

BUNDESKUNSTHALLE

Press kit

EXPEDITION TO THE WORLD'S OCEANS 2 October 2025 – 6 April 2026

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Exhibition Information

Duration	2 October 2025 – 6 April 2026
Press officer	Sven Bergmann
Curators	Katharina Chrubasik, Agnieszka Lulińska
Publication	19,90 € / sales price for media representatives: 9,95 €
Cooperation	A cooperation between the Bundeskunsthalle and GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel



Cultural Partner



mare

Media Partner

arte

General Information

Director	Eva Kraus
Managing Director	Oliver Hölken
Opening Hours	Tuesday 10 am to 6 pm Wednesday 10 am to 9 pm Thursday to Sunday 10 am to 6 pm Public holidays 10 am to 6 pm
Combined ticket for all exhibitions	13 €/reduced 6,50 € All visitors up to and including 18 years of age have free admission 7 € happy hour ticket for all exhibitions (1 hour before closing time, for individual visitors only)
Climate-Ticket	In the Bundeskunsthalle app, visitors receive a 10% discount on the ticket price as an incentive to travel in a climate-friendly way www.bundeskunsthalle.de/en/klima-ticket



Public Transport

Underground lines 16, 63, 66 and bus lines 610, 611 and 630 to Heussallee / Museumsmeile
Deutsche Bahn / UN-Campus:
Lines RE 5 (Rhein-Express), RB 26 (MittelrheinBahn), RB 30 (Rhein-Ahr-Bahn) and RB 48 (Rhein-Wupper-Bahn)

Parking

There is a car and coach park on Emil-Nolde-Straße behind the Bundeskunsthalle.
Navigation: Emil-Nolde-Straße 11, 53113 Bonn

Press Information (German / English)

www.bundeskunsthalle.de
For press files follow 'press'.

General Information (German / English)

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www.bundeskunsthalle.de

The Bundeskunsthalle is supported by



Der Beauftragte der Bundesregierung
für Kultur und Medien

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Media Information

EXPEDITION TO THE WORLD'S OCEANS

2 October 2025 – 6 April 2026


Approximately 70% of the Earth's surface is covered with water, of which 96.5% is seawater. Wouldn't it be more accurate to call Planet Earth 'Planet Water'?

The world's oceans are considered the source of all life on earth. They provide raw materials, energy, food, transport routes and function as a climate machine. The immersive cultural-historical exhibition *Expedition to the World's Oceans* not only sheds light on the 'superficial' relationship between humans and the sea but also delves into the mysterious depths of the submarine realm. Humans have been using the ocean as a global highway for 4,000 years, so it seems almost paradoxical that today we know more about the surfaces of the moon and Mars than about the world's oceans, only 5% of whose depths have been explored.

The world's oceans have always been spaces that fire the imagination, stir longings and fuel fears. By the same token, they have always played a key role in the exchange between peoples and continents: goods, ideas and religions have always travelled by sea. People have crossed the oceans in search of places to settle and the quest for gold, spices and new sources of knowledge, developing connections and networks across the globe in a process of myriad interactions that spanned centuries. Even at the dawn of history, seafaring offered a key to economic and power-political expansion: whoever controlled the seas also had the say on land. The most shameful aspect of this transcontinental quest for power and wealth was the trade in enslaved Africans (15th to 19th century), on the back of whose labour Europe and the United States of America achieved enormous wealth.

The oceans and seas are the largest contiguous habitat on our planet. Because they store large amounts of heat and CO₂, they have a significant influence on the weather and the climate. At the same time, climate change is causing serious damage to these bodies of water and their ecosystems. Overfishing, industrial use, high levels of shipping traffic and anthropogenic pollution threaten to destroy the fascinating diversity of the oceans. The designation of international protected areas is of great importance for the preservation of the oceans. These and other measures are set to be enacted in the UN Ocean Decade launched in 2021.

