

# BUNDESKUNSTHALLE

GOETHE  
Transformation of the World  
17 May to 15 September 2019

Media Conference: Thursday, 16 May 2019, 11 a.m.

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## General Information

Exhibition	17 May to 15 September 2019
Director	Rein Wolfs
Managing Director	Patrick Schmeing
Curators	Johanna Adam Thorsten Valk, Klassik Stiftung Weimar
Scientific Assistants	Sophie Borges and Jana Piper, Klassik Stiftung Weimar
Garden Curator	Angelika Schneider, Klassik Stiftung Weimar
Press Officer	Sven Bergmann
Catalogue / Press Copy	€ 34 / € 17
Opening Hours	Tuesday and Wednesday: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday to Sunday: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Public Holidays: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Closed on Mondays 25., 26.12.2018 and 1.1.2019: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Admission standard / reduced	€ 10 / € 6.50
Admission exhibition and garden standard / reduced	€ 14 / € 9
Free admission	for all under 19s and for refugees
“Pay what you can afford” until 30 June 2019	for visitors under 26 Tuesday and Wednesday: 6 to 9 p.m.
Happy Hour-Ticket	€ 7 Tuesday and Wednesday: 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday to Sunday: 5 to 7 p.m. (for individuals only)



Guided Group Tours information and registration      T +49 228 9171-243  
F +49 228 9171-244  
kunstvermittlung@bundeskunsthalle.de

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

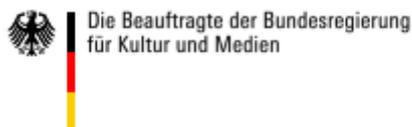
Press Information (German / English)      [www.bundeskunsthalle.de](http://www.bundeskunsthalle.de)  
For press files follow 'press'.

General Information (German / English)      T +49 228 9171-200  
[www.bundeskunsthalle.de](http://www.bundeskunsthalle.de)

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## Media Information

GOETHE

### Transformation of the World

17 May to 15 September 2019

Goethe is the world's best-known German writer. The first major Goethe exhibition in twenty-five years, the exhibition puts the writer's oeuvre in the context of his time on the threshold of the modern world and sheds light on the uniquely powerful impact his work continues to have.

A literary celebrity by the age of 25, Goethe was fêted all over Europe. His works have been translated into countless languages. Characters like Werther or Faust found their way into every genre of art and every sector of popular culture. Perhaps more than any other artist of his time, Goethe reflected the dramatic changes that sent shockwaves through the political, economic and cultural foundations of Europe. But Goethe was more than just an attentive observer of the dawn of modernity, he was also an immensely versatile artist who continues to inspire writers, painters, sculptors, composers, photographers and film directors.

Further to painting, sculpture, print and photography, the performing arts of theatre, film and music will play an important role. The comprehensive survey brings together some 250 loans from public and private collections all over the world. With works by artists such as Caspar David Friedrich, Auguste Rodin, William Turner, Angelika Kauffmann as well as Piet Mondrian, Paul Klee, Cy Twombly, Andy Warhol, Barbara Klemm and Olafur Eliasson, the scope of the exhibition ranges from the late eighteenth/early nineteenth century to the present. The varied history of the reception of Goethe's work – and that of the man himself – forms an important starting point for questions about his relevance and currency today, which the exhibition sets out to investigate.

Rein Wolfs, the director of the Bundeskunsthalle stresses, "The exhibition examines not only Goethe's life and, with it the dramatic developments around 1800 that shook Europe to its very foundations, it also looks at the varied history of the reception of Goethe's multifaceted work. Interest in Goethe is still strong, as the current debates about the West-Eastern Diwan demonstrates."

Divided into nine chapters, the exhibition sheds light of Goethe's life and work and the context of his time – from 1749, the year of his birth, to his death in 1832. While key biographical turning points and events as well as some of Goethe's best-known works form the cornerstones of the exhibition, they are examined in the wider context of the history of ideas and the political, social and cultural upheavals of the period. These do not only provide the historical background, they also reflect the key questions of the time that Goethe addressed, engaged with and sought to answer.



An exhibition of the Bundeskunsthalle and the Klassik Stiftung Weimar in cooperation with the Freies Deutsches Hochstift, Frankfurt/Main, the Goethe Museum Düsseldorf and the Museum Casa di Goethe, Rome, under the patronage of Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier.



## Media Information about the Exhibition

### GOETHE'S GARDENS

#### Green Worlds on the Roof of the Bundeskunsthalle

until 15 September 2019

*Goethe's Gardens* on the roof of the Bundeskunsthalle reflect the writer's lifelong interest in gardens, nature and botany. The roof garden complements the exhibition *Goethe. Transformation of the World*. Developed especially for Bonn, the roof garden brings together central motifs of Goethe's two gardens in Weimar: the garden in the idyllic Ilm meadows with its famous garden house, where Goethe lived in his early Weimar years, and the garden of his much grander house on the Frauenplan in central Weimar.

