



Berlin, 21 October 2024

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Staatliche Museen zu Berlin**

Generaldirektion, Stauffenbergstrasse 41, 10785 Berlin

### **Exhibition program of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin 2025**

Selection, updated: 21 October 2025, details subject to change

Kulturforum, Gemäldegalerie

#### **From Odesa to Berlin. European Painting of the 16th to 19th Century**

24 January – 22 June 2025

A special exhibition of the Gemäldegalerie – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin in cooperation with the Odesa Museum of Western and Eastern Art. On 24 February 2022, following the onset of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, the staff of the Odesa Museum of Western and Eastern Art packed up the museum's most valuable paintings and moved them to an emergency storage facility in Ukraine. In September 2023, as part of a cooperation project between the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin and the Odesa Museum, 74 of these artworks were successfully removed from the perils of war and brought to the safety of Berlin's Gemäldegalerie. The collection features a number of prominent Western European artists from the 16th to 19th centuries, including Francesco Granacci, Roelant Savery, Bernardo Strozzi, Cornelis de Heem and Andreas Achenbach. This special exhibition brings 60 major artworks from Odesa and 25 works from the painting collections of Berlin's museums into an exciting dialogue that will offer new insight into art-historical and cultural-historical contexts. The cooperation project is funded by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media and reflects the close cultural ties between Germany and Ukraine.

Kulturforum, Kupferstichkabinett

#### **The Cosmos of Der Blaue Reiter. From Kandinsky to Campendonk**

28 February – 15 June 2025

A special exhibition of the Kupferstichkabinett – Staatl. Museen zu Berlin. For the very first time, Berlin's Kupferstichkabinett is dedicating a large-scale exhibition to the art of *Der Blaue Reiter*, which was founded in Munich in 1911. Despite suffering losses during the Nazi era, it is still possible to showcase the expansive cosmos of *Der Blaue Reiter* via the museum's own collection, thanks to the many acquisitions made after 1945. In addition to early works by Wassily Kandinsky and expressive animal paintings by Franz Marc – including postcards sent to Else Lasker-Schüler – the exhibition also features watercolours by August Macke and Heinrich Campendonk. Works by André Derain, Robert Delaunay and Natalia Goncharova attest to the unique role played by *Der Blaue Reiter* – via its exhibition activities in the years preceding the First World War – as a kind of force field that united artists from across Germany and Europe. The creative potential of Russian illustrated broadsheets and Bavarian votive tablets also became a focal point during this period. In Berlin, Herwarth Walden and his gallery *Der Sturm* helped to disseminate the art of both *Der Blaue Reiter* and Jacoba van Heemskerck, who was influenced by the group.

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Hamburger Bahnhof – Nationalgalerie der Gegenwart

**Ayoung Kim**

28 February – 20 July 2025

A special exhibition of the Nationalgalerie – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin. The first solo exhibition in a German museum by Ayoung Kim (born 1979), spans the past five years of her artistic practice. Using AI, VR, video, game simulations, and sonic fiction, she explores themes like migration, xenophobia, queerness, and geopolitics. Her exhibition at Hamburger Bahnhof focuses on the symbiosis between data, humans, and the planet.

Helmut Newton Foundation at the Museum für Fotografie

**Polaroids**

7 March – 17 August 2025

A special exhibition of the Helmut Newton Foundation. Polaroid technology revolutionised photography. Anyone who has ever used this type of camera will never forget the smell of the developing emulsion and fascination with the instant image. Like so many others, Helmut Newton loved photographing with a Polaroid camera. He began using the technique extensively in the 1970s, particularly during his fashion shoots. As Newton once recounted, this practice resulted from the impatient desire to immediately know how the setting would look as an image. In this context a Polaroid corresponds to a sketch of an idea and allows for checking the specific lighting situation and image composition. At the same time, Polaroid photographs have great appeal for many art photographers, particularly because of their object-like quality and the possibility of using them experimentally. In this group exhibition, Newton's Polaroids are complemented by the works of numerous colleagues, including Pola Sieverding, Maurizio Galimberti, Sheila Metzner, Charles Johnstone and Marike Schuurman. It brings together the various approaches to using the Polaroid technology in a wide range of formats, each as a group of works by the selected photographers.

