

ART DÜSSEL DORF

Art Düsseldorf
Fair Wrap-Up
April 20, 2026

Art Düsseldorf 2026 – A Vibrant Atmosphere, Strong Sales, and a Significant Increase in Visitor Numbers

Art Düsseldorf 2026 looks back on a very successful eighth edition: With a noticeably positive atmosphere in the halls of the Areal Böhler, very good feedback from the exhibiting galleries, and a significant increase in visitor numbers (23,000), the fair has further solidified its position as a central meeting place for contemporary art.

The refined thematic direction, with a more precise curatorial focus, was very well received by the public and the participating galleries. The clearly structured presentation and the greater emphasis on curated content proved to be a sound concept and contributed significantly to the quality of the fair. Art Düsseldorf thus reaffirms its commitment to providing guidance and bringing together current discourses.

Even in a market environment that remains challenging, numerous sales were achieved across all price segments. In addition to private collectors, institutional buyers were once again present, thereby providing important impetus for the visibility of the featured works.

“This edition makes it particularly clear that the work of the past years is paying off across the board. We see that many factors are coming together: stable partnerships, an experienced team, and established networks that are increasingly intertwining and enabling new synergies. This dynamic elevates the fair to a new level.”
Walter Gehlen, Director of Art Düsseldorf

This development is also largely driven by the fair’s long-standing partners, in particular the National-Bank as headline partner and Allianz. With its eighth edition, Art Düsseldorf confirms this step forward: A sharpened curatorial profile, close collaboration with the galleries, and the consistent refinement of content formats form the foundation for the fair’s continued growth.

Strong sales momentum across all price segments

Sales activity spanned a broad spectrum: from emerging artists to established artists and high-priced works. Several galleries reported very strong sales and sold-out presentations. The fair was characterized by an open and focused atmosphere with consistently high foot traffic and intense discussions at the booths. The feedback from the galleries is correspondingly positive:

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Düsseldorf is always a successful home game for us. At the same time, we even experience additional positive surprises and make new, promising contacts every year. We had excellent sales: a Heinz Mack for 24,000€, an Imi Knoebel for 28,500€, a Karin Kneffel for 95,000€, and— on top of that—an Ewald Mataré work for nearly 200,000€.
(Galerie Ludorff)

We took a break for a few years and are now back with great enthusiasm: We have fully committed to the work of Leonor Serrano Rivas, an artist born in Málaga in 1986 and currently living there. Her central theme is water; her fountain was undoubtedly one of the most eye-catching works at the fair. Her tapestries have sold, and there were also numerous prospective buyers for the fountain. Now we'll see where it ends up.
(carlier | gebauer)

You could already feel the positive atmosphere in the bright halls before things really got underway. We sold many smaller works and are very optimistic, given the high demand, that our central piece—a Warhol—will also find a new owner in the aftermath. We're beaming as if it were the heyday of Art Cologne—and this is our first time participating.
(Benden & Ackermann)

Things went extremely well for us. Among other things, a multi-part series of drawings by Gerhard Richter was sold to a renowned private collection. The fair's influence extends far beyond national borders, not only to the Netherlands and Belgium, but also to Hong Kong and China. We made sales there as well.
(Sies + Höke)

The response to our booth was outstanding; for us, everything went perfectly. Even somewhat larger sculptural works, such as those by Thomas Schütte or Paloma Varga Weisz, have found new owners. We are particularly pleased for Paloma with her very unique artistic language; the sales are in line with the many national and international exhibitions she will have this year. But the Belgian artist Edith De-kyndt, as well as our younger generation of artists, such as Juergen Staack, have also found their well-deserved appreciation. We can simply rely on the very, very interested audience here—both existing and new clients.
(Konrad Fischer Galerie)

Our gallery has its roots in the Rhineland. That makes us all the more eager to come back here. The high-energy atmosphere certainly helps drive sales. You run into many familiar faces, but also make new, interesting connections with great potential for further dialogue.
(Esther Schipper)

Our seventh year at Art Düsseldorf is anything but a jinxed one: We are delighted to be represented in the Main Section for the first time. The fair is extremely well-at-

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tended, and we appreciate the lively exchange with a curious audience.
(Sperling)

As always, things went very well for us here. Among other things, we sold our central sculptural work by Manolo Valdés. At the same time, we were able to attract new collectors.

(Beck & Eggeling International Fine Art)

This is our first time here and we now know it was the right decision. Our conceptually designed booth, featuring consistently small formats, has proved successful. Both established and emerging artists found good buyers.

(Galerie Bärbel Grässlin / FILIALE)

We are long-time participants and, as always, sold very well: both works by emerging and established artists, including in particular Dove Bradshaw.

(Rehbein Galerie)

Many galleries also report successful sales already during the preview, as well as promising contacts for post-fair business. Overall, the large number of concrete sales underscores Art Düsseldorf's role as a thriving marketplace with an active and diverse collector base.

International Audience and Regional Roots

With visitors from Germany and abroad, as well as a growing proportion of international VIP guests, Art Düsseldorf continues to expand its reach. At the same time, it remains closely connected to the art scene of the Rhineland. Around 10% of guests traveled from abroad, representing a total of 35 countries. This broad diversity complements the strong regional collector base.

Talk program and educational offerings

The supporting program was well attended: In partnership with the E.ON Foundation, seven well-attended talks took place on topics such as "Engagement, Encounters, Enlightenment: New Energies for Art" and "Borders, Solidarity, Unities: New Energies for Europe." This was complemented by the Art Walks, which were attended by numerous visitors.

Collaboration with the KPM Foundation – Royal Porcelain Manufactory Berlin

For the first time, the KPM Foundation – Royal Porcelain Manufactory Berlin awarded an artist-in-residence program as part of the fair to an artist from the NEXT section. A jury composed of representatives from the Düsseldorf and Berlin art scenes selected Emil Urbanek (Weserhalle, Berlin) from the NEXT section as the first recipient of the award. Emil Urbanek (*2000) lives and works in Berlin and has been studying at the Berlin University of the Arts in Prof. Thomas Zipp's class since

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2019.

Other artists on the shortlist were:

Arang Choi (Elektrohalle Rhomberg, Salzburg)
Ferdinand Dölberg (Anton Janiszewski, Berlin)
Fuko Katsudo (AG18 Gallery, Vienna) and
Nana Mandl (Galerie Kandlhofer, Vienna).

The residency will take place in the summer of 2026 at KPM in Berlin and includes a two-week working period in the traditional art of master painting. It opens a dialogue between contemporary art and artisanal practice. A presentation of the results is planned as part of Berlin Art Week (September 9–13, 2026).

The next Art Düsseldorf will take place from April 9–11, 2027, with an opening on April 8.

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.

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