

Free Guide
2022

POLY



**How the
Ruhr Area works
Arts, Music,
Design and Food**

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REGIONALVERBAND
RUHR

Intro

One town, one city? No, lots of towns and cities. Indeed, the Ruhr region is often called the “city of cities”. Poly will tell you all about their differences and similarities, above all what unites them all. The most prominent unifying factor is art and culture, which are in a constant process of change. The same applies to their surroundings.

WANT TO DISCOVER MORE?

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- STORM-
ILLUSTRATION.DE

Anyone speeding through one of Germany's largest urban areas on a train or along a motorway will quickly notice how fluid the city boundaries are here. Travellers in the area need other points of orientation than signs at the entrance to a particular town or city. These tend to be places that excite people. Which give them a sense of identity and belonging.

We have also been keeping an eye open for them, so this booklet will give you the low-down on places undergoing radical changes. One of them is the “Kortländer Kiez” in Bochum which was once predominantly working-class but has now been transformed into a trendy neighbourhood. For a brand new chapter on outdoor tips we cycled along part of the Emscher Art Trail. In one location Julius von Bismarck has built miniature replicas of buildings (see our cover) that were once typical of the area, but have long since been demolished. We have met interesting designers, looked into the first-class cinema culture in the Ruhr region and checked out the vinyl scene on record players, compiled a cultural calendar for 2022 and visited the huge industrial spaces that the “Ruhrtriennale” festival transforms into performance venues every year.

Have fun exploring the area!

Your “Poly” Team

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PLEASE NOTE!
Because of Corona changes are possible at any time.

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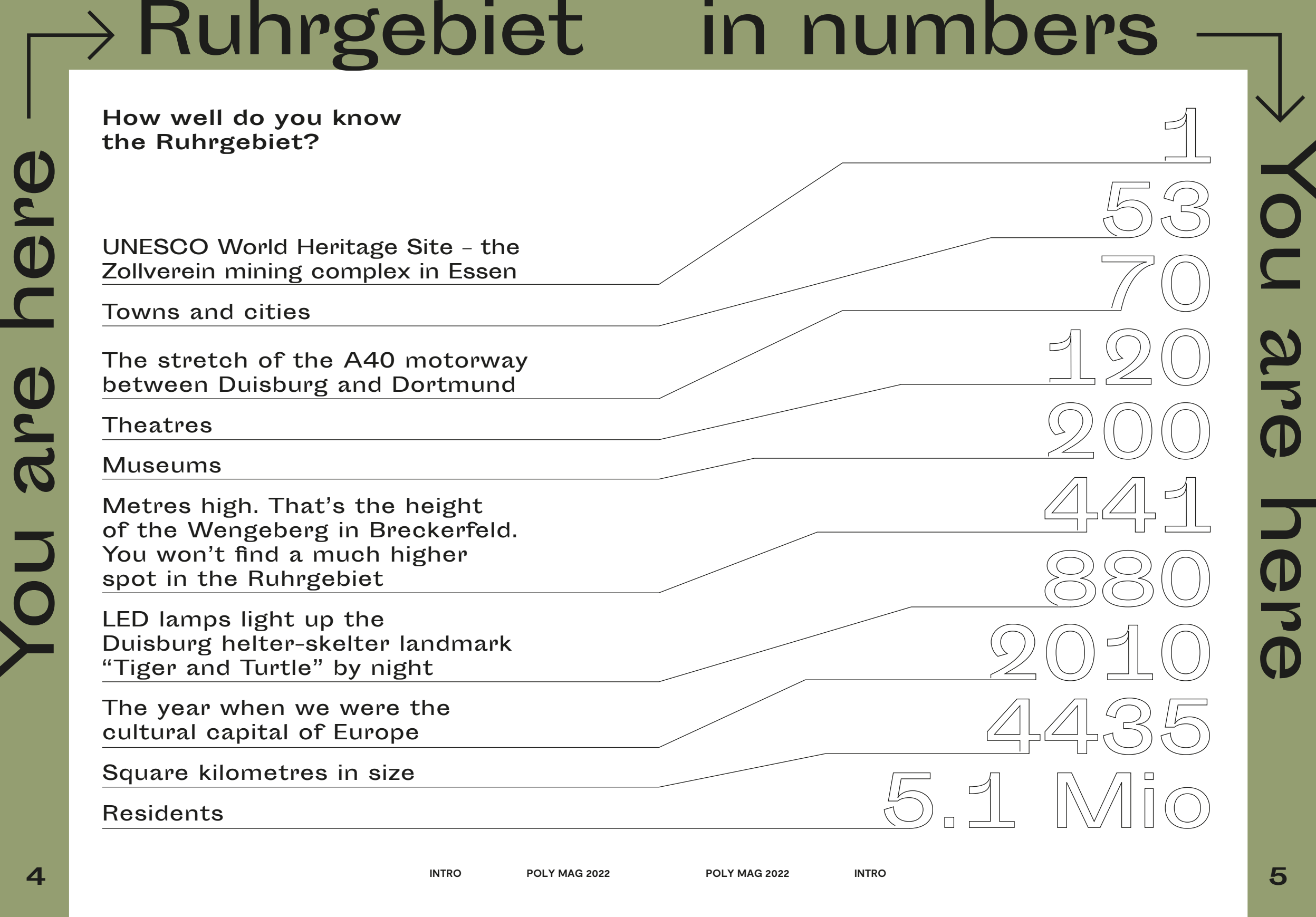
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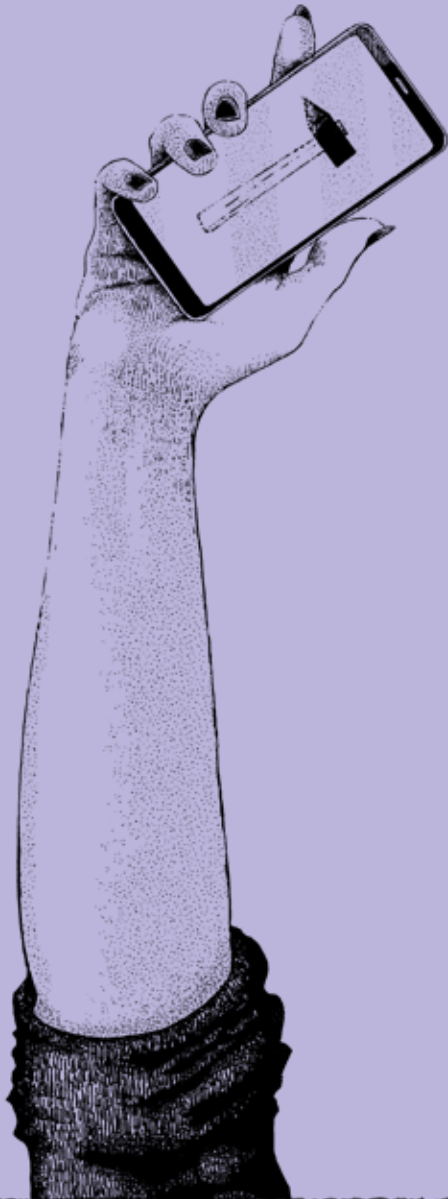
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Working class:
From steel to Start up –
how the Ruhr Area
works



busy

There was once a foundry here. Then the famous theatre director Peter Zadek came and turned the BO-Fabrik into an outdoor venue for his playhouse. Today the KoFabrik is a thriving and creative neighbourhood centre in Bochum. We've taken a look around the "Kortländer Kiez" (→ p. 8) and compiled a list of some interesting co-working spaces in the region. (→ p. 14)



KUGELPUDEL | Dorstener Straße 1

An alternative ice cream bar offering creative flavours with or without milk, coffee, waffles and snacks.

→ [KUGELPUDEL.COM](https://www.kugelpudel.com)

ISKANDAR BARBERSHOP | Hernerstraße 9

Ihab Iskandars customers include football stars from rival clubs like Schalke, Borussia Dortmund and VfL Bochum, as well as the rapper Capital Bra.



Equal treatment for all

TEXT

Max Florian Kühlem

PHOTOS

Daniel Sandrowski

When people talk about the “Kortländer” in Bochum, the eyes of oldies light up just as much as those of the trendy young. On the one hand, the term designates a legendary pub that existed until the 1980s, and on the other, it refers to a current, alternative nightlife area that is unparalleled in the Ruhr region.



THE TRINKHALLE | Herner Straße 8

A large selection of craft beers, not forgetting table tennis, table football and art exhibitions between the rudimentary pallet furniture.

