

Revolutionary Rhineland photography

When people talk about German photography, what immediately springs to mind are works by members of the Düsseldorf School of Photography, also known as the Becher School. It is famous around the world for its high



The river Rhine was a source of inspiration for Andreas Gursky.

artistic standards and the way it revolutionised photography. Founded by Bernd and Hilla Becher in the 1970s, the school brought fresh ideas to the international arts scene. The typical Becher style became one of Düsseldorf's most successful exports. Thomas Struth, Thomas Ruff and Andreas Gursky won global acclaim for their large-format works, but Candida Höfer and Axel Hütte also launched international careers. Many contemporary photographers live and work in Düsseldorf today, contributing to the city's diversity. The legacy of renowned artists and the importance of photography as a form of art can be seen in the photo exhibitions in the city's museums and exhibition spaces, as well as in its galleries and artist-run spaces. Institutions such as the Kunstpalast museum play host to exhibitions that underline Düsseldorf's status as a city of photography.

düsseldorf photo+: This biennial shows how the scene has evolved over the decades and is still pushing the boundaries of photography today. Every two years, the festival's workshops, panels, lectures and exhibitions invite visitors to engage with contemporary photography and challenge their perception of visual media.

The Rhine as inspiration: Andreas Gursky's photo Rhein II, taken in Düsseldorf-Oberkassel, was sold for €3.1 million in New York in 2011.

The Sound of Düsseldorf

Düsseldorf has always provided fertile ground for influential and successful pop music, and is still a leading centre of German pop. The band Kraftwerk, for example, are celebrated as pioneers of electronic music. At the end of the 1970s, the Ratinger Hof became the centre of German punk music and the Neue Deutsche Welle genre that followed. It was here that the band ZK, which would later become Die Toten Hosen, had their first performances, Fehlfarben played music from their groundbreaking album 'Monarchie und Alltag' and DAF got the crowds bouncing. The local music scene is just as lively today, as proven by bands such as Broilers, Antilopen Gang and Love Machine.



Over the past 50 years, Düsseldorf has inspired painters and photographers as much as it has musicians. The band NEU! was formed in Düsseldorf's Kunsthalle, an avant-garde exhibition space, and would go on to influence the likes of David Bowie, Blur, Placebo,

The city's loudest tour Düsseldorf's Old Town is a Mecca for music fans. The roots of Kraftwerk and Die Toten Hosen can be found here. Nowadays, the Salon des Amateurs is the place where acts are creating the music of the future. The Sound of Düsseldorf tour takes in legendary clubs, pubs and places that shaped the sound of Düsseldorf. The guides are local music journalists – sharing many anecdotes and background stories while the most important songs made in Düsseldorf play in your ears.



Curated by #VisitDuesseldorf: New Urban Walks

Urban Art Walk – street art and graffiti in Düsseldorf

Some of Europe's best urban artists have left their mark on Düsseldorf's walls, combining traditional art forms with pop, punk, graffiti and street art to reflect contemporary thinking. Klaus Roskoth, gallery owner and connoisseur of the scene, takes you on a tour of discovery to these unknown places.



Artist: FinDAC

Urban Art Ride – street art on the move

The Urban Art Ride invites you to explore the impressive, building-sized murals in various districts of Düsseldorf by bicycle. This leisurely two-hour tour visits works by Oliver 'Magic' Rake, the MaJo Brothers, Otto Schade, How & Nosm and Os Gêmeos.



Artist: SKIO

The Wehrhahn line – art meets architecture on the metro

"Art and magic in a German metro" is how the New York Times described the spectacular underground train line in the heart of the city. The design is the result of an unusual collaboration between artists and engineers. Each of the six stations has its own character and avoids commercial advertising.



Artist: Ursula Damm

i Can also be booked as a group tour. For further information and booking, visit: www.visitduesseldorf.de/tours

Visit
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Museums and exhibitions



Art, Beuys & the city
Düsseldorf
Live close Feel free



Sammlung Philara, Künstler: Björn Dahlem

Between Rhine, Kunstakademie and Hofgarten

Düsseldorf offers a surprising amount of art in a relatively small area. Numerous museums and galleries – all within walking distance or easily accessible by public transport – promise extraordinary art experiences all year round. Modern art features alongside the works of both young and established contemporary artists. During summer, the inner courtyard of the Ehrenhof buildings is a must-see for many museum



No other city of this size is home to so many leading international artists and to so many galleries, and nowhere is art such an integral part of everyday life.