In the spring of 1776, when Goethe moved in to his first Weimar home not far from the river Ilm, he was particularly interested in the extensive garden and immediately set about its redesign. Not only did he establish a kitchen garden to supply fruit and vegetables for his table, he also laid out a small garden in the fashionable English style with winding paths and shady, intimate spots to rest. The garden also served him as a test field for his botanical observations and studies, the results of which informed his scientific treatises, among them the *Methamorphosis of Plants* and the *Theory of Colours*.

After his return from Italy, Goethe moved into the spacious house on the Frauenplan in central Weimar. Once again, he devoted a great deal of attention to the garden. As he had done in the Ilm meadowland, he used the space for a kitchen garden as well as for botanical experiments. A pavilion on the southside of the garden was furnished to house his extensive collection of minerals, rocks and fossils from all over the world.

Like Goethe's Weimar gardens, the garden on the roof of the Bundeskunsthalle will bring together aesthetic, scientific and economic considerations. As the exhibition runs from May to September, the appearance of the garden will change over the course of the summer, beckoning visitors to come more often, to enjoy a leisurely stroll, to linger, to delight in its beauty and to explore its underpinnings in the natural sciences.

## Publication accompanying the exhibition (in German)



### Goethe. Verwandlung der Welt

Goethe is the world's best-known German writer. A literary celebrity by the age of 25, he was fêted all over Europe. His works have been translated into countless languages. Characters like Werther or Faust found their way into every genre of art and every sector of popular culture. Perhaps more than any other artist of his time, Goethe reflected the dramatic changes that sent shockwaves through the political, economic and cultural foundations of Europe.

But Goethe was more than just an attentive observer of the dawn of modernity, he was also an immensely versatile artist who continues to inspire writers, painters, sculptors, composers, photographers and film directors. The catalogue accompanying the first major Goethe exhibition in twenty-five years puts the writer's oeuvre in the context of his time on the threshold of the modern world and sheds light on the uniquely powerful impact his work continues to have.

Publisher:  
Kunst- und Ausstellungshalle der Bundesrepublik Deutschland  
and Klassik Stiftung Weimar

Authors:  
Johanna Adam, Sophie Borges, Christian Hecht, Nikolas Immer, Michael Jaeger,  
Jana Piper, Andrea Polaschegg, Christoph Schmälzle, Joachim Seng, Thorsten  
Valk, Christoph Wingertzahn

Format:  
24.5 x 28 cm  
304 pages  
More than 300 illustrations in colour  
Museum edition: €34  
Trade edition: €45  
Prestel Verlag



## Guided Tours and Events

### Guided Tours

Guided tours on demand in the following languages:

English, Dutch, French, and Italian.

Guided Group Tours information and registration:

T +49 228 9171–243, F +49 228 9171–244, [vermittlung@bundeskunsthalle.de](mailto:vermittlung@bundeskunsthalle.de)

(Mon. –Thu. 9.00 am –3.00 pm, Fri. 9.00 am–noon)

## EVENTS

### SATURDAY\_LATE\_ART\_SPECIAL

#### –ART NIGHT ON THE MUSEUM PLAZA

In cooperation with the Kunstmuseum Bonn

Museum Mile Festival

Saturday, 1 June, 7.30 pm – midnight

### WEDNESDAY\_LATE\_ART\_SUMMER\_GALA

Speedy guided tours \_DJ\_Drinks

Wednesday, 14 August, 6.00–9.00 pm

### DIY workshop for EVERYONE

#### TRASH UP - Make your own upcycling objects

*Let's go in the garden!*

Saturday, 25 May, 2.00–5.00 pm

*DIY Summer Special*

Saturday, 27 July, 2.00–5.00 pm

*Paper Cut-outs*

Saturday, 31 August, 2.00–5.00 pm

## OFFERS FOR SCHOOLS AND CHILDREN'S DAY CARE FACILITIES

By appointment

### Admission free for under-19s

and for teachers accompanying groups

### Guided tours

60 minutes €28, 90 minutes €40 (max. 25 people)

For sec. I and II: *Goethe and his Werther* or *Goethe and his Faust*

Can be combined with a workshop afterwards

(180 minutes 100 €)

### Workshops for children's day care facilities and primary schools

*Explorer of colours* – colour experiments with electroluminescent film

*Wonderful Transformation* – Stories with a hand puppet



### **Workshops for Sec. I and II**

*Faust in Action* – drawing in graphic-novel style

*Emotional Worlds* – Film workshop about Goethe's *Werther*

### **Instastories for Sec. I and II**

*Stages of Life* – Have your smartphone at the ready and join our art communicator for a tour of the exhibition

Friday, 24 May, 14 June, 5 July, 11.00 am

### **INCLUSION – INTEGRATION**

All events bookable by appointment

#### **Integration courses / Language courses for refugees**

Getting to know Culture, Language, Art

Exhibition visit and practical and creative work

#### **Exhibition tour – Meet & Speak**

Refugees, migrants and people who have grown up in Germany explore the exhibition together.