→ [FACEBOOK.COM](https://facebook.com/trinkhalleruhrgebeat)

[TRINKHALLERUHRGEBEAT](https://trinkhalleruhrgebeat.de)

BIOKU | Herner Straße 14

A loose food shop with a wide selection of unpackaged organic products and a large space for workshops on subjects like upcycling, for example.

→ [BIOKU.ORG](https://bioku.org)

KOFABRIK

The neighbourhood centre with a café, urban garden, yoga room and co-working spaces.

→ [KOFABRIK.DE](https://kofabrik.de)

From 1879 to 1913, Ferdinand Kortländer had a legendary inn in a building on the corner of Herner Straße and Dorstener Straße just north of the city centre. The inn was later taken over by others and remained a permanent fixture under the name Kortländer. The only pub in the district that existed with it was Paddy's Irish Pub that's still going today. It was the first to establish Irish pub culture in the Ruhrgebiet at the end of the 1970s, and has tenaciously outlived all its successors. Even now you can play darts in the small, old-fashioned pub, enjoy a freshly tapped Guinness or taste the rich selection of whiskeys.

A lot has changed over the past decades around the Kortländer (which now houses a beauty salon) and Paddy's, thanks to the change in pub culture and the arrival of creative workers. It has been a long journey to today's diverse, lively creative quarter with its architects, designers, advertising and marketing people, a music studio, and a variety of pubs and cafés. The first attempt to reestablish it as a nightlife area was made by the caterer Marc Tewes, who opened two cool establishments on the inner-city section of Herner Straße at the beginning of the 2000s. These were the pub restaurant "Rauschen" behind stained-glass windows in a traditional pub, and the "London Tokyo Paris" bar with its large shop windows, retro furniture, DJs and bottled beer.

"London Tokyo Paris" was followed in 2006 by "Goldkante" which had a similar approach. Today the beautiful shop with the gold-framed windows is home to "Café Eden". The retro furniture has remained – and also the fact that the shop is run by an association. Many people from all walks of life meet up here: young and old, students, the employed and the unemployed. Its services are also inclusive, and range from a reading circle to games evenings, a "deep talk" circle and a sewing group. "Inclusive" is how you could generally describe the hustle and bustle in the neighbourhood that is now called "Kortland" or "Kortländer Kiez". The utopian idea of a society that unites diverse

cultural influences – something that is often attributed to the Ruhrgebiet in particular because of its history of industrial migration – is being turned into a reality here. The square in front of the alternative ice cream parlour "Kugelpudel" is where they all come together: young people, the trendy and the more old-fashioned, older residents, newcomers from the Middle East, as well as people visiting the Turkish and Arabic cafés and shisha bars just around the corner. When "Kugelpudel" opened eight years ago, its owner Julia Bernecker said: "I want to do my bit to help develop an alternative neighbourhood". She's done this faster than expected.

"A lot of young people have moved into the area," says Julia Bernecker today. From a bench in front of her ice cream parlour she observes the hustle and bustle on Dorstener Straße and Herner Straße. An older local resident who has a garden and several children, takes care of the plant pots on the square. And Julia helped to find the premises for the first zero waste shop in Bochum, "Bioku", a little further down the Herner Straße. "At first I had the idea of opening a food cooperative there myself", she says. "But then I decided to leave the project in other hands."

If you walk towards the town centre from the "Bioku" zero waste shop, you will pass by some of the new additions to the Kortländer Kiez. In the shop right next door, Simon Jakob is putting the finishing touches to the décor of his new wine bar, "OA". "At first I'll only be selling German wines here," he says, explaining his special concept. He is also happy to reveal what lies behind the name of the bar. "O and A are the vowels missing from the neighbouring KRTLND café." The café not only serves one of the best coffees in town and has a constantly good-humoured, singing barista, it is also an important networking venue.

"At the KRTLND café, for example, I got to know the people involved in the KoFabrik neighbourhood centre and through them I got new commissions," says landscape architect Sebastian Sowa, who works just around the corner in a shop on Kanalstraße. Some

The utopian idea of a society that unites diverse cultural influences is being turned into a reality here.



MITWERK | Stühmeyerstraße 33
Two separate offices, eight desks and four-metre high ceilings add up to create a charming space. In accordance with the overriding concept of the location, the small, changing community also feels a sense of obligation to the constantly developing environment in the erstwhile ironworks.
→ MITWERK.ORG

STÜH33 | Stühmeyerstraße 33
20 Flex desks are spread across the large space and the working stations can be used and pre-booked as required. But in the evenings the desks are kept free to allow the room to be used for events.
→ STUEH33.DE

artists also have their studios here, and the owner of the KRTLND café, Markus Schlichtherle, runs a recording studio that is well-known in German pop circles. “Sowatorini” is the name of the landscape architects’ office that operates on an axis between Bochum and Berlin, because one of Sebastian Sowa’s partners is called Gianluca Torini, who runs the Berlin office. The organic fashion label “Frau Misoke” has set up shop in a backroom of Sowatorini’s Bochum branch, and architecture students are also busy tweaking their models at the large wooden table.

Sebastian Sowa, who works on projects and wins architecture awards all over Germany and beyond, is pleasantly surprised by what is happening in his immediate neighbourhood. In front of the KoFabrik, for example, there will soon be a restricted-traffic zone with a new road surface. “The city is also generally very open-minded about structural changes in the area.” The council is probably happy to let the Kortländer Kiez develop into a creative quarter by itself without any official designation or large-scale promotion – and is helping as much as it can to further developments.

A place like the KoFabrik must be a dream come true for all urban planners. This amazing project is housed in a building steeped in history on the corner of the street called “Am Kortländer”. The old brick building once housed the Heintzmann iron foundry, where the legend-ary Bochum theatre director Peter Zadek established his outdoor venue, BO-Fabrik, in the 1970s. In the 1980s it was occupied by squatters, and most recently it was a day centre for the homeless. Now it’s been turned into a thriving neighbourhood and co-working centre.

Everyone meets up in the neighbourhood centre: advertisers, the operators of a studio for “sustainable innovations”, artists, graphic designers, video makers, language course providers, café owners and yoga teachers, not forgetting the social worker responsible for the neighbourhood. “We want to be a place for the neighbourhood, not simply a tenant in a shared

office. Every-one here is committed to putting in time for the neighbourhood”, says managing director Henry Beierlorzer, explaining the project, which has received funding from organisations like the Montag Foundation, which supports non-profit, urban spaces.

At some point during the meetings of the people involved in the KoFabrik the term “Little Warsaw” comes up. That was the old name for the neighbourhood, recalls one of the workers in the advertising agency. The reason is clear when you realise that many of the Polish workers who flocked to the Ruhrgebiet from 1870 onwards settled here, thereby making Bochum the centre of “Ruhr Poland”. The Robotników workers’ bank, the Polish Trades Union Association “Zjed-

noczenie Zawodowe Polskie” and a branch of the “Kasa depozytowa” bank, to name but a few, were located on the street “Am Kortländer”. These institutions no longer exist, but since 1947 the so-called “Dom Polski” (Am Kortländer 6) has housed the Federal Headquarters of the Union of Poles in Germany. The building is currently being renovated to house the Porta Polonica Documentation Centre with the aid of funds from the federal government and the NRW Foundation.

Some of the people from different cultural backgrounds

who meet up in the evenings on Herner Straße for craft beer, table tennis or underground art exhibitions in the pub that is simply called “Trinkhalle”, have Polish-sounding surnames. Many of them may have just emerged from the Iskandar barber-shop across the street – the final astonishing Kiez phenomenon that I shall briefly highlight here. Ihab Iskandar has been trimming hair since 2012. His customers include football stars from rival clubs like Schalke, Borussia Dortmund and VfL Bochum, as well as the rapper Capital Bra. Why them exactly? “I can’t say,” says Ihab Iskandar. “Maybe they just notice how much I love my work and that everyone is treated equally here. The celebrities love the fact that they don’t enjoy any special treatment.” ➤

“We want to be a place for the neighbourhood, not simply a tenant in a shared office.”

Henry Beierlorzer, managing director of KoFabrik

The new working class

Co-working spaces in the Ruhrgebiet

HÜLSWERK

The Hülswerk in the town of Marl in the north of the Ruhrgebiet is one of the few places to go for creative minds in need of space. Start-ups, freelancers and companies can find office and agency workspaces in a stylish, relaxed atmosphere in a pedestrian precinct right in the middle of the district of Hüls. Here it's impossible to separate offices from a furniture store, and a gallery from a sales room. This all adds up to an extraordinary environment for meetings. The Hülswerk also welcomes presentations and events.