The theme of the world's oceans can be approached from many different perspectives and angles. By choosing the title *Expedition to the World Oceans*, we focus on the exciting exploration and investigation of different aspects of maritime worlds and their transformation processes. The exhibition concentrates on three main subjects: The deep sea with its mysterious habitats and fragile ecosystem, the oceans as a contested economic space and foundation of globalisation and, finally, the oceans as a place of longing and a space for the transfer of people and ideas. Contemporary artists thematise the ocean as a metaphorical space and invite visitors to reflect on the cultural effects of global communication and climate change and the endangered beauty of the maritime habitat.



The exhibition focuses on three major themes: the deep sea with its mysterious habitats and fragile ecosystem, the oceans as a contested economic space and the basis of globalisation, and finally the oceans as a place of longing and a space for the transfer of people and ideas. These mysterious realms have always been a source of inspiration for imagination and creativity: alongside original objects from nature, science and technology, historical and contemporary works of art highlight the endangered beauty of marine flora and fauna and encourage reflection on the changing relationship between humans and the sea.

The two immersive stations in the exhibition, *The Elevator to the Deep Sea* and *The Underwater Station*, convey the latest scientific findings in a contemporary format. *The Elevator to the Deep Sea* station immediately brings to mind associations with the Nautilus, Captain Nemo's famous submarine. The elevator was designed as a cabin for several people, whose 'windows' consist of large monitors showing original footage of the marine flora and fauna living there on eight 'floors'. *The Underwater Station* tells the story of the *Endurance*, probably the most famous expedition ship in scientific history, with which polar explorer Ernest Shackleton set off on his Trans-Antarctic Expedition in 1914. The ship sank in 1915 without reaching its destination, and its wreck was only discovered in 2022 at a depth of 3,008 metres – a worldwide sensation. The realistic underwater station provides the starting point for exploring the wreck of the *Endurance* on the seabed.

A cooperation between the Bundeskunsthalle and GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel



Exhibition Texts

EXPEDITION TO THE WORLD'S OCEANS

The world's oceans are the source of all life on Earth. They form the largest contiguous ecosystem on our planet and are home to an estimated 2 million species. They are indispensable to our lives as climate regulators and oxygen producers. They provide food, raw materials and energy. And although they cover about 70% of the Earth's surface, we know more about the Moon and Mars than we do about the world's oceans. Our exhibition dives into these mysterious submarine realms and sheds light on the complex relationship between humans and the sea. The focus is on researching and exploring the marine worlds. We celebrate their importance and beauty, while also pointing out the threats they face. We present the oceans as economic areas and transfer zones for people, goods and ideas. And we talk about the oceans as a source of creative imagination, of a thirst for adventure and as the origin of deep fears in equal measure.

In the middle of the Ocean Decade proclaimed by the United Nations in 2021 and in the Year of Sustainability at the Bundeskunsthalle, the exhibition aims to raise public awareness of the oceans and their existential importance.

THE BLUE PLANET

Viewed from space, the Earth appears a vivid blue. This is due to the size of the oceans, which cover approximately 70% of the Earth's surface. Since humans set out to conquer the oceans, they have been using and exploring them, but also threatening their existence.

Ships rely on navigation instruments and maps to find their way at sea. In the past, sailors had to find their way with the help of the stars, using the position of celestial bodies to determine their own location. Today, they rely on modern technologies such as radar and GPS.

Despite their vast expanse, the underwater worlds are still largely unexplored. Yet these diverse marine habitats, with their overwhelming wealth of flora and fauna, are not only the origin of all life on our planet, but also a realm full of wonders and mysteries.

However, the oceans are increasingly under threat. The largest contiguous ecosystem on Earth is suffering from man-made problems such as noise, littering, overexploitation of marine resources, and climate change.