Museumsinsel Berlin, James-Simon-Galerie

**Threads of Life. Tapestries from the Wissa Wassef Art Center in Harrania/Cairo (working title)**

Mid-April – Mid-October 2025

A special exhibition of the Ägyptisches Museum und Papyrussammlung – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin in cooperation with the Wissa Wassef Art Center

A selection of tapestries and batiks from the world-renowned Wissa Wassef Art Center in Harrania near Cairo will be exhibited on the upper floor of the James-Simon-Galerie. Today, numerous works of art from this institution can be found in some of the world's most prominent art museums. The colourful tapestries employ striking imagery to depict the flora, fauna and rural life of Egypt in its many facets. The exhibition not only seeks to transport visitors into the vibrant everyday life of modern-day Egypt and shed light on the stories behind these "woven threads of life", but also to showcase the unique techniques involved in this art of weaving. The tapestries on display are produced on handmade looms using naturally dyed wool and cotton threads; each is completed by the weavers as a single

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piece without the use of preparatory sketches or notes. It is not uncommon for a single tapestry to take more than one year to complete.

Hamburger Bahnhof – Nationalgalerie der Gegenwart

**Klára Hosnedlová**

25 April – 26 October 2025

A special exhibition of the Nationalgalerie – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin Klára Hosnedlová (b. 1990) presents a monumental exhibition in Hamburger Bahnhof's historic hall that revolves around themes of home, utopia, and everyday life under various political systems. Impressions of post-communist architecture, films, and novels and the post-futuristic images of her performative interventions at multiple locations in East and West Berlin form its point of departure. The expansive, sculptural scenery is made from materials such as flax fibres, embroidery, cast glass, sandstone, iron, and concrete slabs. With Hosnedlová, Hamburger Bahnhof is once again presenting a young artist who pushes the boundaries of sculpture – showcased in the main hall as part of Gallery Weekend.

Museumsinsel Berlin, Bode-Museum

**The Angel of History. Walter Benjamin, Paul Klee and the Berlin Angel 80 Years After the End of the War (working title)**

Early May – mid-July 2025

A special exhibition of the Skulpturensammlung und Museum für Byzantinische Kunst – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin

At the heart of the exhibition is a seminal artwork of the 20th century: Paul Klee's *Angelus Novus* (1920), which was once owned by the Berlin-born philosopher Walter Benjamin (1892–1940). The artwork accompanied him into exile and was described by Benjamin in one of his final texts as an "angel of history". Borne aloft by a storm described as progress, the angel flies into the future, only to turn its back on it: its gaze is fixed on the past. In addition to this watercolour by Klee – which, as an exception, was able to be borrowed from the Israel Museum in Jerusalem – and the manuscripts of the aforementioned text by Benjamin, which are on loan from the Akademie der Künste in Berlin, the exhibition brings together several angels from Berlin museums that were damaged or burned during the Second World War, starting with the famous and now lost *Saint Matthew and the Angel* by Caravaggio, which will be exhibited here in the form of a projection. In addition to this, the exhibition will also feature excerpts from Wim Wenders' *Wings of Desire* (1987), a film in which two angels stand watch over a divided Berlin and in which explicit reference is made to Klee's watercolour and Benjamin's interpretation of the artwork.

Museumsinsel Berlin, Neues Museum

**On Paths Untrodden. Georg Schweinfurth and His Significance for the Collections of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin (working title)**

22 May 2025 – 8 February 2026

A special exhibition of the Ägyptisches Museum und Papyrussammlung, the Museum für Vor- und Frühgeschichte, the Skulpturensammlung und Museum für Byzantinische Kunst – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin and the Staatsbibliothek

In addition to the reputation he earned as a restless wanderer, cartographer and botanist in his various spheres of activity, G. Schweinfurth was

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also an avid networker who worked closely with the antique dealers and excavators of Egypt. His assistance and expertise earned him numerous donations and artefacts, which he left to the academic community, including the institutions of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin. The stone artefacts, ethnographic objects, vessels, textiles and scientific specimens in question are primarily sourced from archaeologically documented contexts. The 100th anniversary of his death in 2025 provides an excellent opportunity to delve deeper into the man, his background and the artefacts themselves. The exhibition will focus on G. Schweinfurth and his significance for the field of Egyptology and will highlight some of the key aspects of his prolific career as a researcher and collector.

