

Besucher*innen in der Ausstellung „Sibylle Bergemann“
Berlinische Galerie, Foto: © Harry Schütger



Our visitors are back

**More than 162,000 people visit
the Berlinische Galerie**

The Berlinische Galerie welcomed more than 162,000 visitors through its doors last year, nearly 70,000 more than in 2021.

Thomas Köhler, the director of Berlin’s public art museum, is very happy with this response: “Our visitors are back. After two years of restrictions, we are seeing familiar numbers again. We are delighted that our programme is attracting such great interest.”

A particular attraction was “Sibylle Bergemann. Town and Country and Dogs: Photographs 1966–2010” (24 June – 10 October 2022), which drew in 69,078 guests. With a selection of over 200 photographs, 30 of them previously unpublished, the exhibition took a retrospective and personal look at the work of one of Germany’s best-known photographers. Another highlight in 2022 was the opening of “Magyar Modern. Hungarian Art in Berlin 1910–1933”, which will run until 6 February. With about 200 paintings, prints, sculptures, photographs, films, stage sets and architectural drawings, it recalls the close links forged between Hungarian artists and the city of Berlin.

All the other exhibitions over the year played their part in boosting the satisfying visitor statistics: “Alicja Kwade: In Absence” (18 September 2021 – 4 April 2022), “Images in Fashion – Clothing in Art: Photography, Fine Arts and Fashion since 1900” (18 February – 30 May 2022), “Nina Canell: Tectonic Tender” (29 April – 29 August 2022), “InterPlay: Tabea Blumenschein – Ulrike Ottinger” (15 July – 31 October 2022) and “Class Issues: In and Out of Precarity”, a partnership between the neue Gesellschaft für bildende Kunst (nGbK) and the Berlinische Galerie, which will remain open until 9 January.

The permanent exhibition at the Berlinische Galerie has been enriched since the autumn of 2022 by another partnership: “Embracing Modernism” features 12 outstanding works from the collection of the Stadtmuseum Berlin. They were painted during modernism’s heyday by eminent artists: Max Beckmann, Theo von Brockhusen, Lovis Corinth, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, Walter Leistikow, Max Liebermann, Edvard Munch and Lesser Ury. Meanwhile, until 6 February, there is still time to see “Paint it all!” with 15 contributions by artists currently based in Berlin. These are from the museum’s own collection and most of them are on show for the first time.

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After a break for conversions (8 February – 28 April 2023), the Berlinische Galerie will launch its new exhibition season for 2023 on 29 April with not one but three shows by contemporary artists: Julius von Bismarck, Nasan Tur and Böhler & Orendt.

Julius von Bismarck (*1983) explores how people define their place within their immediate environment and how society negotiates the concept of nature. He frequently uses deconstruction as a tool to question how, as a society, we evaluate nature as landscape and who asserts the right to determine the discourse. For his exhibition at the Berlinische Galerie, Bismarck adopts a biographical approach for the first time, integrating German colonial history as well as current reflections on nature.

Nasan Tur (*1974) addresses the political and social conditions that define our times. His works are experimental arrangements that draw attention to ideologies, social norms and behavioural codes and expand our options for individual action. To this end, he examines statements, gestures and images found in the media or in the public space and distils them into miniatures that reflect the social crises and discourse of our time.

Two playful installations will fill the exhibition space in “Böhler & Orendt: The Sweet Certainty”, which tells the story of the furless species on Planet Earth. Matthias Böhler (*1981) and Christian Orendt (*1980) formed their artistic duo in 2008. They bring wit, irony and black humour to their account of human dealings: how we waste resources that took millions of years to evolve, how we have already destroyed more than 2.5 billion hectares of forest and exterminated over 60 per cent of terrestrial vertebrates.

From 12 May the exhibition “Suddenly Wonderful” will focus on big buildings constructed in West Berlin during the 1970s, while the Cold War was still raging, both as blueprints for the future and to provide new homes for science, research and the arts. Today, after years of neglect, these buildings are technically obsolete and threatened by demolition. Construction records from the museum’s collection will be combined with works of art to describe how these projects were born and why they are so valuable as architectural monuments of more than just local significance. The exhibition will also present new material from current projects to assess the viability of these important sites.

Our highlight from 15 September will be “Edvard Munch: Magic of the North”. Illustrated by paintings, prints and photographs, it tells the story of Edvard Munch and Berlin. It will feature about 80 works by Munch himself, complemented by those of other artists who, in the late 19th century, set their stamp on how Berlin imagined the North and how modern art took hold in the city. This exhibition is a partnership with the MUNCH in Oslo.

Lovers of photography will come into their own again from 12 October when the exhibition “Greenery: Plants in contemporary photography” presents recent works, mostly from the museum’s Photography Collection, that investigate the often contradictory relationship between humans and plants through the medium of photography. The six photographers and artists do not focus on vegetation in its wild and untamed state, but on how it has been overlaid by human activity.

Press

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Admission 10 €, concessions 6 €

(prices may vary during temporary exhibitions)

Wed – Mon 10 am – 6 pm

Closed on Tuesdays