MARL | Hülsstraße 12a

→ HÜLSWERK.DE

COLLECTIVE.RUHR

The story goes like this: property developers meet surf camp operators and the result is two large rooftop terraces with BBQ grills and a view over the district of Rüttenscheid. If you're also thinking about work, collective.ruhr can offer you optimal conditions above the rooftops of Essen's trendy, creative district. There are 800 square metres of offices and desks, all with the latest technical equipment to allow you to work separately or collectively – not to speak of the attractive faded carpets.

ESSEN | Rüttenscheider Straße 120

→ COLLECTIVE.RUHR

NOBUZZWORDS

The name says it all. Ideas are thrown up in small groups on the "Bolzplatz", which then have to prove their worth in the "Muckibude" conference area. "Nobuzzwords", a co-working space founded by a team of managers, offers people the opportunity to brainstorm above the rooftops in the centre of Dortmund, before sorting their ideas out again collectively. The desks and offices here are primarily aimed at ambitious start-ups.

DORTMUND | Hansastraße 30

→ NOBUZZWORDS.DE

C/O – RAUM FÜR KOOPERATION

The Science Park and the Rheinelbe Sculpture Wood are only a few minutes away, and Arminia Ückendorf's training ground is just around the corner. You couldn't get nearer to the heart of the Ruhrgebiet if you tried! The "c/o- raum für Kooperation" is located in the creative quarter in the south of Gelsenkirchen. Companies and self-employed people, institutions, artists and associations with new ideas meet up here to get more done together. The founding team sets an ideal example as they are very well networked in the local cultural and urban development scene.

GELSENKIRCHEN | Bochumer Straße 140/142

→ CO-RAUM.DE



CO © SEBASTIAN BECKER

The new working class

KS36

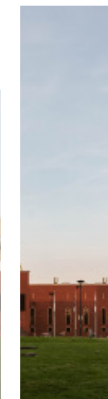
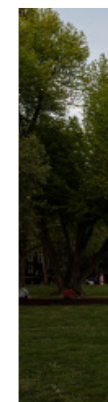
The activists behind KS36 call their group of offices in Duisburg Central Station a "creative pasture". This is pretty obvious, because the heads of the "Rheinschafe" agency were responsible for converting the original Hild workshops – and they needed the appropriate space to air their ideas. While the agency uses a large part of the converted locksmith's shop itself, desks have also been created for freelance workers with connections to the necessary infrastructure. Workshops and open events deepen the close ties to the student community and the scene in Neudorf.

DUISBURG | Kammerstraße 36

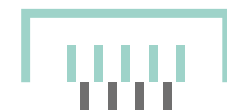
→ KS36.DE



KS36



DEUTSCHES
BERGBAU-MUSEUM
BOCHUM



EXPERIENCE MINING

www.bergbaumuseum.de

Wow! That's beautiful!
Design in the
Ruhr Area



pr etty

A lamp made from old footballs?
In terms of design you can hardly get
much closer to the Ruhr area. We asked
Maciej and Katarzyna Karolczyk from
the Bochum design label “Karolchicks”
what upcycling means to them (→ p. 18), and
also explored the Dortmund “Nordstadt”
style of Stefan Tuschy and Jannis Reichard
from the “Bande für Gestaltung” (→ p. 22).

New Lives

TEXT
Volker K. Belghaus

PHOTOS
Karolchicks



Maciej and Katarzyna Karolczyk from the Bochum-based design label “Karolchicks” are turning leftover materials into new objects – footballs become lamps and rustic pub furniture is transformed into modish interior design.



It all began with cans of olives. Not the small ones from supermarket, but the large ones you find in restaurants. They are much too good to throw away because of their beautiful designs. But what else can you do with them? Make stools, like Maciej and Katarzyna Karolczyk from the upcycling design label “Karolchicks” in Bochum. The olive stool was their first product in 2011. The cans were reworked, partially repainted or glued and fitted with cushions. The space inside could be used to keep smaller items. The stools pointed the way towards upcycling; the reworking of used materials into new things. Maciej Karolczyk had studied product design, his wife Katarzyna previously travelled the world for her work in the textile industry and knew from experience the masses of waste fabric scraps that accumulate in manufacturing processes. So the decision to create something new from old materials was the logical step. In 2012 they took another step in the shape of football lamps made from old, nicely scuffed leather balls. (These are still diligently donated by football clubs in Bochum!). For this purpose, some of the hexagonal elements are removed

and recycled as key rings or small bowls. The result is an opening for the light bulb. The lamps are then hung on a textile cord, the colour of which can be chosen to match the colour of your favourite club.

Their “cat balls” are also made of used fabrics. The textile retreat for cats, which can be turned into a basket in a few easy steps, is either made from coffee sacks or very robust trade fair carpets, the remnants of which would otherwise end up in a container when the stands are set up. This often results in unexpected combinations of patterns.

With their interior design for the “Kugelpudel” ice cream bar in Bochum, the Karolczyks then took the idea of upcycling practically to the extreme. The furniture left behind from the former “Haus Ehrenfeld” pub was taken apart, recombined with other materials and turned into sustainable interior design. At times the designers screwed the rustic oak chairs under a disused gymnastics bench, at other times the chairs were used as frames for tables or turned into comfortable “barrel chairs” with a new backrest made of blue plastic from a food barrel. The ceiling in the gents is now boarded up with the back and side walls from old cupboards.



At present Maciej and Katarzyna Karolczyk are working on new ideas in an open studio. One of these is smaller football lamps for window sills and chests of drawers. That said, it would be a good idea to have enough blue textile cords in stock for the local football fans. This is Bochum, after all! ➡

→ KAROLCHICKS.COM
→ KATZENKUGEL.DE



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Nordstadt Style



CORPORATE PHOTOGRAPHY FOR SILEX GMBH

TEXT

Volker K. Belghaus

PHOTOS

Bande für Gestaltung

Communication designers Stefan Tuschy and Jannis Reichard from Dortmund's "Bande für Gestaltung" give things a special character – for a roofing company and silicone items.



It had to be the Ruhrgebiet. After all, anyone can go to Berlin. Stefan Tuschy from Dresden and Jannis Reichard from Marburg were both drawn to study at Dortmund University of Applied Sciences and Arts, which offered a course in communication design with a focus on photography. This was where they got to know each other and worked on their first interdisciplinary projects. Photography was quickly joined by subjects like typography and book design. At the end of their studies, they found a space in Dortmund's Nordstadt district to work on their diploma.

This is often the time when many young talents decide to move on to other major cities. Tuschy and Reichard elected to stay in Dortmund, partly because they felt they could still do something there that wouldn't be possible in other big cities. In 2007 they founded an agency called "Bande für Gestaltung" (lit: the Design Gang). The name not only fits the Nordstadt with its laid-back attitudes, but also describes their working principle which relies heavily on networking. One of their partners is

DIE KULTURTASCHE
In the Ehrenfeld district between the Bochum Schauspielhaus and the Bermuda-3Eck there's a rather extraordinary skincare shop which also doubles as a concept store. Its products range from sustainable natural cosmetics, skin creams, perfumes and soaps, all the way to teas, liquorice, and beard care items.
BOCHUM | Alte Hattinger Straße 11
→ DIE-KULTURTASCHE.DE

the "Prinzträger" design studio in Bochum, with whom they collaborate on interior design projects. In 2018 they worked with the LWL Zollern Colliery Industrial Museum in Dortmund on an exhibition called "Revier Gestalten". Their female colleagues took care of the scenographic design, whilst the Gang designed the graphic-typographic items including the catalogue. The Gang have also designed a sober logo for the Bochum drugstore "Die Kulturtasche", a conscious contrast to the colourful items in the concept store.

For Stefan Tuschy and Jannis Reichard, the most exciting projects are those in which clients and designers approach each other with open minds. This enables them to come up with unusual ideas and visual languages. For example, their posters for the "ITEM" initiative featured cool snapshots of budgies and noise barriers that initially seemed completely at odds with their client: the Roman Catholic Church in Bochum. This was deliberate!

The same applies to their photos of the products manufactured by "Silex" in Herne, a firm which produces tubes, profiles and moulded parts made of silicone rubber. These could hardly be called stylish unless they are presented in the right light. The two designers were given a whole bag of items for the photoshoot. Set against a luminous background the parts have an elegance reminiscent of abstract works of art.