Kulturforum, Neue Nationalgalerie

### **Lygia Clark. Retrospective**

23 May – 12 October 2025

A special exhibition of the Nationalgalerie – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin Beginning in May 2025, the Neue Nationalgalerie will show Brazilian artist Lygia Clark's first retrospective in Germany. With around 150 artworks, the comprehensive show will present her oeuvre from the 1950s to the 1980s, ranging from geometric-abstract paintings to participatory sculptures and performances. Lygia Clark (1920–1988) is regarded as a radical innovator who pushed the boundaries of what is considered art. She fundamentally redefined the relationship between artist and viewer, artwork and space. As a leading figure of Neoconcretismo (the Neo-Concrete movement), initiated in Rio de Janeiro in 1959, Clark understood art as an organic phenomenon. She demanded a subjective, body-related and sensual art experience, which included the viewer's active participation. This participatory approach within Clark's work will be available for visitors to experience through interaction with exhibition copies of sculptures and sensory objects. In addition, regular performances and workshops will activate the work of this outstanding twentieth-century artist. Organized in cooperation with the Kunsthaus Zürich, where the show will be on view from autumn 2025 to spring 2026.

Museumsinsel Berlin, Alte Nationalgalerie

### **Camille Claudel and Bernhard Hoetger. Emancipation from Rodin**

6 June – 28 September 2025

A special exhibition of the Nationalgalerie – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, of the Paula Modersohn-Becker Museum Bremen and the Musée Camille Claudel Nogent-sur-Seine

This exhibition at the Alte Nationalgalerie is the first since 1905 to bring together the works of two artist personalities whose works and paths crossed time and again in Paris: Camille Claudel (1864–1943) and Bernhard Hoetger (1874–1949). Both artists were united by their aspirations to seek recognition while simultaneously turning away from the master of French sculpture, Auguste Rodin (1840–1917). In the pressure cooker that was Modernism, both the French sculptress and the German sculptor, who was ten years younger, developed an artistic vitality, garnering international appeal that continues to have an impact today.

Hamburger Bahnhof – Nationalgalerie der Gegenwart

### **Delcy Morelos**

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13 June 2025 – 11 January 2026

A special exhibition of the Nationalgalerie – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin Delcy Morelos (b. 1967) will present her first solo exhibition in Germany at Hamburger Bahnhof. It features a new, large-scale installation exploring themes to do with the earth, indigenous knowledge, regeneration and the interconnectedness of nature and humanity. In this work Morelos explores the actions, sculptures and environments of Joseph Beuys that are on display in the permanent exhibition. Following Naama Tsabar (12 April – 22 September 2024) and Andrea Pichl (8 November 2024 – 4 May 2025), this is the third contemporary art installation by a woman artist to be shown in parallel with the Beuys presentation in the Kleihueshalle at Hamburger Bahnhof. The exhibition opens with the third instalment of the admission-free Open House weekend (13–15 May 2025), which also marks the start of this year's open-air DJ series, Berlin Beats.