Düsseldorf's Kunstakademie – the Academy of Arts – is the heart and soul of the city. Joseph Beuys, Sigmar Polke, Jörg Immendorff, Gerhard Richter, Andreas Gursky, Katharina Fritsch – renowned artists have always studied and taught there, and to this day Düsseldorf owes its international reputation as a city of art to the academy. Twice a year, the academy organises a tour during which the students showcase their latest work.

The fact that art runs through the city's veins is in no small part down to Joseph Beuys, who found fame with felt and fat. Beuys, who was a professor at the Academy of Arts from 1961 to 1972, courted controversy with his works and his ideas. Infamous is the story of his piece 'Fat Corner', which was mopped up by an overzealous cleaner. One of his legacies to the city is a quote that defines Düsseldorf to this day: "Everyone is an artist".

A long tradition of art: The trail leads from the painters of the Düsseldorf school of painting in the 19th century via Paul Klee, the ZERO artists Heinz Mack, Otto Piene and Günther Uecker, and the great photographers of the Becher School all the way to the present day.

The world of galleries and collectors

When it comes to visual arts, Düsseldorf boasts a broad alternative scene, several foundations and more than 100 galleries. Many art institutions and collections owe their existence to generous patrons, for example, the Julia Stoschek Foundation in Oberkassel, Sammlung Philara in Flingern and the KAI 10 | ARTHENA FOUNDATION in MedienHafen. Institutions such as the Kunstpalast and the Kunstsammlung NRW have collections with international appeal. Düsseldorf's galleries see themselves as forums for the city's vibrant arts scene, and focus on presenting and promoting work by young artists and graduates from the city's Academy of Arts.

During the DC Open event in September, galleries in Düsseldorf and Cologne showcase established and up-and-coming artists from Friday to Sunday. In spring, young art meets old industrial architecture during the Art Düsseldorf fair, held at the Areal Böhler complex in Oberkassel.

So much art in the city!

L Bilker Bunker

Aachener Straße 39, 40223 Düsseldorf
www.bilkerbunker.de

Originally built as a shelter, the Bilker Bunker is now a place where exhibitions, concerts and cultural events are held. Culture and leisure combine behind its thick walls. Besides the event space, the bunker is home to the Schleuse Zwei music bar and features multiple rooms for various uses.

B Julia Stoschek Foundation

Schanzenstraße 54 | 40549 Düsseldorf
www.jsc.art

On the other side of the Rhine, Julia Stoschek has enriched Düsseldorf's cultural life with a private museum. The Julia Stoschek Foundation presents contemporary art in the form of video works, installations and photography. During the ongoing renovation of the main building until spring 2026, it will be presenting exhibitions and events at locations across Düsseldorf.

K Langen Foundation

Raketenstation Hombroich 1 | 41472 Neuss
www.langenfoundation.de

The Langen Foundation's roots lie in the collection of patron Marianne Langen and her husband, Viktor. The foundation's exhibition building by Japanese architect Tadao Ando is itself a work of art. The Langen Foundation focuses on the dialogue between the cultures of the Orient and the Occident and how this is explored through contemporary art.

K Just a stone's throw away

Located in the countryside not far from the city, Museum Insel Hombroich is a world apart. The museum in Neuss, just half an hour from Düsseldorf, includes more than a dozen build-

Travel: 30 minutes by car from the centre of Düsseldorf
Further information: www.inselhombroich.de

I KAI 10 | ARTHENA FOUNDATION

Kaistraße 10 | 40221 Düsseldorf
www.kaistrasse10.de

Founded by Monika Schnetkamp, KAI 10 hosts themed group exhibitions of contemporary international art. Rather than focus on a single collection, the projects explore the many facets of contemporary art. The 600m² exhibition space is located in a former warehouse in MedienHafen.

F Sammlung Philara

Birkenstraße 47 a | 40233 Düsseldorf
www.philara.de

The spectacular exhibition space created by art collector Gil Bronner, which has won multiple awards for their architecture, is located in a former glass factory in the working-class district of Flingern. Bronner's collection has a strong connection to the Academy of Arts and to local artists, whose works feature alongside pieces by international artists.

In Düsseldorf, you never have to venture far to find art. The number of leading art museums here is remarkable, and they are all within walking distance. There are three particularly art-focused areas linked by the Academy of Arts: the ensemble of historical buildings around Ehrenhof, the Old Town and the district of Carlstadt.

