

# BUNDESKUNSTHALLE

Media information

## IMMANUEL KANT AND THE SPIRIT OF ENLIGHTENMENT

24 November 2023 – 10 March 2024

22 April 2024 marks the 300th anniversary of the birth of the philosopher Immanuel Kant (1724–1804). Kant's groundbreaking contributions to the Enlightenment, his reflections on ethics, emancipation, epistemology and international law are still considered reference points for trend-setting debates today. The exhibition aims to introduce the work of Immanuel Kant to a philosophically uneducated audience, explicitly including young people, by means of innovative, easily accessible formats. The four famous Kantian questions: "What can I know? What may I hope? What should I do? What is man?" will structure the content of the exhibition. Within the framework of these themes, top-class exhibits (paintings, graphics and sculptures, scientific instruments, models and maps, manuscripts and prints, etc.) will visualise the core themes of the Enlightenment that formed the starting point for Kant's work.

At the same time, the historical person Immanuel Kant, his environment and his network of works come into focus – a perspective that has received relatively little attention in Kant research to date. Kant's biography was closely linked to the urban environment of Königsberg, where he spent 73 years of his long life. The Prussian royal seat not only formed his creative milieu (his teaching activities, the legendary daily walks through the city and the dinner parties), but also radiated as the intellectual centre of its epoch into the entire German and European region.

A state-of-the-art VR reconstruction of Königsberg, which was completely destroyed in 1944/45, is a central element of the exhibition. The three VR stations enable an immersive experience, an imaginary journey in space and time. These virtual worlds are intended to familiarise the audience with Kant, his ideas and his era. The immersive levels introduced at significant points along the tour and direct comparisons of the reconstructed cityscape with today's Kaliningrad, as well as the illustrations by graphic novelist Antje Herzog, complete the multi-sensory experience.

In cooperation with the Digital Kant Centre NRW and the University of Bonn, a lecture series is planned for the summer semester of 2024 at the Bundeskunsthalle, aimed at a broad audience. In terms of content, it will form a bridge to the major international Kant Congress, which will be hosted by the University of Bonn in September 2024. With these two prominent events, Bonn will become a centre of attraction in the anniversary year of the philosopher, Bonn will continue to be perceived as an attractive Kant hotspot beyond the end of the exhibition.

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