Museum Europäischer Kulturen

### **Vamos a la playa. Holidays Under Franco**

15 June – 28 September 2025

A special exhibition of Bòlit – Centre d'Art Contemporani, Girona, and the Museu de l'Empordà, Figueres, in collaboration with the Museum Europäischer Kulturen – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin

To mark the 50th anniversary of Francisco Franco's death, the MEK will show seven artistic approaches to dealing with the role of mass tourism in Spain during the dictatorship. Franco emerged victorious from the Spanish Civil War (1936–39). Tourism was intended to provide people living along Spain's coasts with a new economic foundation. It also served as a propaganda tool to promote a stereotypical image of Spain throughout Europe. Tourists acted as ambassadors by recounting their positive holiday experiences back home in their native countries, thus distracting people there from the oppression prevailing in Spain. But were there even opportunities for travellers to Spain to recognise the dictatorship for what it was? Eight artists (Jörg Zimmer, Ulrike Weiss, Stefanie Unruh, Annette Riemann, Tom Theunissen, Christoph Otto, Denys Blacker and Monika Anselment) reflect on their memories of family holidays in Spain. The exhibition is part of the MEK's 21st European Culture Days, focusing on the Spanish region of Catalonia.

Museumsinsel Berlin, James-Simon-Galerie

### **Myths in Stone. Göbekli Tepe and the World of the Last Hunters**

26 June 2025 – 25 January 2026

A special exhibition of the Vorderasiatisches Museum – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin in collaboration with Istanbul University and the Şanlıurfa Archaeology Museum

Humans became sedentary for the very first time around 12,000 years ago, at the beginning of the Holocene. This point marked the beginning of an irreversible development that would ultimately force human societies to undergo a fundamental restructuring. In Upper Mesopotamia, the onset of this transformation process was manifested in several monumental sculptures from the last hunter-gatherer cultures of the Stone Age. Today, the oldest and most well-known of these sculptures are from the UNESCO World Heritage site of Göbekli Tepe in south-eastern Turkey, which is now locally referred to as the "ground zero of human history". However, recent

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research conducted in the surrounding region has since yielded astonishing new discoveries that have permanently altered our understanding of this development process. This special exhibition at the Vorderasiatisches Museum will address this important era in the evolution of human civilisation via a series of media installations that are faithful to the original and a selection of new finds that have never before been seen outside Turkey.

Museum für Fotografie

**Rico Puhmann – Berlin/New York. Fashion – Beauty – Portraits**

27 June 2025 – 15 February 2026

A special exhibition of the Kunstbibliothek – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin Rico Puhmann (1934–1996) was one of the most internationally renowned fashion photographers, strongly influencing our image of fashion over the last four decades of the 20th century. Puhmann got his chance in the field of fashion magazines as an illustrator, before moving on to cover shoots and editorial work for the world's leading fashion periodicals, including *Constanze*, *Petra*, *Vogue*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Fashions of the Times* and *GQ*, first in Berlin, and later in New York. A fatal plane crash put an abrupt end to his career. His photographs document some of fashion history's central themes: trends, including the legendary Berlin chic of the post-war period and American sportswear of the 1970s, changing dress codes and poses, and a shifting image of women and men. At the same time, the exhibition focuses on Paulmann's work against the backdrop of a media world organised around a division of labour, where questions of editing, layout and journalistic writing play a central role.

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Hamburger Bahnhof – Nationalgalerie der Gegenwart

**Toyin Ojih Odutola**

4 July 2025 – 25 January 2026

A special exhibition of the Nationalgalerie – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin Toyin Ojih Odutola's (born 1985) first solo exhibition in Germany features her detailed drawings, known for exploring identity and personal narratives. Through her intricate depictions of figures, she delves into themes of self-representation and the journey of the individual. The show at Hamburger Bahnhof is a reflection on identity and personal histories.

Hamburger Bahnhof – Nationalgalerie der Gegenwart

**Petrit Halilaj**

5 September 2025 – 31 May 2026

A special exhibition of the Nationalgalerie – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin Petrit Halilaj (b. 1986) will present at Hamburger Bahnhof his first major institutional solo exhibition in Berlin. New, site-specific works will be shown alongside drawings, sculptures and installations. At the centre of the exhibition is a new, expansive, participatory installation that explores the potential of collective dreaming to tap into open, emancipatory worlds. This is the second solo exhibition in the Rieckhallen, reopened in 2024, and takes place as part of Berlin Art Week.