The "Dachwerk.NRW" company in Castrop-Rauxel, which specialises in sustainable building, is another creative playground for Tuschy and Reichard. In addition to the logo and corporate design, they also developed merchandising items like a small wooden board, a birdhouse construction kit and a branding iron that can burn a logo into wood. An angular block of wood is used as a support for a stamp intended for business documents. Here too they were lucky to work with young open-minded clients. They told us "Just do it", says Stefan Tuschy. Right up their street! ➡

→ BANDEFUERGESTALTUNG.DE



BRANDING FOR "GREBHANS BEER"



STEFAN TUSCHY AND JANNIS REICHARD © JENS OELLERMANN

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urbanana

The urban jungle encompassing Düsseldorf, Cologne and the Ruhr Area; perfectly shaped like a banana.

Life is vibrant here, with forever changing scenery, creative people and cool places that inspire you, deeply. Come and tour this multifaceted region of NRW and feel the vibe of the urbanana.

How could you explore urbanana any better than the way locals do? Bike through the colorful quarters of Cologne, lined with cafés and small shops; Walk through artsy Düsseldorf with its Rhine tower always in sight and drive around the Ruhr Area if you feel like being moved by the transformation of this former industrial hub.

We have created three tours for you that are perfect for a day for exploring each of the areas in urbanana. Everything is well-connected here, making travelling in urbanana easy! No matter where you are starting or ending point is, no matter where you are, everything belongs to urbanana. Conveniently, all you need is your smartphone: Just scan the QR-Code and it will show you the route on Maps with info about all the different spots.

Let's go! urbanana and its people await you!

Urban Arts in the Ruhr Area



arty

Travellers to the Ruhrgebiet can't miss its legendary "dream factories". Because there's a long tradition of cinema here. We've uncovered the most beautiful auditoriums in the region and found the most important festivals (→ p. 28). We've also recorded an interview about how people from the many different towns and cities in the region get access to literature – or how literature gets brought to the people. (→ p. 34). While we're at it, we've compiled a list of the most beautiful places in the region to sit and browse. (→ p. 38)



Dream factories

TEXTS

Andreas Wilink
Honke Rambow

The Ruhrgebiet has a long film tradition, at the centre of which, of course, are the cinemas. It's only fitting that the largest multiplex cinema in Germany is located in Essen: Cinemaxx has a whopping 16 screens and a total of over 5,000 seats. The UCI multiplex cinema in Bochum's Ruhrpark has been showing the Ruhrgebiet film "Bang Boom Bang" for over 20 years. Cool! The "Metropolis!" is still in operation in Bochum Central Station. It's a genuine old cinema, albeit with a more serious programme than in the past. We've put together a list of some of the most beautiful and remarkable cinemas in the Ruhr region – along with the most important festivals. Lights out, roll the movie!

BOCHUM, ESSEN & THOMAS HERRMANN



LICHTBURG © FRANK VINKEN

THE LICHTBURG

With its 1,250 seats, the Lichtburg in Essen's city centre is not only the largest cinema in Germany but also one of the most beautiful. From the outside it may look inconspicuous, but the entrance with its historic box office is enough to whet your appetite for the big movie. The bar and the impressive auditorium with its sweeping baroque lights exude the aura of the great days of film. Since it was renovated in 2002, the Lichtburg has once again – as it was in the 1950s – become one of the most important venues for film premieres which regularly attract German and European film stars to Essen. Its programme focuses on major productions with high artistic standards. The second, smaller cinema in the basement, the "Sabu", offers a sophisticated art house programme. Incidentally, the popcorn here is available with either sugar or salt. It's always crisp and fresh, with a fine hint of butter.

ESSEN | Kettwiger Straße 36
→ FILMSPIEGEL-ESSEN.DE

THE GALERIE CINEMA

If you step through the door into the basement of a villa in Essen Rüttenscheid, you'll find yourself standing right next to the cinema screen. This is just one of the special features of this tiny art house cinema. Another is the way to the toilet via a kitchen and a bathtub in the sanitary area. You only pay for your ticket after the commercials and trailers. The Galerie Cinema is still a real art house cinema showing several different films a day. At 16.30 on Sundays, however, the programme needs no explaining. Since 1975 the cinema has been continually screening Hal Ashby's "Harold And Maude" in the original version with subtitles.

ESSEN | Julienstraße 73
→ FILMSPIEGEL-ESSEN.DE

FILMSTUDIO GLÜCKAUF

This small basement cinema is proud to call itself "Essen's oldest film theatre" and "one of the oldest cinemas in NRW". It was opened in 1924 in the basement of the "Glückauf" building and destroyed in the Second World War, before being reopened in the 1950s. It still looks the same today – from the box office to the foyer to the auditorium with its distinctive pillars. That said, it is not entirely original. In 2007, the entire building was gutted except for the outside facades. The cinema also disappeared and its inventory was put into storage. Thanks to a large fundraising campaign initiated by the people of Essen, by 2009 the cinema had been rebuilt true to the original. The 250-seat auditorium shows sophisticated art house movies, occasionally in cooperation with the nearby Folkwang Museum.

ESSEN | Rüttenscheider Straße 2
→ FILMSPIEGEL-ESSEN.DE



FILMSTUDIO © PHILIP KISTNER

THE ROXY

The history of Dortmund's art house cinema goes back to the 1930s. Like many cinemas, the Roxy was destroyed during the war and then rebuilt in the 1950s style. Even after undergoing a complete refurbishment in 2011, its period charm was lovingly preserved. In Dortmund's Nordstadt district, the Roxy offers a sophisticated programme – not only of films, but also concerts and occasional talks by artists – under the direction of the cartoonist Holga Rosen. The Roxy is supported by a 'friends' club, that not only ensures independence in the selection of the films, but also makes a significant contribution to the local area and the wonderful atmosphere in the cinema.

DORTMUND | Münsterstraße 35
→ ROXYKINO.DE



ENDSTATION KINO © KAI WYCISK

THE ENDSTATION.KINO

Right in the far east of Bochum lies the district of Langendreer. Here, the erstwhile railway station is now an influential socio-cultural centre which stages concerts, comedy, parties and workshops. The Endstation cinema has been located here since 1988. "Everything apart from the mainstream" is the programme motto. The cinema's numerous partners also play their part: the adult education centre film programme has its screenings here, as does the Museum Bochum. The organisation "Interkultur Ruhr", the humanitarian Cubahilfe and the Aidshilfe also use the space for special showings. The films are regularly presented in the original with subtitles.

BOCHUM | Wallbaumweg 108
→ ENDSTATION-KINO.DE

THE SCHAUBURG

This cinema in Gelsenkirchen is a real movie palace. It was built in 1929 with 1,400 seats. Later the room was divided into three smaller ones. Nevertheless, the aura of a large theatre building with promenades and spectacular staircases can still be felt everywhere today. The "Schauburg" is still a first-run cinema with state-of-the-art technology. But on every third Saturday of the month, it plays host to the mysterious Buio Omega Film Club, when there is a double programme of forgotten and obscure masterpieces of exploitation cinema. The film club is a non-commercial, purely private initiative of fans of the genre, who also give expert introductions to the showings. Their motto "What you miss out on will be irretrievably lost" is spot on. The programme is unique throughout Europe.

GELSENKIRCHEN | Horster Straße 6
→ SCHAUBURG-GELSENKIRCHEN.DE
→ BUIO-OMEGA.DE

THE FILMFORUM

The Filmforum is located on Dellplatz, in Duisburg's trendy Wilhelminian quarter, which is also a popular nightlife area for students. It was founded in 1959 as part of Duisburg's Adult Education Centre, making it one of the oldest municipal cinemas in Germany. At first the films were shown in the main hall of the Adult Education Centre, before the Filmforum moved to "Studio M" in the then newly built Mercatorhalle, (which has since been demolished). The Filmforum has been at Dellplatz since 1980. In addition to the cinema, the institution also looks after the city's cinematic history collection and is jointly responsible for various festivals like the Duisburg Film Week, DOXS! and the Stadtwerke Summer Cinema.

DUISBURG | Dellplatz 16
→ FILMFORUM.DE

THE RIO

Mülheim an der Ruhr did not have a cinema until the Rio opened in 1995. But in 2007 the "Cinema on the River" had to be closed down again for renovations. After two years of negotiations, the cinema found a new home in the "Medien-Haus", where it remains today. In addition to current films, the eighty-seat Rio also has regular showings of older films featuring various themes. Post-screening discussions with directors, and the annual children's film days in cooperation with cinemas in Oberhausen and Essen complete the programme.

