Although brain research is constantly delivering new results, the brain remains one of the last big mysteries of the human body. Much of human experience – which at least in part determines our mental health and well-being – is associated with the brain. Concepts of thinking and feeling, consciousness and perception are nothing less than terra incognita. The arts can help us to address these complex questions. What do we actually have in our heads, and how should we use this knowledge to transform our lives? The brain research of the last decades has demonstrated that the human brain can adapt to changes, so that we can influence the development of our nervous system to a large extent.

The director, film producer, actor and author is considered one of the most important and influential figures of the New German Cinema. His realistic, unflinching and uncompromising films, such as The Bitter Ballad of a Holy Whore (1970) and Hours Don't Make a Day (1971), dealt not only with social, political and sexual issues, but also with existential themes.

For Beuys, our society was one great 'social sculpture' to which we all contribute. Together with the Kunstmuseum Bonn, the Bundeskunsthalle is offering an exhibition called Lehmbruck – Beuys. Everything is Sculpture to explore this idea and to present the work of the sculptor and the artist together. Like few other artists, Joseph Beuys created a body of work that shaped the 1970s and 1980s in Germany and beyond. With his hybrid images, cross-generation collaboration and symbolic icons, Beuys successfully transformed the concept of art into a contemporary communication tool.

For Parkett, 1994, Courtesy Hoffmann Collection, Berlin

The exhibition Beuys 2021 is part of the Beuys anniversary year programme and is presented to the public from 26 June to 1 November at the Lehmbruck Museum, Duisburg, and takes place in cooperation with the Lehmbruck Museum in Duisburg. In 1986, Beuys was awarded the Wilhelm Lehmbruck Prize. In his acceptance speech, he stressed the importance Lehmbruck's art had for him. Lehmbruck's expressionist sculptures, such as the Kneeling Woman, 1911, and the composition of the first Beuys exhibition, the Brooklyn Museum in New York, trace a connection between Lehmbruck and the development of the expressionist sculptor's work. The exhibition explores this idea and presents the work of both artists. In 2021, Beuys will celebrate his 100th birthday. The exhibition Beuys 2021 is an exhibition that celebrates Beuys' art and his life.