 10, founded by Monika Schnetkamp, shows group exhibitions of international present-day art. Not the collection but rather the diversity of current art creation is central to the projects. The 600-square-metre exhibition hall is housed in a former warehouse in the MedienHafen.

F Philara Collection

Birkenstraße 47 a | 40233 Düsseldorf
www.philara.de

The collector Gil Bronner created spectacular art spaces which won several architectural awards in Düsseldorf in a former glass factory in the traditional workers' quarter Flingern. The collection has close ties with the Kunstakademie and local artists which Bronner however juxtaposes with internationally renowned artists.

In Düsseldorf, many art spaces are very close together. The number of key art museums is exceptional and they are all within walking distance of each other. With the historical ensemble of buildings around the Ehrenhof, the Altstadt (Old Town) and the Carlstadt there are three compact areas full of art, connected by the Kunstakademie.

J ZERO foundation

Hüttenstraße 104
40215 Düsseldorf
www.zerofoundation.de

The ZERO movement, which was founded in Düsseldorf in 1958, revolutionised post-war art. Heinz Mack, Otto Piene and Günther Uecker created art from light and movement, from air and fire. The ZERO foundation is the place where international art avant-garde is researched and presented today. Only open for special exhibitions and events.





♥ Kunstakademie Düsseldorf

Eiskellerstraße 1 | 40213 Düsseldorf
www.kunstakademie-duesseldorf.de

Repeated upheaval, constantly reaching new shores, special stories again and again: in 1978 the nail artist Günther Uecker and the water artist Klaus Rinke were appointed as professors and rode on camels through the hallways of the Eiskellerberg building. Today almost everything that happens in Düsseldorf's museums and ateliers is somehow connected with this building.

D Kunstsammlung NRW K20 Grabbeplatz

Grabbeplatz 5 | 40213 Düsseldorf
www.kunstsammlung.de

K20 has an international reputation as a museum of modernist art with masterpieces by artists from Henri Matisse to Gerhard Richter and from Pablo Picasso to Joseph Beuys. There are also selected works of non-European origin. The collection extends into the second half of the 20th century and includes highlights of US pop art. The Sarah Morris Wall beside the museum is an Instagram hotspot.

For friends of important collections of modern art.

H Kunstsammlung NRW K21 Ständehaus

Ständehausstraße 1 | 40217 Düsseldorf
www.kunstsammlung.de

The Renaissance Revival palazzo for 21st century art was recently reopened as a museum for international contemporary art. Newer works include photography by Andreas Gursky, Candida Höfer and Thomas Ruff, as well as works by Rosemarie Trockel, Thomas Schütte and Marina Abramovic. Below the glass dome, Tomás Saraceno's walkable net installation floats in mid-air.

For friends of the unusual, the bizarre and the noisy.

A Kunstpalast

Ehrenhof 4–5 | 40479 Düsseldorf
www.kunstpalast.de

Kunstpalast is Düsseldorf's treasure chamber – from Beuys to Richter and Rubens. Apart from the paintings and graphic art, there is also a design collection and one of the world's biggest glass collections. An exhibition area of over 4,000 square metres offers plenty of space for the art – one would think. However, when some extravagant sports cars were exhibited once, four tonnes of concrete had to be cut away first.

For lovers of the fine line between art and design.

C NRW-Forum Düsseldorf

Ehrenhof 2 | 40479 Düsseldorf
www.nrw-forum.de

The NRW-Forum has a special feel for groundbreaking themes. Topical focal points include robotics and digital art. The creative community appreciates it as an international space for experiments and creative networking. At the same time, the NRW-Forum is not only an exhibition centre but also a production location – inclusive of DJ evenings and concerts. Soda Books, a special shop for beautiful magazines, is also at home at the NRW-Forum.

For friends of photography, pop and digital culture.

Art:walk

With the Art:walk, you can enjoy a special museum tour in the heart of the city. It is not only the art waiting to be discovered that is extraordinary. The route takes in a number of listed parks as well as some of the most beautiful spots in Düsseldorf – among them the Hofgarten, the Königsallee and the Kö-Bogen, the Ständehauspark and the Rhine embankment promenade. For 25 euros, the Art:walk48 ticket offers unlimited access to the collections and exhibitions at the six major museums along the route.

www.visitduesseldorf.de/artwalk48

E Kunsthalle Düsseldorf

Grabbeplatz 4 | 40213 Düsseldorf
www.kunsthalle-duesseldorf.de

Kunsthalle and Kunstverein have resided in the concrete building on Grabbeplatz since the end of the 1960s. Joseph Beuys would have loved to have the building blown up, but today the Brutalist architecture is seen as visionary. The Kunsthalle is a place for avant-garde exhibitions which is why it has always attracted an international audience. The supposed museum café is an electro club – Salon des Amateurs and its DJs are world famous. Art in public places: Beuys's legendary oven pipe extends from the inside to the outside.

For friends of experiments and international events.

G KIT – Kunst im Tunnel

Mannesmannufer 1 b | 40213 Düsseldorf
www.kunst-im-tunnel.de

KIT is a 140-metre-long underground exhibition space directly beneath the Rhine embankment promenade. Young graduates of the Kunstakademie show their contemporary art there in the areas of sculpture, painting, photography, video and installation art at temporary exhibitions. A special tip for strollers is the monolithic KIT Café that looms on the Rhine embankment. In summer, one has the best view of the Rhine outside in front of the museum.

For friends of young and diverse contemporary art.

Art:walk48

Discover the city and its art



1 ticket 6 museums 48 hours

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Kunstsammlung
Nordrhein-Westfalen



KIT

**KUNSTHALLE
DÜSSELDORF**



Curated by #VisitDuesseldorf: New Urban Walks

Urban Art Walk – Street Art and Graffiti in Düsseldorf

Some of Europe's best urban artists have immortalised themselves on Düsseldorf's walls. They combine classic art genres with pop, punk, graffiti or street art, and reflect today's thinking. Klaus Rosskoth, local gallery owner and scene insider invites you to discover these unknown places.



From the Modern to the Future – Icons of Architecture

Star architects are celebrated today like rock stars. Our guided tour shows how closely the past and future of Düsseldorf's urban landscape are linked by their architecture. One of the latest examples is Daniel Libeskind's Kö-Bogen which was built not far from Dreischeibenhaus and Schauspielhaus.



Wehrhahn Line – Art Meets Architecture on the Underground

"Art and Magic in a German Metro" is how the New York Times describes our spectacular underground line in the heart of the city. The design concept evolved out of an unusual collaboration between artists and engineers. Each of the six stations has a distinctive character and contains no commercial advertising.



Can also be booked individually as group tours. More information and bookings:

www.visitduesseldorf.de/citytours

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Cover: Peter Vincent Causemann; Photo: Markus Luigs for Düsseldorf Tourismus
Illustrations: KittoKatsu, kittokatsu.de
All information is subject to change without notice and is not intended to be exhaustive.

02/2019-EN 5.000