The Art of Navigation

Ever since seafaring began, people have used tools to navigate the seas. Initially, these were the stars, the position of the sun and coastal navigation. Since the Middle Ages, the astrolabe, the compass and portolan charts with their sea routes have been part of the basic equipment of ships. The invention of the sextant and the chronometer for determining latitude and longitude in the 18th century, together with the first scientific world maps, made precise navigation possible. In the course of the first major expeditions in the 19th century, the sea's surface was finally mapped and its depth measured.

Today's navigation, which is indispensable for safety and exploration of the world's oceans, uses traditional and modern methods such as radar, echo sounders and GPS.



Underwater Worlds

'Perhaps the greatest discovery of the 20th century about the ocean was the discovery of the extent of our ignorance,' Sylvia Earle, one of the world's leading marine scientists, soberly notes. Although oceanographic expeditions since the 19th century have expanded our knowledge of the underwater world, only 5% of the world's oceans have been explored to date.

The technological revolution currently underway offers new opportunities to explore these unknown worlds. It turns out that life in the oceans is just as colourful and diverse as on land. The varied terrain formations and more than 2 million species represent the sheer boundless diversity of the maritime habitat. These mysterious realms have always been a rich source of inspiration for human imagination and creativity

Threatened Habitats

The oceans are becoming increasingly imbalanced. The planet's largest contiguous ecosystem is suffering from man-made damage such as noise, littering, overexploitation of marine resources and climate change.

In particular, ocean warming is threatening the habitats of numerous marine species. The oceans are becoming more acidic as they absorb carbon dioxide and the greenhouse gas mixes with the water. The latest measurements taken at the Great Barrier Reef off the coast of Australia show that the damage caused by coral bleaching has reached record levels.

Another danger is posed by the approximately 150 million tonnes of plastic waste floating in the oceans and collecting in five huge garbage patches. The non-degradable microplastic particles penetrate all marine regions and endanger hundreds of animal species that ingest the plastic with their food.

THE GLOBALIZATION OF THE WORLD'S OCEANS


The world's oceans have always played a key role in exchanges between peoples and continents. People crossed them in search of new places to settle, raw materials, and scientific knowledge. This led to the emergence of diverse connections and networks around the globe in early times.

The world's oceans have also always been, at least since the beginning of globalization in the 15th century, a contested economic area and a scene of pursuit of power and wealth in which all seafaring nations participated. Today, the oceans are the backbone of the global economy.

The oceans have become increasingly integrated into economic, political, and cultural systems. Today, they are seen not only as geographical spaces, but as places of diverse interactions that require international regulation and control. Global networking and increasing human use of the oceans are leading to threatening ecological problems. Here, too, international cooperation is necessary to ensure the sustainable use of their resources.

Oceans in Exchange

For thousands of years, numerous sea routes and networks existed on the oceans, and the world's seas were always connected to each other. However, the 15th and 16th centuries marked a major upheaval. European attempts to reach India by sea led to discoveries that linked the oceans in a new way. New sea routes began to criss-cross the oceans, and shipping traffic was established between the continents, with a global exchange of goods, people, animals and plants.



The opening up of new sea routes went hand in hand with the beginning of colonisation and settlement of the newly discovered territories by Europeans. This policy of expansion across the world's oceans continued even after the so-called 'Age of Discovery'.

Global Trade Routes

Maritime trade routes have always been the axis of economic and cultural exchange between regions and continents. In the 16th century, European colonial powers used their nautical and logistical expertise, as well as military force, to lay the foundations for a global maritime trade network.

The mid-19th century saw the dawn of a new era with the introduction of steamships.

This faster and more reliable means of transport also had an impact on the global economy. Today, approximately 90% of international freight traffic is carried out by sea. This was made possible by the invention of the standardised container in 1956.

The simple yet ingenious idea of transporting goods in bundles rather than individually as general cargo revolutionised world trade and became a symbol of globalisation.

