

Press material

Museum Folkwang

Annual programme 2026



Content

1. Press release programme 2026
 2. Press releases: *I, Gustave Courbet, Following Damascus...*
 3. Exhibition dates 2026 incl. short texts
 4. Symposia 2026
 5. Prices & service information
 6. Image text Museum Folkwang
 7. Press images
- Annual programme, *I, Gustave Courbet* Exhibition leaflet,
Germaine Krull: Chien Fou Exhibition leaflet

Press release

Museum Folkwang

***I, Gustave Courbet* – Realism, rebellion and cosmopolitan perspectives shape the Museum Folkwang's 2026 annual programme**

Essen, 20 November 2025 – In 2026, Museum Folkwang will present an annual programme that combines historical references, contemporary relevance and cultural diversity. Outstanding retrospectives, internationally significant photography and the continuous development of the collection make the museum a place of reflection, imagination and dialogue between the arts of the present and the past.

The annual programme spans a wide range of topics – from Gustave Courbet's radical imagery to the transcultural perspective of photography exhibitions and the early Islamic collection of museum founder Karl Ernst Osthaus. With its interplay of history, contemporary art and artistic research, it opens up new perspectives on central questions concerning both art and society.

'With the 2026 annual programme, we would like to invite visitors to experience art as a living dialogue between the past and the present. We show how radical artistic positions, historical collections and contemporary practices come together in our museum – a place where experience and perception merge,' **says Peter Gorschlüter, Director of Museum Folkwang.**

Gustave Courbet: pioneer of modernism

With the major retrospective ***I, Gustave Courbet*** (17 July to 8 November 2026), the museum is focusing on one of the most influential artists of the 19th century. Courbet's uncompromising attitude and innovative painting technique made him a pioneer at the intersection of art, society and politics. The exhibition highlights key groups of works – self-portraits, social reality, landscape, eroticism and exile – and shows how Courbet's radical realism paved the way for modernism. The exhibition is organised in cooperation with Leopold Museum Vienna and is under the High Patronage of Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier and Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic and the Honorary Patronage of Alexander Van der Bellen, Federal President of the Republic of Austria.

***Following Damascus ...* Karl Ernst Osthaus and the Arts of the Islamicate World**

The exhibition ***Following Damascus ...*** (6 November 2026 to 21 February 2027) focuses for the first time on the museum's former 'Department of Islamic Arts'. Around 300 objects – from ceramics and textiles to metal and glass works, including important loans – illustrate how Karl Ernst Osthaus's encounters with art and cultures from North Africa and West Asia shaped the

Museum Folkwang

development of this collection. Selected works of classical modernism, European arts and crafts, and contemporary positions expand a view of the museum holdings, enabling new perspectives on the collection.

Peter Gorschlüter highlights: 'With *I, Gustave Courbet* and *Following Damascus ...*, we are presenting two exhibitions that tell the story of the power of artistic renewal in different ways. Both showcase how closely art, politics and cultural identity are interwoven. In 2026, we will revisit these questions with an openness that has characterised both the artist Courbet and Museum Folkwang since its very foundation.'

Germaine Krull: chronicler of the 20th century

With the exhibition **Germaine Krull: Chien Fou** (28 November 2025 to 15 March 2026), Museum Folkwang is presenting the cosmopolitan photographer, whose estate has been part of the museum's photographic collection since 1995. In addition to her well-known avant-garde photographs from the 1920s and 1930s, her (auto)biographical texts, photo books, maquettes and political reports will be shown on a larger scale for the first time. The exhibition focuses on Krull's oeuvre as an author and her photographic practice from the beginning of the Second World War, when she left Europe permanently. It opens up a new, transcultural perspective on her work.

Diversity, communication and young perspectives

In addition to the above-mentioned major shows, the museum presents a wide range of other exhibitions: **L is for Look** (27 February to 7 June 2026) highlights a special aspect of photographic applications and shows how photographs found their way into children's literature – from imaginative picture books to literary stories. The exhibition **Herbert W. Franke / Gottfried Jäger** (16 October 2026 to 10 January 2027) deals with the experimental years of non-representational photography, which was characterised by debates and positions of the young generation of that time. **Photography Masters** (16 October 2026 to 10 January 2027), on the other hand, shows the artistic approaches and thematic focuses of young photographic positions today. The exhibition **Saâdane Afif: Affiches / Plakate** (13 March to 4 October 2026) provides the first comprehensive insight into this special group of works by the French conceptual and object artist, and New Zealand artist **Kate Newby** is developing a new site-specific work in the museum's outdoor area. The scholarship programme of the **New Folkwang Residency** and the **6 ½ Weeks** exhibition series continue to support young artists with their first museum exhibitions. The show **100 Best Posters 25** (3 July to 2 August 2026) presents the highlights of the largest annual German-language competition for poster design at the UNESCO World Heritage Site Zollverein.

Museum Folkwang

Collection and new acquisitions

The presentation of the museum collection – **NEW WORLDS** – focuses on the dialogue between the arts and remains accessible free of charge. A highlight in 2026 will be the new acquisition of the sculpture **Hahn und Podest** (Rooster and Pedestal) by **Katharina Fritsch**, which will enrich the museum as a large-scale installation from March 8, 2026 onwards.

Press image



Gustave Courbet

Le Fou de peur, around 1844, Oil on canvas

Photo: Børre Høstland, Nasjonalmuseet, Oslo

Opening hours 2026

Collection and exhibitions: Tuesday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., closed on Mondays.

Lesesaal: Tuesday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., library by appointment

Booking guided tours

info@museum-folkwang.essen.de

I, GUSTAVE COURBET

Painter and Rebel

17 July – 8 November 2026

Museum Folkwang

Museum Folkwang is dedicating a major retrospective to one of the most influential artists of the 19th century, Gustave Courbet (1819–1877).

