

BERLIN ART WEEK 10—14 SEP 2025

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Berlin Art Week 2025—With more than 140,000 visitors, the 14th edition of the festival week draws to a successful close

Berlin Art Week 2025 comes to an end this evening. From Wednesday to Sunday the capital—working with more than 100 partners and across more than 300 events—presented an expansive and diverse programme of contemporary art.

Kulturprojekte Berlin reflects on a vibrant 14th edition of the festival week. »Berlin Art Week is the city's largest contemporary art festival. We are thrilled to have once again brought together more than 100 partners to create a multifaceted programme. With over 20 institutional exhibition openings, around 50 new launches during ›Gallery Night‹, and various special programmes, performances, talks and tours, Berlin Art Week has brought the breadth of Berlin's art scene to life, attracted more than 140,000 visitors from Germany and abroad—and left a powerful imprint on the city's art scene. Our heartfelt thanks go to all the artists involved; their contributions were central to making this week so alive,« says Simone Leimbach, Head of Exhibitions and Events at Kulturprojekte Berlin.

At the festival meeting point ›Berlin Art Week Garten‹ at Hamburger Bahnhof, visitors gathered in the open air for Caique Tizzi's food intervention, listened to talks on topics from democracy to the freedom of art and science, and ended their evenings with open-air cinema in collaboration with Videoart at Midnight and music from Berlin-based DJs in partnership with Trauma. The symposium ›Shaping the Future of Cultural Spaces and Museums Today‹ brought together international curators and museum directors to discuss youth participation, innovative museum models and the role of cultural institutions. As host of ›Berlin Art Week Garten‹, Hamburger Bahnhof launched its autumn programme with a major exhibition by Petrit Halilaj, presenting his first operatic work ›Syrigana‹ alongside sculptures, installations and video works from across different phases of his practice.

»Art speaks—loudly or softly, sometimes with brute force—through the work of both celebrated artists and young, lesser-known voices. This year's Berlin Art Week gave that plurality a stage, opening experiences to a wide public that are often reserved for only a few, such as encounters with private collections. New formats like ›Featured Night‹ placed Berlin's independent scene firmly at the heart of the festival programme, with nomadic initiatives and venues ripe for rediscovery drawing wider audiences to the spaces and projects that shape and enrich the city—and without which Berlin would not be what it is. Making them visible and securing their future remains essential. At a time when democratic foundations are under strain, the campaign ›Caution Democracy!‹ will carry this artistic polyphony into public space well beyond Berlin Art Week in the years to come,« says Mona Stehle, Artistic Director of Berlin Art Week.

On Friday evening ›Featured Night‹ debuted as Berlin Art Week's new format, turning the city into a stage for special programmes. Openings, performances, talks and tours unfolded into late-night parties—at Funkhaus, Flutgraben and Haus der Visionäre among others. Twenty-five projects and initiatives in the ›Featured‹ section drew visitors to unexpected places: Cem A's ›Crit Club‹, in collaboration with Trauma and ›Texte zur Kunst‹, took over St.-Elisabeth-Kirche; in the Remise in Wrangelkiez, the exhibition ›Maximak‹ brought together some 40 Berlin-based and international artists; while Gerard Rohling presented a new show at Passage on Hermannplatz U-Bahn station. Distinctive alliances emerged as well: Refuge Worldwide's ›Humans in Transit‹,

curated by Ärzte ohne Grenzen e.V., told stories of displaced people, while A Trans and the Museum Haus des Papiers joined forces for a tour and conversations.

As part of the ›Open Houses‹ programme, some of Berlin's most renowned private collections—among them the Boros Collection—opened their doors without prior booking. The ›Meet the Artist‹ format offered insight into the relationships between artists and collectors, including Nanne Meyer with Achim Freyer, Donata Wenders with Ivo Wessel, and Jordan Strafer at Fluentum. On Saturday evening ›Discovering Collections!‹ granted visitors a rare glimpse into the otherwise private spaces of collectors Katharina Garbers-von Boehm, Brigitte Trotha, Georg Reutter and Alexandra Hackelsberger.

The Positions Berlin Art Fair brought together 75 local, national, and international galleries in the hangar of the former Tempelhof Airport, offering a concentrated overview of current trends in contemporary art. For Gallery Night, 48 Berlin galleries presented new openings in their gallery spaces throughout the city.

Berlin Art Week celebrated standout artists with a series of awards. At Kvost—Kunstverein Ost, David Apikadze picked up the 2025 Claus Michaletz Prize. The Goethe-Institut and HAU Hebbel am Ufer, working with Berlin Art Week, launched the online short-film series ›Alsolation‹, selecting 20 works from 205 international submissions. This year's €10,000 VBKI-Preis Berliner Galerien went to Robert Grunenberg.

Berlin Art Week 2025 ends on a high note and is already looking forward to next year. The 15th edition of Berlin Art Week will take place from 9 to 13 SEP 2026.

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