Profit at Any Cost – The Transatlantic Slave Trade

The European slave trade between the 15th and 19th centuries represents one of the greatest crimes against humanity. Its effects are still felt today in all parts of the world. The colonial powers forced approximately 13 million Africans into slavery in order to use them as virtually free labour on the profitable plantations in the New World. In addition to goods such as gold, spices, sugar, tobacco and cotton, human beings were also transported as commodities. Those who were abducted became 'slaves' who were denied all rights and any semblance of humanity.

The crossing took place under inhumane conditions on slave ships specially converted and equipped for this purpose. More than 1.8 million people lost their lives in the process. It was not until slavery was abolished in the USA in 1865 that institutionally legitimised enslavement came to an end in industrialised nations.

The World's Oceans as a Resource: Fishing


Fish stocks in the world's oceans have been declining for decades. The causes lie in industrial fishing with large fishing fleets and modern technology, but also in illegal fishing, lack of controls and high fish consumption. The consequences of overfishing are dramatic: fish populations are collapsing, marine ecosystems are being destroyed or thrown out of balance by the use of trawl nets, and many people are losing their livelihoods.

The solutions to combating overfishing are well known: sustainable fishing with fixed maximum catch quotas and closed seasons, as well as marine protected areas where fishing is either prohibited or restricted. But a change in consumer behaviour, either eating less fish or doing so more consciously, and paying attention to certifications such as the MSC (Marine Stewardship Council) label, is important.

The World's Oceans as a Resource: Raw Materials

In addition to oil and gas extraction from the seabed, which now accounts for a third of global production, mineral resources from the deep sea will play a key role in the future. Manganese nodules, massive sulphides and cobalt crusts provide valuable metals and rare earths for modern technologies.

These raw materials, which are found on the seabed beyond national territories (more than 200 nautical miles off the coast), are referred to as the 'common heritage of mankind' in the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Their



commercial exploitation has not yet begun and is highly controversial. It is only possible with the approval of the International Seabed Authority, which issues the relevant licences and aims to prevent only rich industrialised nations or corporations from profiting from the raw materials.

Protecting the Oceans

“We must save the oceans if we want to save ourselves,” Elisabeth Mann Borgese declared back in the 1960s. Today, the threat to the world’s oceans and thus to our entire livelihood from pollution, noise, overuse of marine resources, and man-made climate change is more than dramatic.

The United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, launched in 2021, has therefore set itself the goal of creating healthy and sustainably managed oceans by 2030 through joint research projects, action strategies, and information campaigns. To achieve this goal, public awareness of the ocean and the massive threats it faces must also be raised.

Especially now, in times of geopolitical crisis, dialogue between science, politics, NGOs, and civil society is of utmost importance.

OCEANS AS A TRANSFER SPACE FOR PEOPLE AND IDEAS

The relationship between humans and the sea is as old as humanity itself. It is characterized by the desire to explore and cross the boundless expanse of the oceans. As a result, the world’s oceans have become a transfer zone, with passages open to various migration movements. The reasons for this are manifold: political and religious motives, and the hope for a better economic and social future have sent millions of people on a journey.

With these people, ideas also traveled to new shores. Port cities developed into information exchanges and hubs for news from all over the world. Whether it was the ideals of the French Revolution or the vibrant dance rhythms of the African diaspora—they all spread across the sea as well.

The human perception of the sea is rooted in a tension between the acquisition of knowledge and the longing for the unknown. Since ancient times, myths about powerful sea gods and terrifying monsters in the depths of the ocean have fueled both the spirit of adventure and the imagination of humankind.

Migration Across the Sea

Migration across the sea has many facets: people’s motives range from voluntary emigration to life-saving flight.

Even in prehistoric times, people migrated across the world’s oceans. The Polynesian settlement of hundreds of islands in the Pacific began as early as 1500 BC. The Atlantic experienced its first major wave of migration in the late 15th century. It brought Europeans, but above all millions of enslaved people from Africa to America. Another wave of migration followed in the 19th century, when an estimated 50 million people emigrated from Europe to North and South America. The main causes were economic hardship, political upheaval, and religious persecution. These motives continue to drive migration across the seas around the world today. In addition to war, poverty, and persecution, climate change is now also a factor.