MÜLHEIM | Synagogenplatz 3
→ FILMSPIEGEL-ESSEN.DE



FILMFORUM © THOMAS BERNIS

THE SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

No, not Munich and not the then divided Berlin, but Oberhausen! The birthplace of the New German Cinema was here and can be pinpointed to the day: 28. February 1962. During the 8th West German Short Film Festival, 26 filmmakers published a document in which they boldly claimed: "Papa's cinema is dead". The group claimed to take over the responsibility for creating a new wave of German film-making. It took a few more years until the first films were actually made, often in Munich by local directors like Alexander Kluge and Edgar Reitz, who were later to become European representatives of German film culture. Oberhausen, however, represents the will to make a fresh start. The Short Film Festival was in keeping with the social, political and aesthetic mood at the time. Founded in 1954 it is the oldest short film festival in the world. Wim Wenders and Christoph Schlingensief, for example, were socialised cinematically in the Luise Albertz-Halle; and the festival's venue. Hilmar Hoffmann, director of the adult education centre in Oberhausen and later legendary head of the culture department in Frankfurt, was its inventor. He had understood the signs of the times. To quote the motto of the festival: "Culture for all: Open up your Minds, Find the Way to your Neighbour". This meant developing a fresh perspective on world cinema and, above all, initiating a dialogue with the countries and film cultures of the Eastern Block. This included the former GDR, at a time when the Iron Curtain was still barely penetrable.

The Short Film Festival was and still is a seismograph for change and development, and even a driving force for it. It has documented the women's movement, reflected the crisis of German movies since the late 1970s and integrated youth culture (for example in the genre of music videos and advertising clips). It dealt with the new media early on and, most recently, has adopted digital formats. In addition it has always regarded itself as an archive of film history. The avant-garde was and is still at home in Oberhausen.

OBERHAUSEN | 1 - 9. May 2022

→ KURZFILMTAGE.DE

Festivals



FILM STILL FROM "LYDIA", 2021
© TIAN BECKER



A SCENE FROM "QUO VADIS, AIDA", 2021
© DEBLOKADA/ CHRISTINE A. MAIER



A SCENE FROM "ICH HABE DICH GELIEBT", 2021
© ROSA HANNAH ZIEGLER



FILM STILL FROM "LYDIA", 2021
© TIAN BECKER

THE DUISBURG FILM WEEK

Barely 20 kilometres away from Oberhausen, a second festival has been taking place in Duisburg since 1977/78. In terms of content, there is no denying the overlaps with the Short Film Festival. That said, the Duisburg Film Week, which sees itself as a forum for exchange and encounters between film-makers and audiences, is devoted exclusively to documentary films. In the old Federal Republic of Germany it thus made a claim to be the sole representative of the genre. In the former GDR, the Leipzig Week for Cultural and Documentary Film has existed as an older sister since 1955. Today both festivals are in productive competition with each other. Documentary films are wrongly regarded as being more austere than feature films. This was utterly different at the beginning of the genre, when they had an almost revolutionary effect on audiences. The 1920s and 30s, for example, were immensely innovative, featuring names like Robert Flaherty, Walter Ruttmann, Dziga Vertov and Leni Riefenstahl. Over the last three decades, documentary films have enjoyed new popularity. Michael Moore in the USA is not the only one to take the credit for this. The Duisburg Film Week with its long-time director Werner Ruzicka (1985 to 2018) has also played a part in this process of emancipation. Its awards have drawn our attention to important artists like Harun Farocki, Thomas Heise, Romuald Karmakar, Volker Koepp and Werner Schroeter.

DUISBURG | November 2022

→ DUISBURGER-FILMWOCHE.DE

THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FILM FESTIVAL

If they do not belong to A-category festivals like the big three in Berlin, Cannes and Venice, film festivals need their own unique character, a special point of view. Although it cannot be said that women are a minority, films made by women are. When compared to the male-dominated film world, a list of female directors is still pretty short. Margarethe von Trotta and Maren Ade, Liliana Cavani and Lina Wertmüller, Jane Campion, Kathryn Bigelow and Chloé Zhao cannot be counted in dozens. The International Women's Film Festival (IFFF) in Dortmund and Cologne has existed since 2006. It resulted from a merger of the "femme totale" festival in Dortmund and the "feminale" festival in Cologne – both of which were founded in the 1980s – and is now the most important festival of its kind in Germany. The criterion for participation is that the films must be directed and/or produced by women. Sections like international feature films, the Debut Competition and the Panorama series, focus on specific countries and themes, queer cinema and children's and youth programmes open our eyes to a female perspective.

DORTMUND | 15. - 20. June 2022

→ FRAUENFILMFEST.COM

“We roll out the red carpet for our authors”

INTERVIEWER
Volker K. Belghaus

The “literaturgebiet.ruhr” networks the literary landscape from Moers to Unna. “Poly” talked to Antje Deistler, the head of the “Literaturbüro Ruhr”, about authors’ visibility and places at the periphery of the area.



© CHRISTOPH HARDT / FUTURE IMAGE

- POLY Ms. Deistler, when and why did the literaturgebiet.ruhr network come into being?
- AD In 2017, after the first edition of the “lit.Ruhr” festival, an outsider of “lit.Cologne”, someone commented laconically that “at last there’s literature in the Ruhrgebiet”. That was the wake-up call for the regional scene. For if a remark like that finds an echo with funding bodies, it means that the Ruhr scene had not been visible enough till now. And maybe we hadn’t generated enough publicity for successful festivals like “Mord am Hellweg”, “Literatürk” and the many one-off events, not to speak of the work put in by our libraries. If that was the case, it was time to join forces, promote ourselves and become more visible as a network.

- POLY What happened after this initial trigger?
- AD The network grew rapidly. There are now over 100 contacts on our mailing list including municipal libraries, literary societies, festivals and bookshops. Poetry slammers also feel included. As do individuals like the actor Till Beckmann, who involves himself in literary projects alongside his theatre work. He devised a literature show with Karosh Taha, and produced it in direct cooperation with the Literature Office. Creative mavericks like these also regard themselves as part of the network.
- POLY Sounds uncomplicated, given the fact that people like them have to juggle with a population of five million in a vast area like the Ruhrgebiet. And with very different formats, from readings by best-selling authors to evenings with local writers.
- AD That’s the Ruhrgebiet! It’s not one city with a single centre, but plenty of smaller centres with a lot going on. And that’s precisely what makes the region so exciting! You don’t have to drive all the way from Unna to Essen because there’s something special going on there, you can also find amazing events in your own town.
- POLY Looking at your calendar of events, what’s striking is that they all have an equal value. The dates are not arranged according to the size and location of the towns and cities or the popularity of the authors.
- AD Exactly! This juxtaposition is deliberate because it reflects the structure of the region. Even peripheral locations have a lot to offer – like Hattingen in the south. It’s a great place for literature because the municipal library has been extremely active for a long time now. When I hosted a reading there with the detective writer Volker Kutscher, I was able to see for myself how great the audience reaction was. I felt that this is an audience that the library has built up on its own initiative over the years, thanks to its excellent programming. We also want to strengthen this idea with our “tour de literaturgebiet.ruhr” format; sending out interesting authors on tour through various towns and cities, and rolling out the red carpet for them. When well-known writers show up for readings off the beaten track this creates a lot of audience interest. It also attracts the attention of funding bodies and other sponsors.
- POLY At your festival, “Literatour 100”, which took place for the first time in 2021, the authors had to travel and read in different venues on a single day.
- AD Again, this is due to the polycentric structure of the Ruhr region. The last thing we want is a central venue to which our audience has to travel in order to hear our authors. Instead, we send out the authors to 26 different municipal organisers, thereby bringing them right to the doorstep. ➤

EVENTS & PROGRAMM
→ LITERATURGEBIET.RUHR
→ LITERATURBUERO-RUHR.DE

ANTJE DEISTLER
Since 2018 she has been the director of the “Literaturbüro Ruhr” in Gladbeck, the body responsible for organising the “literaturgebiet.ruhr” network. In her capacity as a journalist she writes literary reviews (most recently for the “Büchermarkt” programme broadcast by Deutschlandfunk), and chairs readings. She sits on the board of the NRW Literature Council and is the spokesperson for the literature department of the NRW Cultural Council.

The Dortmunder U – huge, transparent LED screens high above the city point the way to a unique hotspot of art, culture and science, visible from afar.



SUMMER AT THE U © DANIEL SADROWS

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
→ DORTMUNDER-U.DE

research, cultural education and creativity. Exhibitions, film programmes, workshops, lectures, concerts, club evenings, video and sound art all find a dynamic space in the Dortmund U. The Ostwall Museum, the “Hardware MedienKunstVerein”, the UZWEI, the Dortmund University of Applied Sciences and Arts and the Dortmund University of Technology are among the many organisations working together in the “U” to create a future laboratory with a colourful programme for everyone. Here’s just a small selection of our activities in 2022.

This is where the Union Brewery once brewed beer for coal miners. But now it’s a new type of arts centre combining art,

What is going on in 2022?