The exhibition – ***I, Gustave Courbet. Painter and Rebel*** – features around 90 works, including major paintings such as ***Le Fou de peur*** (1844), ***L'Après-dînée à Ornans*** (1849), ***L'Origine du monde*** (1866) and ***Le Veau blanc*** (1873). The focus is on Courbet's radical visual language, his socio-political aspirations and his influence on modern art. The exhibition highlights central themes in his work: self-image and public image, social reality, erotic representation, landscape and exile.

Covering around 900 square metres, the exhibition guides visitors through Courbet's life and work. It brings together loans from international museums and collections, including Musée d'Orsay in Paris, Nasjonalmuseet for Kunst, Arkitektur og Design in Oslo, Kunstmuseum Bern, Alte Nationalgalerie Berlin and Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.



Gustave Courbet

Le Fou de peur, around 1844

Oil on canvas, 60 × 50 cm

Photo: Børre Høstland /

Nasjonalmuseet, Oslo

Courbet was not only an artistic visionary, but also a lively personality with a strong political commitment. He made the everyday life of ordinary people and the social reality of his time the subject of his artistic work, deliberately breaking with the idealised aesthetics of classicism and romanticism. Thanks to his uncompromising attitude and innovative painting technique, Courbet is now regarded as a pioneer of modernism – someone who crossed boundaries between art, society and politics.

The exhibition

The nine sections of the exhibition are devoted to the important stages of the artist's life and the central groups of works in his oeuvre. The exhibition begins with self-portraits in which Courbet addresses both his self-image as an artist and his painting; these made Courbet famous overnight and are now considered formative works of 19th-century art. These are followed by landscapes of his native eastern France – rock formations, watercourses and caves – which Courbet often painted several times, from different perspectives and at different times of day. His views of caves and springs are also represented with prominent examples.

Museum Folkwang

Another important section of the exhibition is devoted to social realism and the milieu of Parisian bohemian life. Courbet's best-known works include his views of the sea and individual waves breaking powerfully, which are also presented in a separate room. With their dynamic and atmospherically dense painterly style, they illustrate the movement and energy of the elements, while at the same time they can be interpreted as symbols of the political and social upheavals of the time.

Another section focuses on Gustave Courbet's erotically charged depictions of women and female nudes at springs and watercourses, which often feature mysterious scenes, intimate details and mystical moods. The exhibition concludes with Courbet's time in exile in Switzerland and the paintings he created in the last years of his life with motifs from the landscape around Lake Geneva.

Biography of Gustave Courbet

Courbet's biography is marked by artistic independence and political resistance. Born in Ornans in 1819, he rejected the academic art world, taught himself his craft in Parisian studios and began exhibiting at the Salon in 1844. From 1855, when the painter presented his paintings in what he called the 'Pavilion of Realism' in protest against the Salon jury, Courbet was one of the central figures in the Paris art world. His large-format paintings, such as *Les Casseurs de pierres* (1849), which was destroyed during the Second World War, and other scenes of society, provoked strong reactions and were the subject of public debate.

Courbet was also actively involved in politics and repeatedly responded to political events and upheavals in France in his works. He found his subjects in the Revolution of 1848, the fall of the Second Republic, the authoritarian regime of Napoleon III and the Paris Commune. As a political refugee, Courbet was forced to leave Paris and his homeland in 1873 and spent the last years of his life in exile in Switzerland. Many of his last paintings depict motifs from La Tour-de-Peilz and the landscape around Lake Geneva.

Publication

An extensive catalogue (approx. 384 pages, German/English) will be published by Verlag der Buchhandlung Walther König to accompany the exhibition.

In cooperation with Leopold Museum Vienna.

Under the High Patronage of Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier and Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic and the Honorary Patronage of Alexander Van der Bellen, Federal President of the Republic of Austria.

Information

Museum Folkwang

I, GUSTAVE COURBET

Painter and Rebel

17 July – 8 November 2026

Press conference: Thursday, 16 July 2026, 11 a.m.

Opening: Thursday, 16 July 2026, 7 p.m.

Main sponsor: E.ON

Supported by: GENO BANK ESSEN

Admission: €16 (standard) / €12 (concessions)

Tickets: www.museum-folkwang.ticketfritz.de

The catalogue is published by Verlag der Buchhandlung Walther König, Cologne (price: ca €38).

Opening hours

Tuesday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Closed on Mondays

Press images



Gustave Courbet
La Vague, 1870
Oil on canvas, 45 x 59 cm
© Museum Folkwang, Essen



Gustave Courbet
L'Origine du monde, 1866
Oil on canvas, 46.3 x 55.4 cm
Paris, Musée d'Orsay
© bpk / GrandPalaisRmn /
Hervé Lewandowski



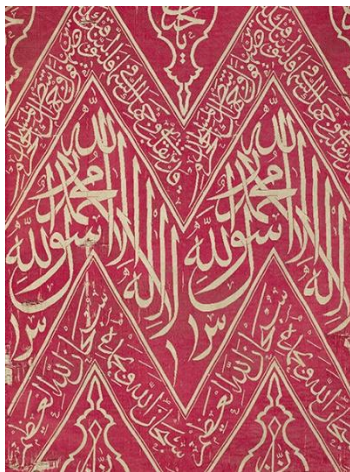
Gustave Courbet
Femme endormie aux cheveux roux, 1864
Oil on canvas,
58.6 x 69.9 cm
© Art Cuéllar-Nathan,
Switzerland
Photo: Reto Pedrini



Gustave Courbet
L'Après-dînée à Ornans, 1849
Oil on canvas,
195 x 257 cm
Lille, Palais des Beaux-Arts
© bpk | GrandPalaisRmn |
Philippe Bernard

FOLLOWING DAMASCUS ...
Karl Ernst Osthaus and the Arts of the
Islamicate World
6 November 2026 to 21 February 2027

Museum Folkwang



Shroud fragment
18th–19th century, Ottoman
Empire (today Turkey)

For the first time, an exhibition is dedicated to the former **'Department of Islamic Arts' at Museum Folkwang** and its resonance in the modern Folkwang cosmos. Around 300 objects – from ceramics and textiles to metal and glass works – provide insight into the collection policy of the **museum's founder, Karl Ernst Osthaus**, illustrating his perspective on the arts of the Islamicate world.