Transatlantic Transfer of Ideas – The Haitian Revolution

In the 18th century, the port cities of the European colonies in the Caribbean developed into important hubs of a wide-ranging information network. This is how the ideas of the French Revolution of 1789 spread by sea. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights raised hopes among many enslaved people who performed hard labour on the sugar plantations of the French colony of Saint-Domingue. However, there were no plans to abolish slavery overseas.

In 1891, thousands of slaves rose up against the plantation owners. On 1 January 1804, after a brutal civil war, the victorious rebels proclaimed the first and only state in world history founded by former slaves. In reference to the original indigenous name of the island, it was henceforth called Haiti.

Legends, Myths, Adventures

All cultures have legends, myths, and tales that tell of terrifying creatures living in the seas. These sea monsters have captured people's imaginations since ancient times: they are enormous, capsize ships, and kill people. They embody a destructive force, while sea deities represent the sea, its inhabitants, and the forces of nature. Gods such as Poseidon and Triton belong to ancient mythology, but in many non-European cultures, sea deities such as the Norse Sedna continue to play an important role.

The idea of mysterious “oceanic powers” has lost none of its fascination in the modern world. But Jules Verne showed that the deep sea is not a place of terror, but of discovery, inspiring generations of researchers to explore the underwater world.

635 Days in the Ice – Ernest Shackleton's British Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition

Driven by the goal of being the first to cross the Antarctic continent, polar explorer Ernest Shackleton (1874–1922) set off on his Antarctic expedition on 8 August 1914. But his ship, the *Endurance*, never reached the continent. A few nautical miles from their destination, Shackleton and his 28-strong crew became stuck in pack ice. Trapped by the ice masses and eventually crushed by them, their ship sank in November 1915. What followed was one of the most dramatic rescue operations in the history of exploration, which came to a happy end in August 1916.

More than 100 years later, maritime archaeologist Mensun Bound and his highly specialised team set out to search for the *Endurance*. On 5 March 2022, the sensation is complete – the sonar image of the almost undamaged wreck goes around the world.

Publication



The exhibition is accompanied by a publication

Expedition Weltmeere. Magazin zur Ausstellung

Published by
the Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany

With more than 40 contributions from science and art by
David Barrie, Daniela Baumann, Rachel L. Carson, Katharina Chrubasik, Volker Dehs,
André Freiwald, Rainer Froese, Amitav Gosh, Gerd Hoffmann-Wieck, Florian Huber,
Andrea Koschinsky, Mark Lenz, Agnieszka Lulińska, Olaus Magnus, Ina Makosi,
Nele Matz-Lück, Alexander Meier-Dörzenbach, Katja Mintenbeck, Maike Nicolai,
Martin Papirowski, Grischka Petri, Henriette Pleiger, Heike Raphael-Hernandez,
Iris Schröder, Felix Schürmann, Simon Schwartz, Julia Sigwart, Dava Sobel,
Christiane Stahl, Solvin Zankl,
and interviews with
Antje Boetius, Mensun Bound, Boris Herrmann, and Katja Matthes

Scope and format
Brochure, 21 x 29,7 cm
194 pages, 190 illustrations
German edition
Hirmer Verlag, Munich
Price: 19,90 €
Book trade price: 25 €



Educational Programme

GUIDED TOURS

Audio guide

German (60 minutes) and audio description
Free of charge via the Bundeskunsthallen app
Artistic concept and production Linon Medien

Public tours

Wednesdays, 5.30–6.30 p.m., except 19 November and 21 January
Sundays and public holidays, 12 noon–1 p.m.
€3/reduced €1.50, plus admission to the exhibition
Tickets are available at the ticket office or via bundeskunsthalle.de/tickets.
ArtCard reservations: T +49 228 9171–200

Curator tours

With the exhibition curators Katharina Chrubasik and Agnieszka Lulinska
Wednesdays 8 October, with Agnieszka Lulinska,
5 November and 10 December with Katharina Chrubasik,
7–8 p.m. each evening
€5/reduced €2.50, plus admission to the exhibition
Tickets are available at the box office or via bundeskunsthalle.de/tickets.

