

BUNDESKUNSTHALLE

Invitation to a media conference
20 March 2024, 11 a.m.

„Images in mind, bodies in space“

FRANZ ERHARD WALTHER

22 March until 28 July 2024

Due to its continuing actuality and relevance for contemporary art and also in honour of his 85th birthday, the Bundeskunsthalle organizes a major survey exhibition on the work of Franz Erhard Walther (*1939). Especially in the Rhineland – an important place of study and activity – a retrospective is a desideratum.

At the beginning of the 1960s, Franz Erhard Walther formulated a new concept of the work – in the context of minimalism and beyond the classical understanding of sculpture and painting – that included the viewer as an actor: His First Set of Works (1963–1969), consisting of 58 activatable elements, is legendary. In this way, the artist fundamentally questions the concept of sculpture and that of the recipient and understands the executed "action as a form of work": Gestures and actions become an essential part of the work. Even in his early work, the artist was concerned with the processual as a design principle; during his time in Düsseldorf, experimentation and innovation played a major role. Since the beginning of 1963, fabric – a hitherto uncommon artistic material – has been used for the production of almost all activation objects. In the Wall Formations of the 1980s, he achieves an incomparable interweaving of painting, sculpture and architecture that continues to this day.

The exhibition will present a representative selection of action-based works as well as drawings "as an interior view" from different periods. Film documents, including new recordings on site, also document the temporality of the various actions / activations by the artist and the participants. Some exhibits in the exhibition, as well as specially made 'exhibition copies', can be activated – through the interaction between body and object, each person becomes part of the artwork: Work, body, place and space merge in an unusual way into a unity that generates new experiences in dealing with art and oneself.

**We cordially invite you to a media conference
on Wednesday, 20 March 2024, 11 a.m. in the exhibition.**

The exhibition opens at 10 a.m.

Your discussion participants:

- Eva Kraus, director of the Bundeskunsthalle and curator of the exhibition
- Susanne Walther, curator
- Susanne Kleine, curator of the Bundeskunsthalle
- Sven Bergmann, press officer of the Bundeskunsthalle

Franz Erhard Walther will be present.

Please accredit by email: presse@bundeskunsthalle.de

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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.

We look forward to your participation and visit.

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Cultural partner 

Please save the date:

INTERACTIONS 2024

Media conference: Monday, 29 April 2024, 11 a.m.