Since 1898, even before paintings by Auguste Renoir or Vincent van Gogh found their way into his collection, Karl Ernst Osthaus (1874–1921) had been collecting arts and crafts from North Africa and West Asia on his travels to the Ottoman Empire. The stays that took Osthaus as far as Syria had a significant influence on his self-image as an art collector and the development of the Folkwang concept. As a result, an 'Islamic Department' evolved in Hagen until around 1919, which was one of the earliest museum collections of Islamic art in the German-speaking world. In a cross-genre dialogue, it influenced architecture, fine arts, photography, arts and crafts as well as design, which emerged in the context of the Folkwang and were collected in the museum.

The exhibition ***Following Damascus ...*** begins with Osthaus's travels around 1900 and traces the development of the collection through key events. European arts and crafts and design, interventions by contemporary artists from the SWANA region and selected works of classical modernism expand the historical perspective to include contemporary issues and perspectives. For the exhibition, works from the former Folkwang Collection, such as parts of the so-called ***Damascus Room***, now kept in Dresden, and a valuable 17th-century copy of the ***Šāhnāma*** (Book of Kings), will be exhibited in Essen.

The exhibition is the result of extensive research that Museum Folkwang has been conducting since 2019 to catalogue the holdings of its former 'Islamic Department'. Thanks to generous funding from the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, the objects will be fully restored and conserved by 2026.

Contemporary works

Newly commissioned artworks and the design of the exhibition and catalogue aim to reflect the Eurocentric perspective of the collection in an artistic way. This will also be achieved through the

participation of contemporary artists and designers from the SWANA region (Southwest Asia and North Africa).

Publication

The exhibition is accompanied by a comprehensive publication documenting the history and objects of the former 'Islamic Department' at Museum Folkwang. Around 30 contributions provide further insight into the context of the exhibition by placing Museum Folkwang within the national and international collection practice. Specific issues such as strategies for deaccessioning or the politico-cultural dimension of the collection are addressed as well.

Information

FOLLOWING DAMASCUS ...

Karl Ernst Osthaus and the Arts of the Islamicate World

6 November 2026 to 21 February 2027

Press conference: Wednesday, 4 November 2026, 11 a.m.

Opening: Thursday, 5 November 2026, 7 p.m.

Admission: €16 (standard) / €12 (concessions)

Tickets: www.museum-folkwang.ticketfritz.de

Opening hours

Tuesday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Thursday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Closed on Mondays

Press images



Shroud fragment
18th–19th century
Ottoman Empire (today
Turkey)
Silk, lampas technique,
45 × 34 cm
Museum Folkwang, Essen
© Photo: Museum Folkwang



Bottle
first half of the 17th century
Iran
Glass, 12.8 × 8.84 × 6.67 cm
Museum Folkwang, Essen
© Photo: Museum Folkwang

Exhibitions

Museum Folkwang

GERMAINE KRULL: Chien Fou

Author and Photographer

28 November 2025 – 15 March 2026

Press event: Thu, 27 November, 11 a. m.

Exhibition opening: Thu, 27 November, 7 p. m.

L IS FOR LOOK

Photo books for children and young people

27 February – 7 June 2026

Press event: Thu, 26 February, 11 a. m.

Exhibition opening: Thu, 26 February, 7 p. m.

I, GUSTAVE COURBET

Painter and Rebel

17 July – 8 November 2026

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Exhibition opening: Thu, 16 July, 7 p. m.

HERBERT W. FRANKE / GOTTFRIED JÄGER

Art and Construction

16 October 2026 – 10 January 2027

Press event: Thu, 15 October, 11 a. m.

Exhibition opening: Thu, 15 October, 7 p. m.

PHOTOGRAPHY MASTERS

Folkwang University of the Arts

16 October 2026 – 10 January 2027

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FOLLOWING DAMASKUS ...

Karl Ernst Osthaus and the Arts of the Islamicate World

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Press event: Wed, 4 November, 11 a. m.

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Museum Folkwang

Presentations/Interventions

KATHARINA FRITSCH

Hahn und Podest – New acquisition

From 8 March 2026

Press event: Sat 7 March, 6 p. m.

Matinee: Sun, 8 March, 11 a. m.

SAÂDANE AFIF

Affiches / Plakate

13 March – 4 October 2026

Press event: Thu, 12 March, 11 a. m.

Exhibition opening and Lecture: Thu, 12 March, 7 p. m.

KATE NEWBY – NEW COMMISSION

From 12 June 2026

Exhibition opening: Thu, 11 June, 7 p. m.

100 BEST POSTERS 25

Germany Austria Switzerland (at UNESCO World Heritage Zollverein)

3 July – 2 August 2026

Exhibition opening: Thu, 2 July, 7 p. m.

6 ½ WEEKS

From February 2026

Exhibition opening: on fridays 6.30 p. m.

