

ART DÜSSEL DORF

Art Düsseldorf
Press Release
April 9, 2026

INVITATION TO THE ART DÜSSELDORF 2026 PRESS CONFERENCE NEW PARTNERSHIPS EXPAND THE PROGRAMME

Press Conference: April 16, 2026, 11:00 AM
Location: TALK Lounge, Areal Böhler, Düsseldorf

Art Düsseldorf cordially invites members of the press to this year's press conference. As part of the preview, the fair will present an outlook on the upcoming edition (April 17–19, 2026), highlighting key programmatic developments and new partnerships.

Walter Gehlen, Director of Art Düsseldorf, and Gilles Neiens, Artistic Director, will introduce the curatorial focus of the fair and provide insights into its continued development as a curated platform for contemporary art and discourse. Together with Pola van den Hövel, curator of the Fragile Realities section, they will discuss the central curatorial approaches of this year's edition.

We look forward to your participation and kindly ask you to register by April 13, 2026 with Kathrin Luz at: kl@luz-communication.de

New Partnerships

E.ON Foundation – Art Talks & Walks

In collaboration with the E.ON Foundation, Art Düsseldorf 2026 will introduce the new format E.ON Foundation Art Talks & Walks for the first time. This partnership builds on the joint project Change, through which the E.ON Foundation already supported a sustainability-focused section at Art Düsseldorf in 2024.

The curated programme combines public discussion formats with thematic guided tours through the fair. It focuses on questions of societal transformation, European perspectives, and the role of art and culture in the context of sustainability, responsibility, and social cohesion.

The talks create an open space for discourse, which is directly linked to artistic positions at the fair through the subsequent walks. In this way, engagement is not only theoretical but can be experienced directly through the exhibited works.

Art Düsseldorf
Press Release
April 9, 2026

TALK PROGRAMME

Friday, April 17, 2026

Engagement, Encounters, Enlightenment: New Energies for the Art

2:00 PM

Art creates spaces for insight

Clicks and kicks, likes and hype, Instagram and influencers, consumption or critique, real information or artificial algorithms: who defines the debates around art today and tomorrow?

Participants:

Jennifer Braun, Gen Z art critic

Annkathrin Kohout, author and cultural theorist

Ann-Katrin Günzel, Editor-in-Chief, Kunstforum International

Moderator: Carsten Probst, author and art critic, President AICA Germany

3:00 PM

Art creates spaces for engagement

Shaping social cohesion and communicating democratic values, civic participation and value creation, participation and/or investment: how does art hold the world together in times of social division and economic cuts?

Participants:

Gil Bronner, Sammlung Philara

Kathrin Jentjens, curator & mediator, Neue Auftraggeber

Stephan Muschick, Managing Director, E.ON Foundation

Moderator: Tatjana Kimmel, Freunde des Kunstpalast e.V.

4:00 PM

Art creates spaces for encounter

Scenes and schools, groups, communities and networks, dynamics of exchange, stronger and looser connections in the context of production and reception, of freedom and dependency: does art stem from care in times of isolation and fragmentation?

Participants:

Linda Conze, curator Kunstpalast, Düsseldorf

Hedwig Fijen, Director Manifesta 16 Ruhr

Marcel Schumacher, Director Kunsthaus NRW

Moderator: Sabine Oelze, art journalist, Deutschlandfunk / WDR

Art Düsseldorf
Press Release
April 9, 2026

5:00 PM

Manifesta 16 press reception

On the occasion of Director Hedwig Fijen's participation in the talks
Registration via: kl@luz-communication.de

Saturday, April 18, 2026

Borders, Solidarity, Unities: New Energies for Europe

2:00 PM

East and West. An old story – and a new GDR hype?

Old antagonisms in light of new conflicts, artistic careers in times of Cold Wars, differing dynamics in socialist and democratic systems—and today's tendencies toward "Ostalgie" amid current Western crises: how does art operate within political parallel worlds?

Participants:

Katharina Neuburger, Ludwig Stiftung Aachen
Renate Goldmann, VAN HAM Art Estate
Stefan Schmidtke, Managing Director European Capital of Culture Chemnitz 2025

Moderator: Bettina Böttinger, WDR

3:00 PM

Unity and fragmentation of a community of states: where does Europe begin, where does it end?