OSTWALL MUSEUM

Fluxus, Expressionism, Informal Art – the most exciting aspects of 20th and 21st century art can be seen at the Museum Ostwall, even including current photo and video works. The focus in 2022 will be an exhibition entitled “Body & Soul. Thinking, Feeling, Brushing your Teeth”. It looks at various aspects of our bodies, and also our souls. Some works of art will actually be usable. Visitors can even bring their own bodies into the show and become part of a work of art themselves. Flowers in art also have a platform in a major temporary exhibition. “Flowers” will be using all forms of expression from the Baroque to Jawlensky, Warhol and Richter, to reveal their beauty and transience.



BODY & SOUL © ROLAND BAEGE

UZWEI

On the second level of the building young artists will be experimenting with digital and analogue media and showing how we deal with them. One of the highlights in 2022 is an innovative virtual, augmented reality exhibition in which digitally imagined worlds become tangible for visitors and the seemingly impossible becomes possible before their very eyes.

HMKV

The “HardwareMedienKunstverein” (HMKV) regularly causes a stir in the cultural scene with its powerful, controversial exhibitions and experimental media art. This is where they state their position – critical, opinionated, and grounded in content.

SUMMER AT THE U

It’s free and open-air! This year, for the ninth time in a row, the containers on the forecourt of the Dortmund U will be opening their doors for “Summer at the U”. The project, which has now turned into a “city oasis”, has something for everyone thanks to its “made-by-many” approach. The many different styles of concert, readings, slams, and DJ sets are perfect for a short summer break in the city.

TINY FRIDAY

Every Thursday evening from 7 p.m. onwards visitors have the opportunity to get swept up in an exclusive programme of concerts, workshops, film screenings and sports events at various locations in and around the Dortmund U.

THE PICTURE HOUSE

The cinema in the U has become the new place to meet after work. Every Tuesday at 6 p.m. and on the first Friday of every month at 8 p.m. there’s an after-work movie programme featuring films that no longer find a place in mainstream cinemas.

FAMILY SUNDAY

From 12 noon to 5 p.m. on the first Sunday of every month, visitors of all ages are offered a colourful programme on almost every floor of the building. There are tours of the Dortmund U as well as numerous hands-on activities for the whole family to join in the fun together.

DEW21 MUSEUM NIGHT

The Dortmunder U is where the annual DEW21 Museum Night takes place. There are workshops and hands-on activities for young and old alongside a number of guided tours that take a closer look at individual aspects of our current exhibitions.



MAPPING © RUPERT WARREN

Highlights like the façade projection mapping the Lab kiU story-research project – it’s also based in the Dortmund U – recently astonished visitors with its three-dimensional video mapping.

Have a good read!

More than 170 bookshops, over 60 publishing houses and more than 50 libraries! You can find books and more all over the Ruhr. Here's a brief overview.

CRASH, BOOM, BANG!

Comics, cartoons and caricatures have found a place in Dortmund just a few metres from the main railway station. Here the colourful strips have set up home. The "show room" also gives mangas and graphic novels their own stage as well as staging exhibitions, each with its own classy catalogue exclusively available in the shop.
→ COMIC.DORTMUND.DE

NETWORKED READING

The Ruhr literature map (there's also a book), highlights places featured in novels and poetry. From Kamen junction (Dietrich Schwanitz, "The Campus"), via Bochum central station (Heinrich Böll, "The Clown") to the residential park in Duisburg's Hochheide (Karosh Taha, "Describing a Crab Walk").
→ LITERATURKARTE.RUHR

Literary events 2022

AKAZIENALLEE FESTIVAL

Saturday 23th April | Essen

There are no trees in Acacia Avenue. Instead there's the beautiful Proust bookshop and the Correctiv bookshop. Once a year, around World Book Day, they stage a small, fine literary festival. The three-wheeler belonging to the NRW magazine "kultur.west" also turns up here. It's probably the smallest reading platform in the republic.
→ BUCHHANDLUNG-PROUST.DE

MURDER ON THE HELLWEG

**17th September to 12th November
the entire Ruhr region**

Europe's largest crime fiction festival features over 200 readings and prominent authors like Garry Disher, Volker Kutscher (his books were the model for the Netflix series "Babylon Berlin") and Simon Beckett. Night-watchman tours at dusk and a Crime-Cat brunch are also on the programme.
→ MORDAMHELLWEG.DE

LITERATÜRK

Autumn 2022 | Essen & surroundings

A German-Turkish literature festival with readings, music, writing workshops, and writers' talks.
→ LITERATUERK.COM

LIT.RUHR

Autumn 2022 | Essen & Bochum

This international literature festival with a prominent line-up is an offshoot of Lit.Cologne. The main venue is the Zollverein World Heritage Site.
→ LIT.RUHR

LITERARY AUTUMN

Autumn 2022 | Hamm

This festival in the north-east of the Ruhr region, features both international authors and many up-and-coming talents. It likes to take place in unusual locations, for example in an aircraft hangar or the catacombs beneath a department store.
→ HAMM.DE



Special Bookshops

TRANSFER. BÜCHER UND MEDIEN

An der Schlanken Mathilde 3 | Dortmund
→ TRANSFER-DORTMUND.DE

COMICLAND

Provinzialstraße 364 | Dortmund
→ COMICLAND.DE

SCHEUERMANN

Sonnenwall 45 | Duisburg
→ SCHEUERMANN.DE

BUCHHANDLUNG MIRHOFF & FISCHER

Pieperstraße 12 | Bochum
→ MIRHOFF-FISCHER.DE

LITTLE NEMO

Südring 37 | Bochum
→ LITTLE-NEMO.DE

WELTFLUCHT

Hellweg 2 | Bochum
→ WELTFLUCHTBOCHUM.DE

SCHMITZ. DIE BUCHHANDLUNG

Grafenstraße 44 | Essen
→ SCHMITZBUCH.DE

BUCHHANDLUNG IM LITERATURHAUS HERNE

Bebelstraße 18 | Herne

MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME

Anyone who loves books will feel completely at home in one of the many literature houses. Here you can drink a coffee in peace, read, and take part in discussions and writing workshops. To top it all, there are even "three-course literary menus" in Oberhausen. In Unna books can be found in the historic Nicolai quarter, the most beautiful spot in the town. Bookworms are particularly likely to meet up at the many small literature events. A good example is the annual "LesArt" festival at the Dortmund Literaturhaus.

DORTMUND LITERATURE HOUSE | Neuer Graben 78

→ LITERATURHAUS-DORTMUND.DE

HERNE LITERATURE HOUSE | Bebelstraße 18

→ LITERATURHAUS-HERNE-RUHR.DE

WESTPHALIAN LITERATURE OFFICE UNNA

Nicolaistraße 3 | → WLB.DE

OBERHAUSEN LITERATURE HOUSE | Marktstraße 146

→ LITERATURHAUS-OBERHAUSEN.DE

TIP: A BOOK-LOVERS' CAFÉ

Could there be anything better for book lovers than enjoying a freshly brewed coffee while leafing through the first pages of a new book? You can do just that in the south of Essen, almost in passing. "Café Livres" is a homely café and library in one. There are books in every nook and cranny – to flick through, browse, read, take home, bring back and swap. Needless to say, you can also eat and drink in the brightly-lit coffee house. Take your pick from hot and cold drinks, plenty of cakes and a small selection of quiches, salads and baguettes.

ESSEN | Moltkestraße 21

→ CAFE-LIVRES.DE



MAXIMILIANO LUNA/TELAM

Arty trips around
the area



breezy

Art sometimes lies in wait where you wouldn't expect it. The Emscher used to be a filthy cesspool, but today extraordinary installations like a dancing electricity pylon line the cleaned-up river. We have cycled the route in advance (→ p. 42), discovered open-air festivals (→ p. 48), amazing parks and Dortmund's newest skaters' hotspot, located in style under a bridge – complete with a matching sculpture by the artist Roberto Cuellar. (→ p. 50)



DANCING SCULPTURE: "ZAUBERLEHRLING" FROM THE ARTIST GROUP "INGES IDEE".

ROUTE OF SCULPTURES
from Holzwickede to Dinslaken

"ZAUBERLEHRLING"
BY INGES IDEE
Oberhausen | Ripshorster Straße 306

"NEUSTADT"
**BY JULIUS VON BISMARCK
AND MARTA DYACHENKO**
Duisburg | Emscherstraße 71

"SLINKY SPRINGS TO FAME"
BY THOMAS REHBERGER
Oberhausen | Konrad-Adenauer-Allee 46

"BLACK CIRCLE SQUARE"
BY MASSIMO BARTOLINI
Castrop-Rauxel | Rittershofer Straße 170

→ EMSCHERKUNSTWEG.DE
→ DASPARKHOTEL.NET

Emscher for ever

TEXT
Stefanie Stadel

PHOTOS
Markus J. Feger

Get on your bike and ride along the river!
Here you'll come across all kinds of intriguing
works of art on the Emscherkunstweg. You can
also learn a lot about the new Ruhrgebiet.