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Helmut Newton Foundation at the Museum für Fotografie

**Newton's Riviera & Dialogues**  
**Collection Fotografis x Helmut Newton**

6 September 2025 – 15 February 2026

A special exhibition of the Helmut Newton Foundation  
In autumn 2025, the Helmut Newton Foundation presents the double exhibition *Newton's Riviera & Dialogues* and *Collection Fotografis x Helmut Newton*. In the three rooms, selected photographs from the Fotografis Collection enter into an exciting dialogue with photographs by Helmut Newton, compiled from the Foundation's own archive. Sometimes there is a formal, sometimes a content-related proximity between the two photographs, sometimes the combination appears rather casual and strange at first glance – and in this way can create an even greater imaginative space in the reception. In the second section of the exhibition, visitors encounter a series of photographs that Newton took along the Riviera coast, in and around Monte Carlo and in other places on the Côte d'Azur. 'Newton's Riviera' presents numerous photographs that are being shown in Berlin for the first time.

Kulturforum, Kupferstichkabinett

**Yes to All. The Gifts of Paul Maenz and Gerd Vries to the Berlin Kupferstichkabinett**

12 September 2025 – 11 January 2026

A special exhibition of the Kupferstichkabinett – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin

"Yes to All" – "Yes, we'll take everything," was the enthusiastic and grateful response of the Kupferstichkabinett and the Graphische Gesellschaft zu Berlin – Freunde des Kupferstichkabinetts during the last two years in accepting generous gifts made by the two former Cologne gallerists, Paul Maenz and Gerd de Vries. These gifts comprise around 900 works on paper, ranging from the 1960s to the present day. The two donors' civic engagement is now being honoured with the exhibition *Yes to All*. It encompasses a selection of 200 works, with Conceptual Art, Arte Povera, Italian Transavantguardia and the art of the Young Wilds being represented in the form of drawings, sketches, print portfolios, collages, posters, letters and postcards. The show brings together works by Saâdane Afif, Robert Barry, Monica Bonvicini, Sandro Chia, Enzo Cucchi, Hans-Peter Feldmann, Walter Dahn, Hanne Darboven, Jiří Georg Dokoupil, Hans Haacke, Anselm Kiefer, Giulio Paolini, Bruce Nauman, Thomas Schütte and many others.

Museum Europäischer Kulturen

**Flight**

**Frank Gaudlitz's Photographs of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia**

18 September 2025 – 1 March 2026

A special exhibition of the Museum Europäischer Kulturen – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin

Over 110 million people were forced to flee their homelands in 2023. More people are affected by flight and persecution today than ever before. Among them are Ukrainians, whose homes have been attacked and destroyed by Russian aggression, as well as Russians who have raised their

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voices against Putin's regime and the current war and now live in fear for their lives. Photographer Frank Gaudlitz, historian Paulus Adelsgruber and journalist Angelina Davydova met with refugees in the Republic of Moldova, Georgia and Armenia, capturing their stories in interviews and striking images. The refugees appear true to life and candidly in the photos. Each quote and each portrait tells of an individual fate.

Kulturforum, Neue Nationalgalerie

**From Max Ernst to Dorothea Tanning – Networks of Surrealism  
Provenances from the Ulla and Heiner Pietzsch Collection**

26 September 2025 – 25 January 2026

A special exhibition of the Neue Nationalgalerie and the Zentralarchiv – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin

A century after the first "Surrealist Manifesto" (1924), the exhibition provides new insights into the extensive networks of artists, art dealers and collectors in this international, early 20th-century art movement. The starting point for the presentation was a two-year research project of the Federal State of Berlin and the Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz investigating provenances of works from the Ulla and Heiner Pietzsch Collection, which now belongs to the Neue Nationalgalerie. The exhibition traces the eventful journeys of these paintings and sculptures across space and time – from Paris, the Surrealist movement's place of origin, to Brussels and other European cities, across the National Socialist era and the Second World War, to South America as well as into exile in the United States. The object biographies of the individual works tell of friendships, collecting passions and industry connections, as well as from loss, persecution and new beginnings. Beyond the histories of the individual artworks, they elucidate the Surrealist movement's multifaceted networks and the political challenges of the times.