North and South, East and West, visions of transnationality and commitments to solidarity, tensions between the familiar and the foreign, strengths and stability but also weaknesses in times of geopolitical change: what defines Europe's political and cultural identity today?

Participants:

Mark Terkessidis, author and migration researcher
Markus Ambach, curator
Farzane Vaziritabar, artist

Moderator: Christiane Meixner, Tagesspiegel

Art Düsseldorf
Press Release
April 9, 2026

4:00 PM

Art versus politics: a renewed old power struggle?

The resurgence of censorship, the rise of autocratic systems, increasing restrictions on art through regulation and repression—while at the same time an online landscape full of fakes and distorted narratives: does the fight against racism, antisemitism and populism limit the autonomy of cultural institutions? Is artistic freedom a thing of the past?

Participants:

Lars Hendrik Beger, cultural journalist, Deutschlandfunk
Georg Schöllhammer, tranzit.at, publisher springerin
Ivor Stodolsky & Marita Muukkonen, Artist at Risk

Moderator: Sebastian Frenzel, Monopol

Sunday, April 19, 2026

3:00 PM

Economy, responsibility and sustainability – taking stock of an art fair

People travel and connect, information circulates, spaces are built and staged, goods are transported, negotiated and sold: art fairs are highly energetic environments on all levels. But what does a critical (energy) balance look like? Can we still afford art fairs? What do they deliver—and at what cost?

Participants:

Jacob Bilabel, Head of Project Green Culture
Stephan Muschick, E.ON Foundation
Thomas G. Schneider, Managing Director Hasenkamp
Walter Gehlen, Director Art Düsseldorf

The Talks are curated by Bettina Haiss, Kathrin Luz Communication.

Art Walks can be booked via the ticket shop.

Art Düsseldorf
Press Release
April 9, 2026

Cooperation with the KPM Foundation: Artist-in-Residence Programme

For the first time, the KPM Foundation – Königliche Porzellan-Manufaktur Berlin – is initiating an artist-in-residence programme in cooperation with Art Düsseldorf. A jury of representatives from the Düsseldorf and Berlin art scenes will select an artist from the Next section during the fair, who will work in the historic master painting workshops of KPM in summer 2026.

The residency fosters a dialogue between contemporary art and artisanal practice and provides rare access to the historical knowledge of porcelain painting. The works created during the programme will be presented in September 2026 during Berlin Art Week.



“Collaborations such as those with the E.ON Foundation and the KPM Foundation strengthen our ambition to position Art Düsseldorf as a platform for current societal issues. They open up new spaces for exchange through the formats presented at the fair and make the conceptual dimension of the fair even more tangible,” says Walter Gehlen.

ART DÜSSEL DORF

Art Düsseldorf
Press Release
April 9, 2026

About Art Düsseldorf

Art Düsseldorf is a contemporary art fair. Since its founding in 2017, it has established itself as an international meeting place for galleries, collectors, curators, and art enthusiasts.

The fair presents a curated selection of national and international galleries and emphasizes a focused, quality-driven program. It positions itself as a partner to the exhibiting galleries and as a platform for exchange and networking within the German-speaking and international art market.

The venue is Areal Böhler in Düsseldorf, whose historic industrial architecture and generous natural light provide a distinctive setting for the fair.

Through its program and accompanying formats, Art Düsseldorf fosters dialogue between galleries, artists, collectors, and institutions and contributes to strengthening North Rhine-Westphalia as an important art region.

HEADLINE PARTNER



MAIN PARTNER



Mehr Informationen
www.art-dus.de

KONTAKT

Presse
Kathrin Luz
art.fair International GmbH
Maria-Hilf-Str. 9
50677 Köln
M +49 171 310 24 72
kl@luz-communication.de

Kommunikation und Marketing
Dr. Annalena Roters
art.fair International GmbH
Maria-Hilf-Str. 9
50677 Köln
M +49 151 554 805 02
roters@art-dus.de