

Düsseldorf
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Art, Beuys & the city

Swimming against the current: Since the late 18th century, artists in Düsseldorf have influenced each other, challenged the status quo and often caused a stir. The Kunstakademie (Academy of Art) has been a source of inspiration for 250 years. Whether Fluxus or ZERO, Lüpertz or Beuys, the Düsseldorf School of Photography or Painting – they have set standards that continue to have an impact on the vibrant art scene and the cityscape today.

Art on every corner

There is no other city of Düsseldorf's 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. The fact that art can be found on every street corner in Düsseldorf is also down to Joseph Beuys: As a professor at the Kunstakademie (Academy of Art) from 1961 to 1972, the artist shook the city and the art world with his definition of the expanded concept of art, shaped the Fluxus movement and proclaimed the idea of social sculpture. He left Düsseldorf a mantra that continues to shape it today: "Everybody is an artist."

A grand figure of the art world: 250 Years of the Kunstakademie

The heart and soul of the art world has been in Düsseldorf for a quarter of a millennium, right on the Rhine. The Academy gained an international reputation in the mid-19th century with the Düsseldorf School of Painting under Wilhelm von Schadow. Many renowned artists such as Joseph Beuys, Sigmar Polke, Jörg Immendorff, Gerhard Richter, Bernd and Hilla Becher, Andreas Gursky and Katharina Fritsch later studied and taught there. Düsseldorf's international reputation as a city of art is still based on the Academy of Art today. Twice a year, it invites visitors to a tour, when students show their new works. In 2023, the Kunstakademie celebrates its 250th anniversary.

From black-and-white photography to virtual reality

Anyone who thinks of art exclusively in terms of paintings and sculptures will find their horizons broadened in Düsseldorf: Numerous venues are dedicated to new media. Starting with the work of the photographers Bernd and Hilla Becher, who became famous for their serial black-and-white photographs and trained artists such as Candida

Höfer, Andreas Gursky, Axel Hütte, Thomas Ruff and Thomas Struth from the 1970s onwards, Düsseldorf has developed into an international hub of photography. Every two years, at the Düsseldorf photo+ festival, everything revolves around photography and media art for a few days. The NRW-Forum even devotes the whole year exclusively to photography, pop and digital culture. In the Oberkassel district, the Julia Stoschek Foundation presents 3,000 square metres of ever-changing multimedia exhibitions featuring video, film, performance, sound and virtual reality. Düsseldorf is also home to the Institute for Art Documentation, Europe's largest media archive of the visual arts.

Foundations, private collections and galleries

Where art is created, art is traded – and every now and then private art is made public in Düsseldorf: the Philara Collection in Flingern and KAI 10 | ARTHENA FOUNDATION in the MedienHafen regularly provide insight into their collections, for example, while a building designed by Japanese architect Tadao Ando houses the Langen Foundation. The ZERO foundation is dedicated to the legacy of the ZERO movement around the artists Heinz Mack, Otto Piene and Günther Uecker and presents the group's art in special exhibitions. The resident galleries see themselves as forums for the lively local art scene. What this means can be experienced at first hand every autumn at the DC Open – the Cologne and Düsseldorf Gallery Weekend. In spring, industrial architecture meets contemporary art at Art Düsseldorf at Areal Böhler in Oberkassel.

Museums and exhibition spaces within walking distance:

- On foot along the Rhine: With the Kunstpalast, the NRW-Forum Düsseldorf, the Kunstsammlung NRW at Grabbeplatz, the Kunsthalle Düsseldorf, the KIT - Kunst im Tunnel and the Kunstsammlung NRW in the Ständehaus, six exhibition venues dedicated to the visual arts are located very close to each other.
- With the Art:walk48 ticket, you can enjoy a special museum tour in the heart of the city. For 25 euros, the Art:walk48 ticket offers unlimited access to the collections and exhibitions at the six major museums along the route.
- Five private collections and foundations show temporary exhibitions – often of young contemporary artists.
- Over 100 galleries and off-spaces enrich the city's cultural life, invite visitors to events such as the DC Open and provide a platform for up-and-coming artists – often graduates of the Kunstakademie (Art Academy).

Matching blog articles



Six world-class galleries
www.duesseldorf-tourismus.de/stories/en/2022/02/01/six-world-class-galleries



Six avant-garde galleries you can't miss
www.duesseldorf-tourismus.de/stories/en/2022/01/11/six-avant-garde-galleries



10 Beuys places in and around Düsseldorf
www.duesseldorf-tourismus.de/stories/en/2021/03/18/10-beuys-places-in-and-around-duesseldorf-you-have-to-know

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