

Press conference

Museum Folkwang

SAVE THE DATE

Dear members of the media and colleagues,

We are delighted to invite you to the press conference on **Wednesday, 4 November 2026, at 11 a.m.**, on the occasion of the exhibition

FOLLOWING DAMASCUS ...

Karl Ernst Osthaus and the Arts of the Islamicate World

6 November 2026 – 21 February 2027

at Museum Folkwang.

The exhibition at the **Museum Folkwang** will be open for a press preview from 10 a.m. As part of the press conference, there will be a guided tour of the exhibition led by Nadine Engel, Dorina Michaelis and Anna Grosche.

Please register by **Monday, 2 November 2026**, by emailing presse@museum-folkwang.essen.de.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us on 0201 8845 160. We look forward to welcoming you at the Museum Folkwang on 4 November.

With kind regards,

Anna Rutten

Museum Folkwang

FOLLOWING DAMASCUS ...

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

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



Vase, Sevilla, second half of the 12th century – first half of the 13th century
© Museum Folkwang, Essen
/ Hans Hansen, Hamburg

A gold-gleaming drinking cup from 13th-century Syria, intricately painted tiles from al-Andalus, precious textiles and a book full of heroic tales: the exhibition ***Following Damascus ... Karl Ernst Osthaus and the Arts of the Islamicate World*** presents a newly researched area of the Museum Folkwang's collection that has rarely been exhibited until now.

The approximately 340 objects tell the story of journeys, encounters and cross-cultural exchange. From 1898 onwards, the museum's founder, Karl Ernst Osthaus, collected applied arts dating from the 4th to the 19th century during his travels through the Ottoman Empire, North Africa and West Asia, thereby establishing a collection of objects from regions of culture influenced by Islam.

The exhibition ***Following Damascus ...*** focuses not only on the history of the collection, but also on the perspectives from which it has been assembled, exhibited and viewed to this day. With her textile installation, contemporary artist Dana Awartani brings issues of our time and a female perspective to the exhibition. A painting by Matisse, a fabric by Peter Behrens, mosaic designs by Johan Thorn Prikker and an architectural project by Bruno Taut are juxtaposed with objects from the Islamicate world.

The exhibition combines historical artefacts with new perspectives and highlights the diverse interconnections between Islamic art, European modernism and contemporary art



Beaker, Syria
Second half of the 13th–
first half of the 14th century
Photo: Museum Folkwang

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