Guided tour during lunch break

Art break

Wednesdays, 29 October, 26 November, 14 January, 12:30–1:00 p.m.
To balance out your daily work routine, we offer an entertaining speed tour during your lunch break.
€8 (tour and admission)
Tickets are available at the box office or at bundeskunsthalle.de/tickets.
Can be booked individually for groups
Information and registration at buchung@bundeskunsthalle.de

The Queer Perspective

Sundays, 16 November 2025
Sundays, 5 April 2026, 2–4 p.m. each day
€15, including exhibition visit
Whether old or new, surprising or hidden, queer content is addressed in the exhibition tour. In the subsequent discussion, there is an opportunity to talk about the topic with the other participants.
The exhibition is open to all, regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or experience with queer history.



Baby Art Connection

Guided tours and discussions for parents with babies

From the changing table to the museum

Wednesdays, 21 January, 18 February, 18 March, 10:15–11:45 a.m.

€15, including exhibition visit (one parent and baby)

Registration via buchung@bundeskunsthalle.de or in advance at bundeskunsthalle.de/tickets

Exhibition tour for intercultural groups

Meet & Speak

Exhibition talk for people with and without a migration background.

The groups explore the exhibition together, providing an opportunity to exchange ideas, get to know each other and make new contacts. Come along, bring your friends and your languages!

Free of charge for intercultural groups

Max. 15 people/group

Written registration required: buchung@bundeskunsthalle.de

Group tours

60 minutes, €70

90 minutes, €90

60 minutes, tour with curator €180

60 minutes, tour with director €250

plus admission ticket €13/reduced €6.50 per person

Written registration required: buchung@bundeskunsthalle.de

Inclusive offers

Tactile tour for visually impaired and blind people

Tandem tour with Uschi Baetz and blind artist Karla Fassbender

Expedition to the World's Oceans

Sunday, 9 November, 25 January 2026, 8 March 2026, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

The world's oceans: a place of longing, a contested economic space, a climate machine, an unknown world. Without them, there would be no life on Earth, we would be poorer for numerous legends and adventure stories, and the history of discovery and trade would have to be rewritten.

Almost 70% of the Earth's surface is covered with seawater. Viewed from space, the globe therefore appears as a blue planet. To this day, however, the world's oceans have been barely explored, even though humanity has been using them as transport routes for goods, ideas and people for 4,000 years.

The presentation offers a series of inclusive stations with tactile objects. In addition, the tandem team, Karla Fassbender and Uschi Baetz, would like to help you explore the works during the tour by providing detailed descriptions and background information and placing them in their cultural and historical context. We look forward to an intensive exchange with you!

€3 tour fee, plus admission to the exhibition.

Written registration required: buchung@bundeskunsthalle.de



Guided tour in German sign language

Once Across the Oceans – A Tour Through the Exhibition

Rainer Miebach, Saturday, 11 October, Sunday, 16 November, 3–4.30 p.m.

Juliane Steinwede, Saturday, 17 January, Sunday, 22 March, 3–4.30 p.m.

Around 70% of our planet's surface is covered with water. The oceans are considered the origin of all life on Earth. They provide raw materials, energy, food and transport routes, and function as a climate machine. For 4,000 years, humans have used waterways for trade and travel, but today they know more about the moon than they do about the oceans. Only 5% has been explored. In our cultural history exhibition, we focus on three themes: the deep sea with its habitats and ecosystem, the oceans as an economic space, and finally, the oceans as a place of longing. We display original objects from nature, science and technology, as well as historical and contemporary works of art.