COME TOGETHER AT JULIUS VON BISMARCK'S "NEUSTADT".

In spring 2021 Julius von Bismarck and Marta Dyachenko planted miniature replicas of typical Ruhrgebiet architecture in the North Duisburg Landscape Park. They included a shabby department store, a neo-Gothic church, an apartment block and an indoor swimming pool with a chute. The project is an exciting new addition to the Emscher Art Trail, which is best explored by bike. The tiny buildings stand unobtrusively at the edge of the trail. It's worth dismounting for a closer look because all the buildings – more than 20 in number – recreate architectural structures that have disappeared or been demolished in recent years and past decades. The effect is atmospheric and nostalgic.

The tiny monuments – if we can call them that – have already started to rust in places and are visibly sinking into the greenery. Grass is growing around the Essen Adult Education Centre, and a buttercup in front of a 1960s tenement block in Marl stretches as high as the second-floor balcony. You might be forgiven for thinking of Sleeping Beauty, were it not for the fact that the Ruhr area has long since been revived. Culture and nature have replaced dirt and heavy industry, and this could also be the magic spell behind the Emscher Art Trail.

This unique sculpture project tells us a lot about the region, its history and its little river, the Emscher. A century ago it was a cesspool, fed by the sewage from the Ruhr area. For decades it flowed along a deep concrete bed and was generally acknowledged to be the filthiest river in Germany. Today, after almost 30 years of renaturation, the picture is entirely different. The banks along the river are richly verdant. Chemicals and excrement have long disappeared from the water, reeds are growing and fish can swim in peace. Kingfishers have also been sighted.

The Emscher Art project has been tied into this unprecedented clean-up since 2010. Artists have been coming here every three years. Many of their works have been temporary and disappeared again after a single summer. One prominent example was the thousand small tents that Ai Wei Wei set up on the riverbank. Other works have remained to populate the Emscher Art Trail, along with new additions in the coming years.

From the small-scale replica buildings in the North Duisburg Landscape Park, it is only a few kilometres ride to the Kaisergarten in Oberhausen

Each of the works on the Emscherkunstweg has been created especially for its particular location.

where Tobias Rehberger's spiral bridge – it consists of 496 aluminium arches – elegantly and effortlessly spans the Rhine–Herne Canal. The buoyant walkway winds back and forth over the canal on colourful plastic flooring and is intended to look like a rope being thrown over the water. Now it's time to get back on your bike.

The trail continues along the canal to a sculpture called the "Zauberlehrling". You can see it from afar protruding over the tree tops in the middle of the Ripshorst woodland garden. It's a pylon; but nothing like a regular electricity pylon, for it stands twisting and waving alone in a field. While all its many uniform counterparts in the vicinity are dutifully carrying their power cables on out-stretched arms, the "Zauberlehrling" has liberated himself. Perhaps he prefers to invest his energy elsewhere.

If you go a little further back to the "sorcerer's apprentice" in Goethe's poem, the sculpture created by a group called "Inges Idee" in 2013 could also be interpreted as a critical reference to the technical progress since the industrial revolution and its ever-increasing consumption of natural resources. As Goethe wrote, "I shall never be able to rid myself of the spirits I have conjured up". This might also be the case with regard to the future of our planet.

The Emscherkunstweg is a cooperation between Urbane Künste Ruhr, Emschergenossenschaft and Regionalverband Ruhr, is supported by the Ministry for Culture and Science of the Federal State of North Rhine–Westphalia. It quickly becomes clear that this whole project is not about the harmonious coexistence of art and nature, as is so often the case with sculpture gardens, parks and trails. Each of the works on the Emscher Art Trail has been created especially for its particular location. They reflect and comment on the history and transformation of the Ruhr region in a variety of different ways.



"SLINKY SPRINGS TO FAME" BY TOBIAS REHBERGER.



MASSIMO BARTOLINIS "BLACK CIRCLE SQUARE" © ROMAN MENSING/ARTDOC.DE

Many sewage treatment plants were shut down in the 1990s as part of the conversion of the Emscher system with an underground sewer system and a clean river on the surface. One of these was in the district of Ebel in Bottrop, where a park has been created. This was an ideal spot for the garden artist Piet Oudolf, who cooperated with the landscape architects GROSS.MAX to fill one of the two circular sewage basins with soil containing a mixture of perennials and grasses, and finished off his "theatre of plants" with paths and benches. The U.S. artist Mark Dion took a similar approach when he converted an old gas tank into a bird watching station for amateur ornithologists.

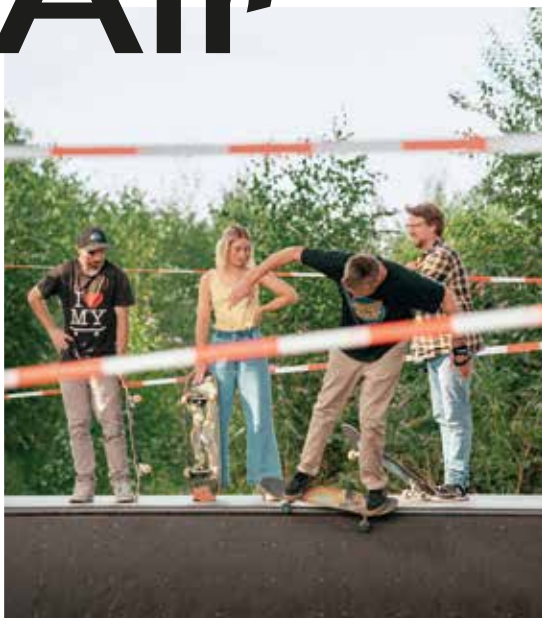
Olaf Nicolai and Douglas Gordon celebrate the supposedly untouched landscape with his "Monument for a Forgotten Future". That said, he's not been content to stay with the planned renaturation of the Emscher but has taken his inspiration from the Joshua Tree National Park near Los Angeles by faithfully recreating a rock formation he found there. Nicolai describes his construction of steel scaffolding and shot concrete as an "unnatural natural phenomenon". The highlight is a sound system within the hollowed-out artificial

rock, which invites visitors to take a break and listen to some music composed by Mogwai during the summer months.

After the break the trail continues past Silke Wagner's blue and white mosaic on a septic tank, Tadashi Kawamata's wooden tower from which you can enjoy a view of the peaceful surroundings, and a striking pond used for extinguishing fires designed by Massimo Bartolini in the style of Kasimir Malevich with black squares and circles on a white background.

If you cycle on, you will end up at the source of the Emscher where Henrik Hakansson has installed two out-sized insect hotels in the middle of a blossoming meadow as a statement in favour of biodiversity and against the decline in the bee population. Should you lack the stamina to cover about 100 kilometres in one day, you can always emulate Sleeping Beauty and take a nap. At two points along the way Andreas Strauss has installed sleeping cabins in huge drainage pipes to cater for weary travellers. When you wake to the sound of buzzing bees, chirping birds and babbling water, you might do without the prince's kiss. ➔

Open-Air



LUISA GEHEN

HEAVEN IS A HALFPIPE – IN DORTMUND

Anyone cycling along the Emscher Art Trail in Dortmund will pass the latest skateboarding hotspot in the area. The Mexican artist Roberto Cuellar has left his latest work – a skating sculpture – directly beneath a bridge on Malinckrodtstraße. The new half pipe, lying there like a small stage set, seems like a mix between a skating object and a work of art. It's part of an urban development project named "Transurban", working in cooperation with the Berlin-based artist, the master's degree programme in scenography and communication and the Dortmund Skateboard Initiative. For a long time now, the initiative has been running its almost legendary skate hall at the Dietrich-Keuning-Haus, where skateboarding greats like Tom Penny, Geoff Rowley and Anders Tellen have also done their rounds.
→ WWW.SKATE-IN-DO.DE

Festivals

PARK SOUNDS

Elektronik Music in the Park. Admission free.
ESSEN | 13. to 17. June, from 20.00 onward

PALUMA OPEN AIR

A major music festival with everything from deephouse to techno sounds – on two stages with lots of DJs.

BOCHUM | Westfalenpark | 18. June
→ PALUMA-FESTIVAL.DE

BOCHUM TOTAL

A rock and pop festival bang in the centre of town. Admission free.