#### **Guided tours in Arabic – Welcome!**

Refugees and other interested parties get to know the exhibition and each other.



## Current and Upcoming Selected Exhibitions

### MICHAEL JACKSON: ON THE WALL

**until 14 July 2019**

Michael Jackson is one of the most influential cultural figures to come out of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and his legacy continues into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. His significance is widely acknowledged when it comes to music, music videos, dance, choreography and fashion, but his considerable influence on contemporary art is an untold story. Since Andy Warhol first used his image in 1982, Jackson has become the most depicted cultural figure in visual art by an extraordinary array of leading contemporary artists.

This landmark exhibition explores the influence of Michael Jackson on some of the leading names in contemporary art, spanning several generations of artists across all media. For the first time, Michael Jackson: On the Wall will bring together the works of over forty of these artists, drawn from public and private collections around the world, including new works made especially for the exhibition.

The exhibition was developed by the National Portrait Gallery, London, and organised with the Bundeskunsthalle. Michael Jackson. On the Wall is produced with the cooperation of the Michael Jackson Estate.

### POWER PLAY

**Anna Uddenberg**

**until 22 September 2019**

Anna Uddenberg explores social conventions, norms and rhetorics. She challenges ingrained ways of thinking and seeing as well as our mental and physical mobility. With her sculptures and installations, she reflects our everyday life and investigates how new technologies, especially social media, affect our consumer culture. She analyses social and cultural systems and scrutinises the role and the cliché-driven role models of women. Her hybrid sculptures – pieces of 'seating furniture' and unrealistic 'ideal types' – testify to the artist's interest in space (for the critical analysis of social conditions and utopias) and forms of representation.

By exaggerating the figure/figuration, deconstructing and constructing it as a collaged synthesis of objet trouvés and handmade objects, Uddenberg holds up a mirror to modern society. Her visually disturbing and often surprising works invite us to question our values.

### FROM MOSUL TO PALMYRA

**A Virtual Journey through the World's Cultural Heritage**

**30 August to 3 November 2019**

Mosul, Aleppo, Palmyra, Leptis Magna – the names of these cities resonate as symbols of the fabled cultural heritage of ancient civilisations, but also as symbols of the wanton destruction of their vestiges by fanaticism and war. The exhibition employs state-of-the-art virtual reconstructions and spectacular animations to bring these legendary ruined cities of the ancient Arab world back to life. It invites visitors to embark on a journey through time and space into



their glorious history, to witness their destruction in the recent past and to contemplate the possibility of their future reconstruction.

The itinerary takes visitors from Mosul (Iraq), the ancient city of Nineveh, via Aleppo (Syria), where successive Muslim empires from the Umayyads to the Ottomans left behind an extraordinary architectural treasure, to Leptis Magna (Libya), founded by the Phoenicians and once known as the 'African Rome', and, finally, to Palmyra (Syria), the legendary Graeco-Roman 'pearl of the Orient'. With this exhibition, the Bundeskunsthalle wants to underscore the importance of preserving this universal heritage of all humanity.

In cooperation with the Institut du Monde Arabe (IMA), Paris

## CALIFORNIA DREAMS

### **San Francisco – A Portrait**

**12 September 2019 to 12 January 2020**

The exhibition paints a multifaceted portrait of San Francisco across four centuries. Throughout its history and up to the present day, San Francisco and California at large have been a focal point of dreams of 'a better life,' of prosperity and abundance, of different (at times utopian) social orders and new life styles, of artistic innovation, and of new scientific and technological horizons. Both the Asian-Pacific region to the west and Europe to the east had lasting influences in shaping the city's cultural dynamics. With artworks and historical objects the exhibition tells the varied history of San Francisco and at the same time touches on important questions of pressing global concern today, especially the issues of migration and displacement. The exhibition celebrates San Francisco as the site of contested cultural pluralism that it has been right from the start

## BEETHOVEN

### **World.Citizen.Music**

**17 December 2019 to 26 April 2020**

In celebration of the 250th birthday of the great composer and visionary Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827), the Bundeskunsthalle, in collaboration with the Beethoven-Haus Bonn, is hosting a major exhibition in the anniversary year of 2020. The exhibition traces the most important stages in the life of Beethoven against a historical backdrop, interwoven with his musical oeuvre.

The exhibition is divided into several themes, including 'Beethoven's view of himself', 'friendships' and 'business strategies', which also incorporate related musical works. The display includes unique original artefacts as well as iconic portraits, which depict the figure of the composer and question his popular public image. Original instruments and integrated audio exhibits enable visitors to immerse themselves in historical worlds of sound. The composer's working methods will be illustrated as well as the cultural and historical context of Beethoven's life and influence.

An exhibition of the Bundeskunsthalle in cooperation with the Beethoven-Haus Bonn

*Subject to change!*