--- Subject to change ---

Short texts

Museum Folkwang

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Museum Folkwang

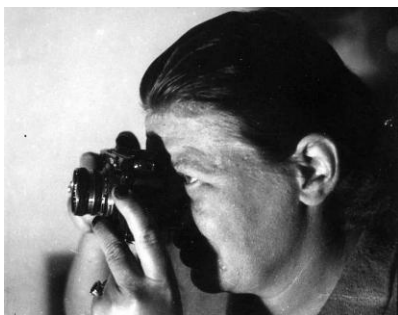
GERMAINE KRULL: Chien Fou

Author and Photographer

28 November 2025 – 15 March 2026

Exhibition opening: Thu, 27 November, 7 p. m.

The estate of photographer Germaine Krull has been held at Museum Folkwang since 1995. In addition to prints and negatives, it also includes the artist's extensive output in publishing: (auto)biographical and fictional texts, photobooks and maquettes, letters and political reportages. For the first time, this written œuvre is now being presented on a larger scale alongside numerous photographs, offering new access to Krull's artistic legacy. The exhibition brings Krull to life not only as a photographer but also as a chronicler of the 20th century in images and words. In addition to the well-known avant-garde photographs of the 1920s and early 1930s, the exhibition focuses in particular on her previously less noticed photographic practice from the beginning of the Second World War onwards. These works were created after Krull's permanent departure from Europe and open up a new, transcultural perspective on her work.



Author unknown

Germaine Krull mit Contax, around 1932

Silver gelatine print,

11.5 x 14.5 cm

© Estate Germaine Krull, Museum Folkwang, Essen

Museum Folkwang

L IS FOR LOOK

Photo books for children and young people

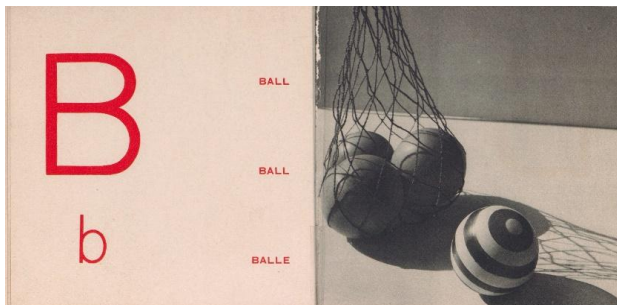
27 February – 7 June 2026

Exhibition opening: Thu, 26 February, 7 p. m.

L is for Look invites visitors on an interactive journey of discovery through the history of children's and young adults' photo books – from their industrial boom in the 1930s to the present day. Although this genre continues to occupy a niche in the publishing landscape, the exhibition impressively illustrates how educational concepts and the social status of children in the Western world have changed over the past 100 years. The exhibition offers young and old alike the opportunity to discover the process of creating a photo book, from the initial photograph to the original designs.

A co-production with the Institut pour la photographie of Hauts-de-France and Photo Élysée in Lausanne.

Further exhibition venues include the Rencontres d'Arles festival, the Photographers Gallery in London, the Centre national de l'audiovisuel in Dudelange, Luxembourg, and FotoArsenal in Vienna.



Emmanuel Sougez

Alphabet, 1932

Photo book page

Publisher: Antoine Roche, Paris

All rights reserved

Museum Folkwang

I, GUSTAVE COURBET

Painter and Rebel

17 July – 8 November 2026

Exhibition opening: Thu, 16 July, 7 p. m.

Under the High Patronage of Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier and Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic and the Honorary Patronage of Alexander Van der Bellen, Federal President of the Republic of Austria

Gustave Courbet's radical visual language, his sociopolitical aspirations and his influence on modern art remain as powerful today as ever. He rejected the idealised aesthetics of classicism and romanticism, making the lives of ordinary people and reality the subject of his paintings instead. With his uncompromising attitude and innovative painting technique, Courbet is considered a pioneer of modernism – a boundary breaker between art, society and politics

This major retrospective is dedicated to one of the most influential artists of the 19th century, an artistic innovator with a colourful personality who was driven by the pursuit of independence. His political commitment is reflected in his art, especially in his examination of historical events and upheavals in France, which led him to leave Paris in 1873 as a political refugee and flee to Switzerland. The exhibition highlights key stages in the artist's life and groups of works: self-image and public image, social reality, erotic representation, landscape and exile.

In cooperation with Leopold Museum Vienna

Main sponsor: E.ON

Supported by: GENO BANK ESSEN



Gustave Courbet

Le Fou de peur, around 1844

Oil on canvas, 60 x 50 cm

Photo: Børre Høstland /

Nasjonalmuseet, Oslo

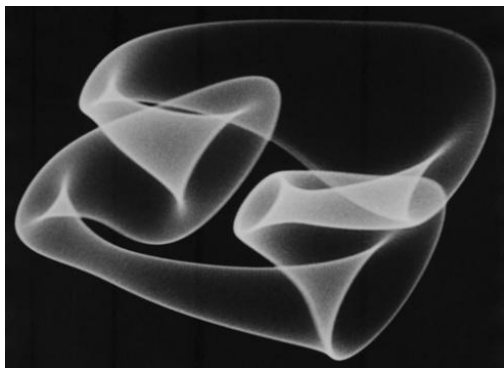
Museum Folkwang

HERBERT W. FRANKE / GOTTFRIED JÄGER
Art and Construction

16 October 2026 – 10 January 2027

Exhibition opening: Thu, 15 October, 7 p. m.

The experimental years of non-representational photography were marked by debates and position statements articulated by a young generation. After Gottfried Jäger discovered the book *Kunst und Konstruktion* (Art and Construction) by computer pioneer and science fiction author Herbert W. Franke in 1958, an artistic exchange developed over the course of decades.



