

BERLIN ART WEEK 9—13 SEP 2026

PRESS RELEASE
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Berlin Art Week 2026—The fifteenth edition drew about 200,000 visitors, sending a strong signal for Berlin's art scene

With 125 partners and more than 300 events, Berlin Art Week brought the contemporary art world together across the city for a week. The programme for its fifteenth anniversary edition captured the vitality and diversity of Berlin's art scene. The festival drew attention far beyond its individual exhibitions and events, attracting about 200,000 visitors from Berlin and international guests from around the world.

Berlin Art Week kicked off on Wednesday, with museums and institutions opening a host of new exhibitions. On Thursday, ›Positions Berlin Art Fair‹ welcomed more than ninety international galleries from around twenty countries to the hangars of the former Tempelhof Airport, while more than fifty Berlin galleries unveiled new presentations for ›Gallery Night‹. On Friday evening, the ›Featured‹ section led visitors to around thirty project spaces, initiatives and special projects selected by an independent jury, scattered across some of the city's more unusual locations, from an industrial hall and a historic kitchen building to a U-Bahn station, a hotel suite, a shop window and a thatched pavilion on the riverbank. Private collections rounded off the festival over the weekend, opening their normally closed doors for ›Open Houses‹ at ›Discovering Collections!‹ and offering rare glimpses into Berlin's collecting scene.

The VBKI-Preis Berliner Galerien, which recognises outstanding programmes by emerging Berlin galleries during Berlin Art Week, went to Super Super Markt this year. Other prestigious art prizes also marked the festival with exhibition openings: Jeewi Lee's first solo presentation in Berlin opened at Berlinische Galerie as part of the Gasag Kunstpreis 2026; Lucia Tallová presented her exhibition for Deutsche Bank ›Artist of the Year‹ 2026 at PalaisPopulaire; and Maurizio Cattelan's exhibition for the Preis der Nationalgalerie 2026 opened at Neue Nationalgalerie.

›Berlin Art Week Garten‹ at Kulturforum served as the festival's central meeting point for five days, with a free daily programme of talks, performances, workshops and DJ sets. It also brought fresh energy to the public space between Gemäldegalerie and Neue Nationalgalerie. Ersan Mondtag and Nadim Samman presented ›Alternde Meister‹ at Gemäldegalerie for Berlin Art Week in a co-production with Berliner Ensemble, while ›Perform!‹ engaged with the architecture of Neue Nationalgalerie's terrace through works including a performance by Trisha Brown and a piece by Kiani Del Valle created specifically for the Mies van der Rohe building. The construction site of the future Berlin modern museum opened to visitors for the first time, offering a glimpse of its eventual use with a presentation of work by Gordon Matta-Clark. Talks at ›Berlin Art Week Garten‹ explored topics including the impact of artificial intelligence on art and creativity, the political dimensions of technological developments, European cultural cooperation and sustainable visions for the future. Workshops such as ›Is Democracy (Not) an Art?‹, developed in cooperation with the ›Vorsicht Demokratie!‹ (›Caution: Democracy!‹) initiative, asked how art can help people make their voices heard.

Initiatives including a meeting of the European network ›The Spider‹ bolstered the festival's international connections. The network brings together art weeks from across Europe and creates opportunities for professional exchange among cultural practitioners. Representatives from Budapest, Amsterdam, Zurich, Vienna, Prague and Stockholm took part.

Berlin Art Week 2026 closes on a high note, with plans already under way for its next edition. The sixteenth edition of Berlin Art Week will take place from 8—12 SEP 2027.

About Berlin Art Week: Berlin Art Week is the largest gathering of Berlin's contemporary art scene. From 9—13 SEP, more than one hundred museums, galleries, project spaces, collections and one art fair open their doors to everyone who wants to see, experience and discuss art. Five days of exhibitions, performances, screenings and talks—across the city.

Berlin Art Week is a project of Kulturprojekte Berlin. It receives funding from the Senate Department for Economic Affairs, Energy and Public Enterprises, as well as from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through the Berlin Senate Department for Culture and Social Cohesion. The festival is realised with the support of Berliner Volksbank eG.

Berlin Art Week Press Contact
Alexia Timmermans
press@berlinartweek.de
berlinartweek.de/en/press/

International Press
Nicola Jeffs
nj@nicolajeffs.com