We demonstrate how important the oceans are for all people.

€3 guided tour fee, plus admission to the exhibition.

Written registration required: buchung@bundeskunsthalle.de

Art and culture for people with dementia

A Journey Into Unknown Marine Worlds

Seen from space, our world appears as a blue planet. Almost 70% of the Earth's surface is covered by seawater. For 4,000 years, humans have used the oceans as transport routes for ideas, goods and people. And yet the world's oceans have hardly been explored.

What do we associate with the oceans? Are they a holiday destination? What does the sea give us? Life in the depths of the sea Sea monsters? Didn't spices come across the sea? And isn't the sea a place of many legends and adventure stories?

The exhibition presents original objects from nature, science and technology as well as from art and cultural history. A series of inclusive stations with tactile visual aids invites visitors to discover and exchange ideas.

A special exhibition experience awaits you, stimulating lively exchange.

€50 guided tour fee, plus admission to the exhibition.

Freely bookable offer for groups.

Written registration required: buchung@bundeskunsthalle.de

Telephone etiquette *When culture calls!*

Expedition to the World's Oceans

Thursday, 5 March, 5–6 p.m.

The world's oceans are considered the origin of all life on Earth. They provide raw materials, energy, food and transport routes, and function as a climate machine. Humans have been using the sea for 4,000 years. And despite the long relationship between humans and the sea, it has hardly been explored.

This interdisciplinary, immersive exhibition is dedicated to the deep sea with its mysterious habitats and fragile ecosystem; it addresses the contested economic space and globalisation; and it explores the sea as a place of longing and a space of transfer for people and ideas. In addition to original objects from nature, science and technology, works from cultural history highlight the threatened beauty of maritime flora and fauna.

When culture calls! is aimed at people who, for various reasons, are unable to visit the museum or cannot visually grasp the content of a guided tour. For example, because they are blind or visually impaired. Or because they are immobile or live in a nursing home. For these interested parties, the communication of culture, art and historical topics is made possible via the telephone.



Free participation

You can register via the website www.beianrufkultur.de by clicking on the 'Register for free' button in the description of the respective telephone tour until shortly before the tour begins. Immediately after registering, you will receive a landline number to dial in via email. Please also check your spam folder.

Dial the telephone number you receive on the day of the event, approximately 2 to 3 minutes before the start.

Alternatively, you can register for tours by telephone with the 'Bei Anruf Kultur' team a few days in advance: (040) 209 404 36.

Further dates and information: www.beianrufkultur.de



Current and Upcoming Exhibitions

INTERACTIONS X WEtransFORM
until 26 October 2025

Since 2023, the Bundeskunsthalle has organised a summer programme of interactions around the building. This year, *Interactions x WEtransFORM* reflects the theme year of sustainability in dialogue with playful installations: In addition to a project by La Fabrique Terrestre on the roof, two other positions represent visions for a more sustainable and future-oriented design of our environment: *Tree.ONE* by ecoLogicStudio in the foyer and the large wood and plant construction *Vert* by AHEC/Diez Office/OMC°C on the forecourt.

The new works also invite us to play, reflect or linger, such as the sound installation *RadiOh Europa* by Action or Jonas Brinker's *Nightfall*, a loving observation of fireflies. Yawei Chen's *Electronic Pets* explores how people in our rapidly evolving society use digital content for emotional comfort. Ina Weber's *Rubble Tracks-Mini Golf* and Dennis Fuchs's table tennis work *Back and Forth* playfully explore individual and collective competition and issues of equality and fairness.

Raul Walch's textile installation *Carried by the Wind* and Tomas Kleiner's *Weather Birch* also visualise the bridge between *Interactions* and *WEtransFORM*.