Humboldt Forum, Ethnologisches Museum

**George Nuku**

Autumn 2025

George Nuku is one of New Zealand's leading contemporary artists, whose sculptural practice sees him working with stone, bone, wood, shells, polystyrene and Perspex. He will present a two-part artistic intervention in the Oceania exhibition area of the Ethnologisches Museum in the Humboldt Forum. The first part will take place in the exhibition area that showcases artworks from Polynesia and their connection to ancestors and gods. The second part of the intervention will be presented in the museum's spacious Boat Hall and will centre on the relationship between humankind and the ocean and the effects of climate change. In each of the two spaces, George Nuku will address and react to the theme of the exhibition and the items on display there. His intention is "to shine a contemporary light on the relationships between past and future, between new and old works of art, between the descendants of the families of origin and the current institutional custodians of these ancient treasures that are now housed in the museum".

Kulturforum, Kunstgewerbemuseum

**Many Shades of Grès (working title)**

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10 October 2025 – 1 February 2026

A special exhibition of the Kunstgewerbemuseum – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin with the School of Culture and Design at the Hochschule für Technik und Wirtschaft Berlin

French fashion designer Madame Grès (1903–1993) was considered one of the most important pioneers of haute couture in the 20th century. The Kunstgewerbemuseum Berlin (Museum of Decorative Arts) and the School of Culture and Design at the Hochschule für Technik und Wirtschaft Berlin (University of Applied Sciences) are planning a joint exhibition – the first to shed light on Madame Grès for a German-speaking audience. Grès was well-known in the 1930s for her floor-length, pleated gowns inspired by ancient sculptures. After the National Socialist occupation of Paris and her return to the city after its liberation, her success would continue into the 1960s. In 1976, while president of the Chambre Syndicale de la Haute Couture, Grès received the Preis Dé d'Or, that organisation's highest award. Her fashion house's success dwindled in the 1980s, and the business was sold. Grès' designs reflect a continuous engagement with art and culture. The Kunstgewerbemuseum owns 24 outfits by Grès, primarily from the 1960s to 1980s.

Museumsinsel Berlin, Alte Nationalgalerie

**Goya – Monet – Degas – Bonnard – Grosse: The Scharf Collection (working title)**

24 October 2025 – 1 March 2026

A special exhibition of the Alte Nationalgalerie – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin in cooperation with the Kunstpalast Düsseldorf

The Scharf Collection, a private German collection of 19th- and 20th-century French art and contemporary international art, is set to be presented in its entirety for the very first time. Now managed by the fourth generation of the family, it maintains a branch of Berlin's prominent Otto Gerstenberg collection, which spans the entire spectrum from the early days of modernism with Goya to the French avant-garde of the second half of the 19th century with Gustave Courbet and Edgar Degas and the entire graphic oeuvre of Toulouse-Lautrec. Despite suffering a number of wartime losses, Gerstenberg's daughter Margarethe Scharf was able to save most of the collection and bequeath it to her two sons Walther and Dieter Scharf. After dividing the collection among the grandchildren, Walther Scharf, his wife Eve and son René opted to pursue the French focus and expanded the collection with works from a range of French artists including Claude Monet, Paul Cézanne, Pierre Bonnard, Henri Matisse and Pablo Picasso. Today, René Scharf and his wife Christiane have turned their focus to contemporary international art, with works including those by Sam Francis, Daniel Richter and Katharina Grosse. With their keen interest in the parameters of painting as a medium and the relationship between representational and abstract imagery, they are now bringing the family's collecting tradition into the present.