Herbert W. Franke
Tanz der Elektronen, 1958/59
Gelatin silver print
18 x 24 cm
© Stiftung Herbert W. Franke

Museum Folkwang

PHOTOGRAPHY MASTERS

Folkwang University of the Arts

16 October 2026 – 10 January 2027

Exhibition opening: Thu, 15 October, 7 p. m.

The exhibition shows a selection of works by graduates of the master's degree programme Photography Studies & Practice at the Folkwang University of the Arts. The two Folkwang institutions are thus continuing a collaboration that began in 2016 with the *Stopover* series.



Installation view *Photography Masters*

Detail from Martin Ruckert, *Baryt 2.57*, 2024

© Martin Ruckert

Museum Folkwang

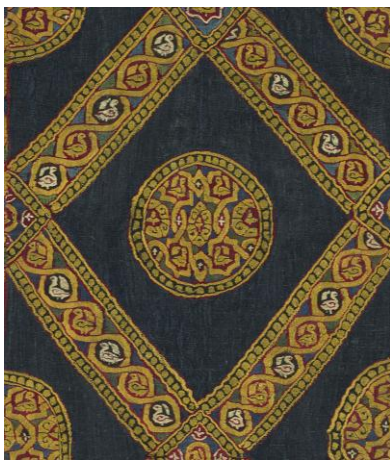
FOLLOWING DAMASKUS ...

Karl Ernst Osthaus and the Arts of the Islamicate World

6 November 2026 – 21 February 2027

Exhibition opening: Thu, 5 November, 7 p. m.

For the first time, an exhibition is dedicated to the former “Department of Islamic Arts” at Museum Folkwang and its resonance in the modern Folkwang cosmos. Even before acquiring important paintings by Auguste Renoir and Vincent van Gogh, museum founder Karl Ernst Osthaus collected arts and crafts from North Africa and West Asia. This group of works had a decisive influence on the Folkwang concept and influenced the art, design and architecture that developed in the context of the museum. Around 300 objects provide the first representative overview of the collection of Islamic Arts at the Folkwang, which was one of the earliest museum collections of its kind in Germany – including shiny ceramics, richly decorated fabrics, a valuable Šāhnāma (Book of Kings) and an internationally significant collection of ibero-islamic tiles, which Walter Gropius himself raved about. Works of classical modernism, European design and contemporary new productions expand the historical spectrum to include current perspectives and issues.



Fabric (fragment), detail
First half of the 12th century, Egypt
Linen fabric with silk weaving, 33 x 22 cm
Museum Folkwang, Essen
© Photo: Museum Folkwang

Museum Folkwang

KATHARINA FRITSCH

Hahn und Podest – New acquisition

From 8 March 2026

Matinee: Sun, 8 March, 11 a. m.

With Katharina Fritsch's sculpture *Hahn und Podest* (Cock and Pedestal, 2013/2019), Museum Folkwang has acquired a major work by the internationally renowned artist. To mark the 70th birthday of the sculptor, the work will be presented in the collection from March onwards. Fritsch stylises the rooster into a modern archetype. Familiar yet ethereal, the blue rooster watches from high above on its huge pedestal.



Katharina Fritsch

Hahn und Podest, 2013/2019

Polyester, steel, paint, 375 x 200 x 200 cm

Courtesy of Matthew Marks Gallery

Photo: Ivo Faber

© VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn 2025

Museum Folkwang

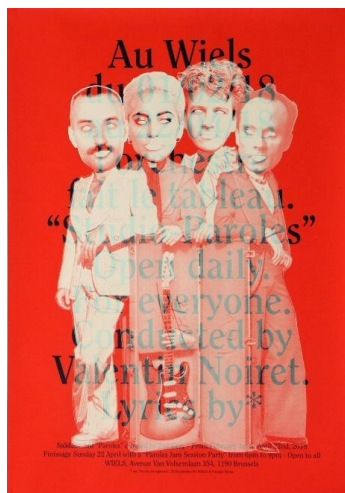
SAÂDANE AFIF

Affiches / Plakate

13 March – 4 October 2026

Exhibition opening and Lecture: Thu, 12 March, 7 p. m.

Saâdane Afif creates a poster for each of his exhibitions, performances and lectures. 80 of these screen prints, produced in small editions, are being shown in the overview in Essen for the first time – together with a restaging of Afif's first exhibition in Germany in 2004. The posters will be on display in two parts, with a change in the hanging in June 2026.



Saâdane Afif

Au Wiels du 01/02/18 au 22/04/18 / l'orchestre fait le tableau. / "Studio Paroles" (Louis und Augustin), 2018 Brussels, no information available about the printer, screen print, 139 x 98 cm

© Saâdane Afif

Photo: Museum Folkwang

Museum Folkwang

KATE NEWBY – NEW COMMISSION

From 12 June 2026

Exhibition opening: Thu, 11 June, 7 p. m.

New Zealand artist Kate Newby (born in 1979) is developing a site-specific outdoor work for the Museum Folkwang in the spring. In her artistic practice, she often collaborates with local actors using found objects. Newby integrates subtle, sometimes barely visible elements into our familiar surroundings, creating a new, poetic view of everyday life.



Kate Newby

And they kicked her out of New York City (George, Richard, Jessie, Kate, Ash, Paul, Alex and Adelle), 2015

Silver, bronze, ceramics

Dimension variable

Australian Centre for Contemporary Art

© Courtesy of the artist

Museum Folkwang

100 BEST POSTERS 25

Germany Austria Switzerland (at UNESCO World Heritage Zollverein)

3 July – 2 August 2026

Exhibition opening: Thu, 2 July, 7 p. m.