J ZERO foundation

Hüttenstraße 104
40215 Düsseldorf
www.zerofoundation.de

The ZERO movement, founded in Düsseldorf in 1958, revolutionised art in the post-war period. Heinz Mack, Otto Piene and Günther Uecker created art from light and movement, and air and fire. Today, the ZERO foundation is dedicated to researching and showcasing this international group of avant-garde artists. It is only open for exhibitions and events.

♥ Kunstakademie Düsseldorf

Eiskellerstraße 1 | 40213 Düsseldorf
www.kunstakademie-duesseldorf.de

New beginnings, new horizons and fascinating stories. In 1978, Günther Uecker – known for his use of nails – and Klaus Rinke – known for his water installations – were appointed professors at the academy and rode along its corridors on camels! Today, almost everything that happens in Düsseldorf's museums and studios can be traced back in some way to the academy.

D Kunstsammlung NRW K20 Grabbeplatz

Grabbeplatz 5 | 40213 Düsseldorf
www.kunstsammlung.de

K20, a museum of modernism and post-1945 art with an international profile, showcases masterpieces by Paul Klee, Pablo Picasso, Max Ernst and Joseph Beuys, as well as highlights from American pop art. Works by pioneering painters such as Carmen Herrera, Paula Modersohn-Becker and Lygia Pape are also on show. The wall by Sarah Morris next to the museum is a popular spot for a selfie. **For friends of leading collections of modern art**

H Kunstsammlung NRW K21 Ständehaus

Ständehausstraße 1 | 40217 Düsseldorf
www.kunstsammlung.de

The K21 is the museum for international contemporary art, and the Renaissance Revival building that houses it features an impressive glass roof. The museum's collection includes works by international artists such as Ai Weiwei, Andreas Gursky, Hito Steyerl, Rosemarie Trockel, Wolfgang Tillmans and Marina Abramović. Special events are frequently held beneath the impressive glass dome roof. **For friends of the unusual, the bizarre and the noisy**

A Kunstpalast

Ehrenhof 4–5 | 40479 Düsseldorf
www.kunstpalast.de

The Kunstpalast takes you on a journey through international art history. In the chronologically presented collection, paintings and sculptures stand next to everyday objects, offering new and fascinating perspectives. The Kunstpalast also houses an internationally renowned glass museum, showcases Japanese and Islamic art, and hosts special exhibitions on art, photography, design, fashion and music. Young visitors also get their money's worth in rooms that have been specially created for them. **For friends of exploring the grey area between art and design**

E Kunsthalle Düsseldorf

Grabbeplatz 4 | 40213 Düsseldorf
www.kunsthalle-duesseldorf.de

The Kunsthalle and Kunstverein have been located in the concrete building on Grabbeplatz square since the 1960s. Joseph Beuys would have liked to have seen the building blown up, but today its brutalist architecture is considered visionary. The Kunsthalle hosts avant-garde shows that always draw an international audience. What looks like the museum's café is in fact a club specialising in electronic music, the Salon des Amateurs, whose DJs are known around the world. The listed Kunsthalle building is due to be renovated from 2026 and will therefore distribute its exhibition programme around the city. **For friends of experiments and international events**

C NRW-Forum Düsseldorf

Ehrenhof 2 | 40479 Düsseldorf
www.nrw-forum.de

The NRW-Forum has a special sense for the groundbreaking. It presents young photography, pop culture and all things digital in exhibitions, festivals and workshops. The creative community values it as a venue for experimentation and networking. The NRW-Forum is also home to PONG, where trendy regional gastronomy meets innovative pop culture events. **For friends of photography, pop and digital culture**

G KIT – Kunst im Tunnel

Mannesmannufer 1 b | 40213 Düsseldorf
www.kunst-im-tunnel.de

KIT is a 140 metre long, subterranean exhibition space right underneath the Rhine promenade. The exhibitions mounted here showcase contemporary art by recent graduates of the Academy of Arts in the genres of sculpture, painting, photography, video and installation art. A visit to the KIT Café, which rises like a monolith on the banks of the Rhine, is highly recommended. During the summer months, you can enjoy the best views of the river sitting in front of the exhibition space. **For friends of contemporary art that explores intriguing themes**

Art:walk museum pass

The Art:walk in the heart of the city is an exceptional museum mile, and it's not just the art on display that is extraordinary. Along the route lie some of the city's most beautiful locations and heritage-listed parks: Hofgarten park, Königsallee and Kö-Bogen I and II, Ständehaus-park and the Rhine promenade. For just €25, the Art:walk museum pass offers unlimited 48-hour access to the collections and exhibitions at the six notable art museums in the heart of Düsseldorf. www.visitduesseldorf.de/artwalk48