Museumsinsel Berlin, Bode-Museum

**The Pazzi Conspiracy**

**Power, Violence and Art in Renaissance-Era Florence (working title)**

24 October 2025 – 20 September 2026

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A special exhibition of the Münzkabinett and the Skulpturensammlung – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin

On 26 April 1478, Lorenzo and Giuliano de' Medici were attacked in the chancel of the Duomo of Florence. Giuliano was killed in the attack, while Lorenzo survived and went on to take revenge on the people responsible for masterminding the conspiracy – most notably the Pazzi family. This exhibition seeks to trace the story with the help of items from the collections of the SMB: the Münzkabinett houses a selection of medals that depict the key figures involved in the affair, many of whom have also been immortalised in portraits that are now held in the collections of the Skulpturensammlung and the Gemäldegalerie – beginning with Giuliano, whose likeness Sandro Botticelli painted with a downcast gaze after his untimely death. The Pazzi Conspiracy constitutes a tragic and defining episode of the Florentine Quattrocento that epitomises the significance of the Italian Renaissance as an age in which violent political and religious conflicts were translated into unforgettable works of art.

Hamburger Bahnhof – Nationalgalerie der Gegenwart

**Annika Kahrs**

14 November 2025 – 3 May 2026

A special exhibition of the Nationalgalerie – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin Berlin-based artist Annika Kahrs (born 1984) will open at Hamburger Bahnhof the most comprehensive survey of her practices yet. She explores the social and cultural roles of music. Through video, sound installations, and live performances, she challenges the boundaries of sound, focusing on its communicative and structural dimensions.

Kunstabibliothek, Kulturforum

**BIZARRE! The Art History of the Craziest Word in the World**

November 2025 – March 2026

A special exhibition of the Kunstbibliothek – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin Since the Renaissance, “bizarre” has been the ultimate description of realities that radically question the order of the world: exceptional psychological states, dreams, monstrosities, and hair-raising behaviour, but also daring ideas and ingenious creations. The exhibition at the Kunstbibliothek is the first of its kind. It explores the term’s origins, following its career from the artists’ studios and scholars’ dens of the early modern period up to present-day consciousness research and quantum physics. In the 21st century, the now more than 500-year-old history of the bizarre has reached a new peak: An idea in art becomes the concept behind the world, in which the “bizarre” is perhaps the last reliable factor. *Bizarre!* is an adventurous journey of discovery through the Kunstbibliothek’s book and museum collections, featuring more than 150 fantastical objects from the history of the visual arts, architecture, fashion, photography, design, and book and media arts. Many bizarre visual ideas are making their public debut in this exhibition.

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Hamburger Bahnhof – Nationalgalerie der Gegenwart

**Saâdane Afif**

12 December 2025 – 16 August 2026

A special exhibition of the Nationalgalerie – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin Centre of the exhibition at Hamburger Bahnhof by artist Saâdane Afif (born 1970) is his multi-part archival project “The Fountain Archives” revisiting the legacy of Marcel Duchamp’s iconic “Fountain”. This complex artwork, gifted to the Nationalgalerie collection in 2023, is now presented to the public for the first time alongside other works that critically and humorously question the role of the art museum.

Sammlung Scharf-Gerstenberg

**No More Masterpieces**

19 December 2025 – 26 April 2026

A special exhibition of the Nationalgalerie – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin “*No More Masterpieces*” (a battle cry from the well-known Surrealist Antonin Artaud) dedicates itself to the action-oriented side of Surrealism and its impact that is still felt today. The exhibition addresses the notion of destruction (in collages by Hannah Höch and Kurt Schwitters, Otto Dix’s *Skatspieler* and again more recently in Gerhard Richter’s patched-up *Party guests*), the question of power (Schlichter’s *Blinde Macht* versus Niki de Saint Phalle’s *Tod des Patriarchen*), the solitary figure (Germaine Richier, Alberto Giacometti) and finally the call for rebellion Georg Baselitz and Eugen Schönebeck put forth in their *Pandämonisches Manifest* pamphlet, with its direct reference to Surrealism. The actions of the Situationists and the student revolts in Paris and elsewhere in France conclude the show. “La rivoluzione siamo noi” (“We are the Revolution”, Joseph Beuys) declared people’s thoughts and actions as art – in the spirit of Surrealism, which never wanted to be an art style, but rather a mindset or a way of life.

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