The exhibition presents the results of the largest annual poster competition in the German-speaking world, organised in collaboration with 100 Beste Plakate e. V., the German Poster Museum at Museum Folkwang and the Zollverein Foundation.



Daniel Peter

Hilfe, ich erbe!, 2024

Format F4

© Studio Daniel Peter, Daniel Peter

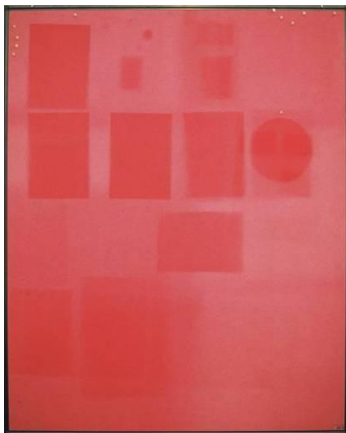
Illustration: Alice Kolb / 100 Beste Plakate e. V.

Museum Folkwang

6 ½ WEEKS

From February 2026

The *6 ½ Weeks* exhibition format presents young and current positions and aims to give artists who have not yet exhibited in a museum context their first public appearance. The exhibition space is accessible free of charge. Past exhibitions have included Aimée Portioli, Krystel Geerts, Eliza Douglas, Rietlanden Women's Office and Ngoc Nau.



Rudi Williams

2024, Pinboard [Agatha Gothe Snape, Crisis Meeting, 2023]

Hayden's gallery, Brunswick, Victoria, Australia

© Rudi Williams, 2025

Symposiums 2026

Museum Folkwang

TRANSITORIAL SPACES: ARTISTIC REFLECTIONS OF TRANSATLANTIC EXILE ROUTES
International Conference at Duisburg-Essen University and at Museum Folkwang
16 / 17 January 2026

The escape routes of numerous intellectuals and two transitory spaces of exile: Germaine Krull's documents of her own escape from Marseille to Martinique (1941) and William Kentridge's work *To Cross One More Sea* (2024), which refers to this very passage, form the starting point for this symposium.

WHAT WILL PHOTOGRAPHY BE? AN INVITATION TO SPECULATE
3rd Essen Symposium for Photography, SAANA Building, in cooperation with the Essen Centre for Photography
4 / 5 February 2026

We are looking for speculations that critically examine developments in visual media and attempt to position photography in this field in the future.

Programme www.fotozentrum-essen.de/de/symposien/2026

Registration at: <https://sweapevent.com/b?p=essen-symposium-for-photography>

CARING FOR PHOTOGRAPHY
Symposium of the current fellows in the Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach Foundation's "Museum Curators for Photography" scholarship programme
24 / 25 April 2026

What does care mean in the context of curating and photography? The symposium invites participants to explore curatorial practice, artistic processes and social responsibility in the sense of collective coexistence.

PAUL VOGT ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY
29 May 2026

Director of the Museum Folkwang, initiator of the video studio, author: On the 100th anniversary of Paul Vogt's birth (1926–2017), his work is being recontextualised and analysed.

Registration until 24 May 2026 at: symposium@museum-folkwang.essen.de

Prices and service information

Museum Folkwang

Admission

Permanent collection

Admission to the permanent collection of the Museum Folkwang is free on all opening days.
Until 15 MAR

GERMAINE KRULL: CHIEN FOU

Author and Photographer

Regular:	9 €	Concessions*:	5 €
Family Card I**:	19 €	Family Card II***:	10 €

27 FEB – 7 JUN 2026

L IS FOR LOOK

Photo books for children and young people

Admission is free.

3 JUL – 2 AUG 2026

100 BEST POSTERS 25

Germany Austria Switzerland (OFF-SITE)

Admission is free.

17 JUL – 8 NOV 2026

I, GUSTAVE COURBET

Painter and Rebel

Regular:	16 €	Concessions*:	12 €
Family Card I**:	33 €	Family Card II***:	17 €

16 OCT 2026 – 10 JAN 2027

HERBERT W. FRANKE / GOTTFRIED JÄGER

Art and Construction und Konstruktion

Admission is free.

16 OCT 2026 – 10 JAN 2027

PHOTOGRAPHY MASTERS

Folkwang Universität der Künste

Admission is free.

Museum Folkwang

6 NOV 2026 – 21 FEB 2027

FOLLOWING DAMASCUS ...

Karl Ernst Osthaus and the Arts of the Islamicate World

Regular:	14 €	Concessions*:	10 €
Family Card I**:	29 €	Family Card II***:	15 €

*Children and Teenagers from 6 to 18, pupils and students, handicapped (from 70%), people in military service or community service, people receiving social welfare

**Two adults with max. four children aged 6-18

***One adult with max. four children aged 6-18

Opening hours 2026

Collection and exhibitions: Tuesday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., closed on Mondays.

Lesesaal: Tuesday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., library by appointment

Open on the following public holidays:

New Year's Day (1 January), Good Friday (3 April), Easter Sunday (5 April), Easter Monday (6 April), May Day (1 May), Ascension Day (14 May), Whit Sunday (24 May), Whit Monday (25 May), Corpus Christi (4 June), German Unity Day (3 October), All Saints' Day (1 November), Boxing Day (26 December)

Closed:

Rose Monday (16 February), Christmas Eve (24 December), Christmas Day (25 December), New Year's Eve (31 December)

Booking guided tours

info@museum-folkwang.essen.de

Directions

Transport connections from Essen Hauptbahnhof (main train station): tram and underground lines 101, 106, 107, 108 and U11 in the direction of Bredeney or Messe Gruga to Rüttenscheider Stern (the way to the Museum Folkwang is signposted, approx. 7-minute walk).

