

BUNDESKUNSTHALLE

Invitation to a media conference
Tuesday, 31 March 2026, 11 a.m.

SEX WORK
A Cultural History
2 April until 25 October 2026

The history of sex work can be traced from well before antiquity to the present day. The way sex work was treated reflects the prevailing view of humanity, the values of the time, and who wielded power. In some eras, it was one of the few opportunities for women to generate their own income. Until now, its history has mostly been told from an outside perspective. SEX WORK tells this story differently: together with a collective of researching sex workers, art, cultural history, and archival material are presented at the Bundeskunsthalle, guided by a central principle: nothing about us without us!

The exhibition highlights art and cultural history as well as contemporary socio-political issues. In the visual arts, heterae, prostitutes, courtesans, and nude dancers have long played a primarily motivational role, perceived at best as muses. The fact that sex workers also play a creative, artistic role is a perspective that is also made visible here.

The exhibition invites visitors to gain historical and contemporary insights into sex work and to gain new perspectives on a topic marked by prejudice and taboos.

We cordially invite you to a media conference on Tuesday, 31 March 2026, 11 a.m. in the Bundeskunsthalle.

The exhibition opens at 10 a.m.

Speaking:

- Eva Kraus, director
- Johanna Adam, curator
- Objects of Desire, curator
- Sven Bergmann, press officer

Please accredit by email: presse@bundeskunsthalle.de

For interviews and filming requests, please send an email to presse@bundeskunsthalle.de or contact Angelica Francke by telephone on +49 228 9171–289.

Text and image material is available at www.bundeskunsthalle.de/en/press.

Kunst- und Ausstellungshalle
der Bundesrepublik Deutschland GmbH

Helmut-Kohl-Allee 4
53113 Bonn
T +49 228 9171-0
F +49 228 234154
www.bundeskunsthalle.de

Geschäftsführung
Dr. Eva-Christina Kraus
Oliver Hölken

Vorsitzender des Kuratoriums
Ingo Mix

HRB Nr. 5096
Amtsgericht Bonn
Umsatzsteuer ID Nr. DE811386971
Leitweg-ID 992-80160-58

Konto 3 177 177 00
Deutsche Bank Bonn
BLZ 380 700 59
IBAN DE03 3807 0059 0317 7177 00
BIC DEUT DE DK 380



We look forward to your participation and visit.

Sven Bergmann
Press Officer / Executive Officer to the Management
T +49 228 9171-205
sven.bergmann@bundeskunsthalle.de

Sex Work. A Cultural History is a further development of the exhibition
With Legs Wide Open – A Whore's Ride Through History, Schwules Museum Berlin, 2024.

Media partner

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