In the spirit of sustainable thinking, Jeppe Hein's water pavilion, *Circular Appearing Rooms*, Carsten Höller's *Bonn Slide* and works from last year, such as Temitayo Ogunbiyi's organic climbing frame, *You will follow the Rhein and compose play (playground)*, and Olaf Nicolai's football goal walls, *Camouflage/Torwand 1–3 [Croy, Kleff, Maier]*, will remain in place. The seesaws *Controversy Teeter-Totter* by Esra Gülmen and the high seats entitled *Meanwhile* by Linda Nadji will also be presented again.

W.I.M.
The Art of Seening
until 11 January 2026

On the occasion of his 80th birthday, the Bundeskunsthalle is dedicating a large, immersive and visually powerful exhibition to the filmmaker and artist Wim Wenders, which is being conceived together with the DFF – Deutsches Filminstitut & Filmmuseum.

The internationally acclaimed filmmaker and artist became famous with films such as *The Goalie's Anxiety at the Penalty Kick* (1972) and *Wrong Move* (1975), both based on works by Peter Handke, *Alice in the Cities* (1973/1974) and *The American Friend* (1977), based on a novel by Patricia Highsmith. Other cinematic milestones include *Paris, Texas*, which won the Palme d'Or in Cannes in 1984, and *Wings of Desire* (1987). He received an Oscar nomination and the European Film Award for *Buena Vista Social Club* (1999). In 2024, *Perfect Days* (2023) was nominated for an Oscar and celebrated as the best film in the Asia-Pacific region. Wim Wenders is also renowned for his sensitive documentaries about fellow artists, among them *Pina* (2011) and, most recently, *Anselm* (2023) shot in 3D.

The exhibition sets out to focus not only on his innovative cinematography but to present it alongside a survey of his wider creative output. This includes his photographs, collages and drawings, as well as his extensive personal film library, posters and his 'electronic paintings'. Storyboards, props and behind-the-scenes material, inspiration



drawn from art and music and, as a special highlight, a large immersive cinematographic installation with state-of-the-art image and sound technology invite visitors to immerse themselves in Wenders' cinematic oeuvre. In the audio guide, Wim Wenders himself takes visitors through the exhibition and offers insight into the context and background of the exhibits.

An exhibition of the Bundeskunsthalle, Bonn, in co-operation with the DFF – Deutsches Filminstitut & Filmmuseum, Frankfurt am Main, the Wim Wenders Stiftung, Düsseldorf, Wenders Images, Berlin and with the kind support of Road Movies, Berlin.

We would like to thank MUBI for supporting the immersive installation.

WEtransFORM

On the Future of Building

until 25 January 2026

The Bundeskunsthalle has designated 2025 the year of sustainability and ecological change. Central to the programme is an international exhibition and networking project on sustainable architecture and urban development in Europe. The exhibition invites visitors to take an active interest in the future of our built environment. The focus on key practices such as the regeneration of existing buildings, climate-resilient answers to the challenge of extreme weather events, the promotion of biodiversity, circular recycling and the development of models for the future.

Among the projects on show are those that deal with rising water levels on the coasts of the Netherlands, such as that of the architecture firm MVRDV (Rotterdam), or with the drought in Spain, such as that of the Office for Political Innovation (Madrid). New buildings constructed from natural materials such as rammed earth, for example by Anna Heringer (Laufen), or wood by Avanto Architects (Helsinki) are presented, as are conversions of existing buildings. Innovative research projects such as NEST UMAR (Next Evolution in sustainable Buildings Technology / Urban Mining and Recycling) at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology or the Hybrid Flax Pavilion by the University of Stuttgart explore new approaches to circular material cycles and computer-based construction methods.

An initiative of the Bundeskunsthalle in partnership with the New European Bauhaus and transform.NRW

Save the date:

ANNUAL PROGRAMME 2026

Media conference: Wednesday, 29 October 2025, 11 a.m.

27th FEDERAL PRIZE FOR ART STUDENTS

7 November 2025 – 4 January 2026

Media conference: Thursday, 6 November 2025, 11 a.m.

Subject to change

Status: September 2025