By car: navigation info: Museumsplatz 1, 45128 Essen

Museum Folkwang

Museum Folkwang

Unique works by van Gogh, Cézanne and Gauguin meet works by Rothko, Pollock and Richter: Museum Folkwang is one of the most renowned German art museums with an outstanding collection of 19th-century painting and sculpture, classical modernism and art after 1945, as well as photography. In addition, Museum Folkwang houses comprehensive collections of graphic art, archaeology, world art, decorative arts and the German Poster Museum. Museum Folkwang is particularly renowned for its international exhibition programme.

In 1902, Museum Folkwang (Old Norse Folkvangar: people's hall) was founded by Karl Ernst Osthaus (1874-1921) in the industrial town of Hagen. After Osthaus's death, the collection was acquired by the newly founded Folkwang-Museumsverein for the city of Essen and in 1922 was united with Städtisches Kunstmuseum to form the new Museum Folkwang. As a place for collecting and communicating new and the latest art, the museum achieved world renown in just a few decades.

Under the title *New Worlds. Dialouge of the Arts*, visitors today experience the tradition-rich collection in a new guise: painting meets photography, sculpture or graphic art and enters into previously unseen and inspiring constellations with world art and posters. In keeping with the Folkwang concept developed by museum founder Karl Ernst Osthaus, different genres and eras engage in dialogue with one another.

Museum Folkwang is the first German art museum of this size to grant all visitors free admission to the collection. This has been made possible since 2022 by the City of Essen. From 2015 to 2021, the Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach Foundation funded free admission to the museum's collection.

Contact

Museum Folkwang
Museumsplatz 1, 45128 Essen
www.museum-folkwang.de

Opening hours

Tue to Sun 10 am – 6 pm,
Thu, Fri 10 am – 8 pm
Mon closed

Visitor's Office

T +49 201 8845 444
info@museum-folkwang.essen.de



Photo: Museum Folkwang, Giorgio Pastore

Museum Folkwang

Management and structure

Director: Peter Gorschlüter

Chief Operating Officer, Deputy Director: Hans-Jürgen Lechtreck

Head of Museum Administration: Thomas Grimm

Staff (including part-time employees): approx. 61

Owners of the collection: City of Essen and Folkwang-Museumsverein e.V. in equal shares

Curators

Tobias Burg, Department of Prints and Drawings

Peter Daners, Education

Nadine Engel, Painting, Sculpture, Media Art – 19th and 20th century

Anna Fricke, Painting, Sculpture, Media Art – Contemporary Art

Mathilde Heitmann-Taillefer, Research, Scientific Cooperations and Provenance Research

Julia König, German Poster Museum

Thomas Seelig, Department of Photography

Building

Old building: Design: Werner Kreutzberger, Erich Hösterey and Horst Loy, opened in 1960

New building: Design: David Chipperfield Architects, opened in 2010

Total exhibition space (including old building): approx. 6,200 square metres

Exhibition hall 1: 1,400 square metres

Exhibition hall 2: 870 square metres

Sammlungen und Bestände

Collection of paintings, sculptures and media art from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries:

approx. 900 paintings, 320 sculptures, 150 videos

Graphic arts collection: approx. 12,000 drawings and prints

Photographic collection: approx. 65,000 photographs

Archaeology, world art, decorative arts: approx. 1,800 objects

German Poster Museum: approx. 350,000 posters

Press images

Museum Folkwang

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Gustave Courbet
Le Fou de peur, around 1844
Oil on canvas, 60 x 50 cm
Photo: Børre Høstland /
Nasjonalmuseet, Oslo

I, GUSTAVE COURBET
Painter and Rebel
17 July – 8 November 2026



Gustave Courbet
L'Origine du monde, 1866
Oil on canvas, 46,3 x 55,4 cm
Paris, Musée d'Orsay
© bpk / GrandPalaisRmn / Hervé
Lewandowski



Gustave Courbet
Nachmittag in Ornans, 1849
Oil on canvas, 195 x 257 cm
Lille, Palais des Beaux-Arts
© bpk | GrandPalaisRmn |
Philippe Bernard

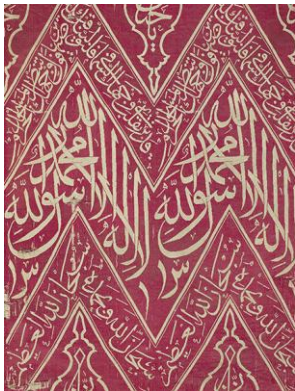
Museum Folkwang



Gustave Courbet
Femme endormie aux Cheveux roux, 1864
Oil on canvas, 58,6 x 69,9 cm
© Art Cuéllar-Nathan, Switzerland
Foto: Reto Pedrini



Gustave Courbet
La vague, 1870
Oil on canvas, 45 x 59 cm
© Museum Folkwang, Essen



Shroud fragment
18th–19th century, Ottoman Empire (today Turkey)
Silk, lampas technique,
45 x 34 cm
Museum Folkwang, Essen
© Photo: Museum Folkwang

FOLLOWING DAMASCUS ...
Karl Ernst Osthaus and the Arts of the Islamicated World
6 November 2026 – 21 February 2027



Tile panel
1475 – 1500, Spain, Seville
Quartz frit or earthenware, glaze colours, cuerda seca and cuenca techniques, 91,5 x 63,5 cm
Museum Folkwang, Essen
© Photo: Museum Folkwang

Museum Folkwang



Bottle
First half of the 17th century,
Iran
Glass, 12,8 x 8,84 x 6,67 cm
Museum Folkwang, Essen
© Photo: Museum Folkwang



Unknown Photographer
Germaine Krull with Contax,
c. 1932
Gelatin silver print,
11,5 x 14,5 cm
© Estate Germaine Krull,
Museum Folkwang, Essen

GERMAINE KRULL: CHIEN FOU

Author and Photographer

28 November 2025 – 15 March 2026



Unknown Photographer
Germaine Krull at her desk in
the Oriental Hotel, Bangkok,
1950s
Gelatin silver print,
13 x 13 cm
© Estate Germaine Krull,
Museum Folkwang, Essen



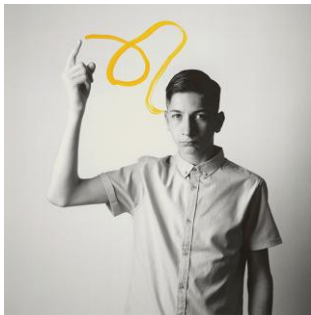
Germaine Krull
The Eiffel Tower, Paris. Photo
taken from the 1st floor, 1928
Gelatin silver print,
22,3 x 15,5 cm
© Estate Germaine Krull,
Museum Folkwang, Essen

Museum Folkwang

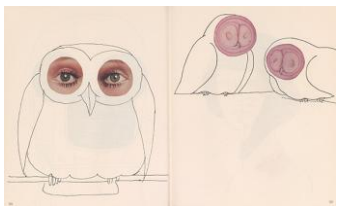


Emmanuel Sougez
Alphabet, 1932
Photo book page
Publisher: Antoine Roche, Paris
All rights reserved

L IS FOR LOOK
Photo books for children and young people
27 February – 7 June 2026



Adam Broomberg und Oliver Chanarin
Menschen und andere Tiere,
2016
20,8 x 20,8 cm
© Late Estate of Broomberg and Chanarin



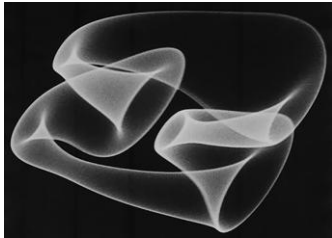
Tomi Ungerer
Clic clac ou qu'est-ce que c'est ?
1989, L'École des loisirs, Paris
Photo book page
© 1989 Diogenes Verlag AG
Zürich, Switzerland / Tomi Ungerer Estate
All rights reserved



Daniel Peter
Illustration: Alice Kolb (CH)
Hilfe, ich erbe!, 2024
Format F4
© Studio Daniel Peter
Daniel Peter
Illustration: Alice Kolb / 100
Beste Plakate e. V.

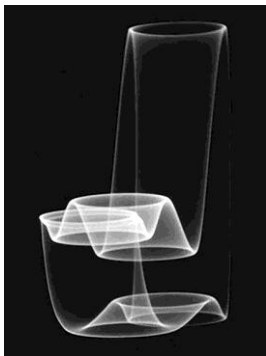
100 BEST POSTERS 25
Germany Austria Switzerland
3 July – 2 August 2026

Museum Folkwang



Herbert W. Franke
Tanz der Elektronen, 1958/59
Gelatin silver print
18 x 24 cm
© Stiftung Herbert W. Franke

**HERBERT W. FRANKE / GOTTFRIED
JÄGER**
Art and Construction
16 October – 10 January 2027



Herbert W. Franke
Tanz der Elektronen, 1958/59
Gelatin silver print
24 x 18 cm
© Stiftung Herbert W. Franke



Installation view
Photography Masters
Detail from Martin Ruckert,
Baryt 2.57, 2024
© Martin Ruckert

PHOTOGRAPHY MASTERS
Folkwang University of the Arts
16 October 2026 – 10 January 2027

Museum Folkwang

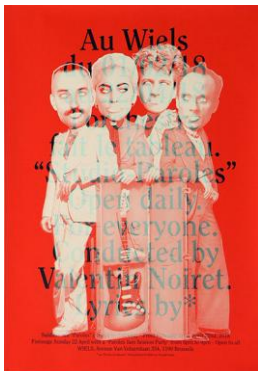


Katharina Fritsch

Hahn und Podest, 2013/2019
Polyester, steel, paint,
375 x 200 x 200 cm
Courtesy of Matthew Marks
Gallery
Photo: Ivo Faber
© VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn 2025

KATHARINA FRITSCH

Hahn und Podest
From March 2026



Saâdane Afif

*Au Wiels du 01/02/18 au
22/04/18 / l'orchestre fait le
tableau. / "Studio Paroles"*
(Louis und Augustin), 2018
Brussels, no information
available about the printer,
screen print, 139 x 98 cm
© Saâdane Afif
Photo: Museum Folkwang

SAÂDANE AFIF

Affiches / Plakate
13 March – 4 October 2026



Portrait Saâdane Afif

Photo: Ugné Uma

Museum Folkwang



Kate Newby

And they kicked her out of New York City (George, Richard, Jessie, Kate, Ash, Paul, Alex and Adelle), 2015

Silver, bronze, ceramics
Dimension variable
Australian Centre for Contemporary Art
© Courtesy of the artist

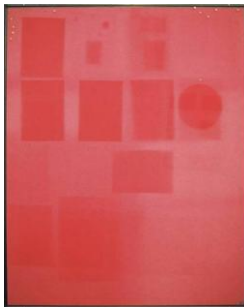
KATE NEWBY – NEW COMMISSION

12 June 2026



Kate Newby

Hours in wind, 2024
cast glass, hot-worked glass
bronze, rope
Dimensions variable
Museum of Contemporary Art, Australia
© Courtesy of the artist



Rudi Williams

2024, Pinboard [Agatha Gothe Snape, Crisis Meeting, 2023]
Hayden's gallery, Brunswick, Victoria, Australia
© Rudi Williams, 2025

6 ½ WEEKS

From February 2026