BOCHUM | Bermuda-Dreieck, 7. to 10. July
→ BOCHUMTOTAL.DE

JUICY BEATS

A major music festival featuring Hip-Hop, Elektro, Alternative und Worldbeats on the site of the former National Garden show.

DORTMUND | Westfalen-Park | 29. to 30. July

WORLD STREET THEATRE

For two days a year, the "World Street Theatre" festival transforms the small town of Schwerte into a colourful cultural location. The street event is renowned for its acrobatics, drama, music and vaudeville.

SCHWERTE | 26. to 28. August
→ WELTTHEATER-DER-STRASSE.DE

NADZIEJA I TĘSKNOTA / UMUT VE ÖZLEM / HOPING AND YEARNING

In front instead of inside! This summer the Schauspielhaus Bochum will be turning the theatre forecourt into a large outdoor stage. On it, a special piece of Bochum's history will be told with texts, music and dance, written and performed by people of Polish and Turkish origin and actors from the ensemble.

BOCHUM | Schauspielhaus Bochum |
Königsallee 15 | June
→ SCHAUSPIELHAUSBOCHUM.DE

D

urbanana Düsseldorf

Düsseldorf is the city of fashion, the arts and home to the longest bar in the world. Doesn't it sound like a great combination?! It most certainly is. So, let's take a stroll

EXPLORE DÜSSELDORF ON FOOT

STARTING POINT

Düsseldorf Flingern, where many trains bring you to all the other wonderful destinations of urbanana in no time



You can easily walk this city! Start your day in Flingern, a vibrant quarter characterized by its young urban crowd. Have breakfast and mingle with the locals. Big murals on the house fronts brighten the city and those who are on the hunt for the perfect soundtrack to their life, check out the beat retreat record stores.

Minutes away lies the Japanese quarter. Wander around the unique shops selling manga books and beautiful matcha cups. Try some of the authentic treats like the ramen soup at Takezo which is worth the visit.

Düsseldorf's old town is famous for its bars. But there is one brewhouse that you shouldn't miss. Often named "the best Alt-beer" in town, Füchsen serves their own dark super seller as well as hearty meals. If you are more in the mood for art, visit the Kunstsammlung NRW, which holds one of the largest collections of modern art in NRW. The NRW Forum on the other hand will be presenting the world's first AR (Augmented Reality) Biennale until mid-2022. Digital sculptures can be seen on your own smartphone. An immersive experience that lets you interact with art in real time.

Pass Gehry's glittering architectural icon at the media harbor, then stroll towards Unterbilk, one of Düsseldorf's coolest quarters. Lorettostraße and Bilker Allee are lined with colourful outlets like the vintage-store, Frauenzimmer. There's also enough variety available in the evening. Great cafes, restaurants and bars cover every taste. Perhaps a visit to the bar Dr. Pfeiffer is worthwhile, where you might catch some live music and maybe even party at Oh Baby Anna with the locals. There's no better way to end the night in Düsseldorf!

The five most overlooked artworks in public areas

“LES FLEURS DU MAL (FLOWERS FOR MARL)“, 2014, MARL

It's obvious that the illuminated letters “LES FLEURS DU MAL” on the façade of Marl's town hall cannot be overlooked. But the installation by light artist Mischa Kuball also includes an inconspicuous grey concrete floor vase at the foot of the stairs, which residents and passers-by can, and do, fill with flowers.

MARL | Creiler Platz 1

“OLYMPIA HYMNE“, 1972, BOCHUM

Yes, that is art! Under a cubist concrete sarcophagus by the artist Wolf Vostell you'll find a discarded counter from Herker's butcher's shop in the district of Wiemelhausen – all within including a cash register set in concrete.

BOCHUM | In front of the Bochum Art Museum, Bergstraße/Schillerstraße

“LANDSCAPE IN THE RIVER“, 2010, BERGKAMEN

You have to really look closely to discover Thomas Stricker's sculpture on the River Seseke. The artist has planted an artificial island with unusual trees like swamp cypresses, plants like horsetails and other very old species atypical for the Ruhrgebiet.

BERGKAMEN | Uferstraße, Near the Seseke

“A SLAB FOR THE RUHRGEBIET“, 1998, ESSEN

It's all a question of perspective. If you stand right next to Richard Serra's “Bramme” on the Schurenbach spoil tip, all you'll see is a 13.5 centimetre rolled steel slab. Only from a distance can you appreciate the impact of the almost 15-metre tall “slab”. There's an amazing view over the region.

ESSEN | Schurenbachhalde, Emscherstraße

YOU CAN FIND MORE
ARTWORKS IN PUBLIC SPACES HERE:
→ NRW-SKULPTUR.NET

“LUNETTA“, 2006, HAMM

The only thing visible by day is a nondescript pit building. At night, a “little moon” shines there. “Lunetta” is a minimalist, spherical LED light sculpture above a blue fountain of light. It was created by Kirsten and Peter Kaiser.

HAMM | Martin-Luther-Straße 48



MISCHA KUBALL, PUBLIC PREPOSITION / LES FLEURS DU MAL (BLUMEN FÜR MARL), 2014. PHOTO: ACHIM KUKULIES, DÜSSELDORF
© ARCHIVE MISCHA KUBALL, DÜSSELDORF / VG BILD-KUNST, BONN 2021

K

urbanana Cologne

Neighborhoods full of contrasts: design stores, fancy cafés, hip restaurants and bars. Cologne is colorful, lively and creative. The best way to explore the metropolis is by bike. Let's go!

EXPLORE COLOGNE BY BIKE

Large parts of the route can be ridden on a bike path. But in many areas the sights can be reached only by using the streets. Some caution is then required.

STARTING POINT

Mülheim train station, which can be reached by regional trains. Who does not have a bike, can rent one from here.



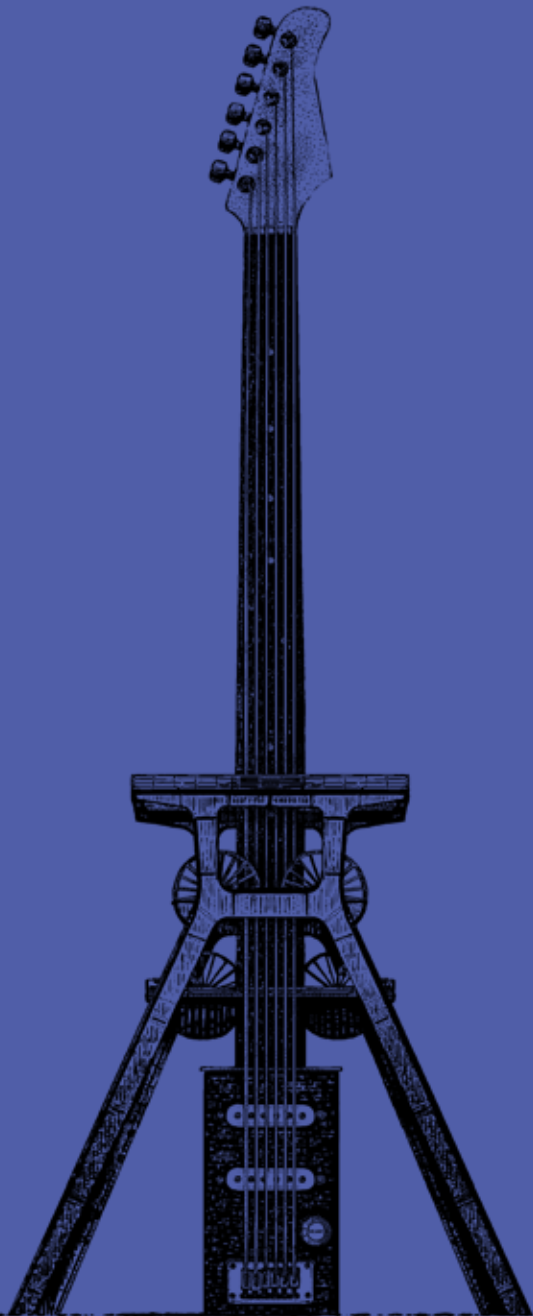
Start your tour in multi-cultural Mülheim, a neighborhood on the Schäl Sick, as the right bank of the Rhine is called. A lot is changing and developing there right now. Old industrial sites are becoming creative spots, co-working spaces are emerging, and the energy in Mülheim is inspiring. Let's stop at the Mützepark, one of the hottest spots for street art in Cologne. From here, we make our way to Anker 7, probably the tastiest and most casual spot on the harbor in Cologne.

Past the Flora, with its pretty botanical garden, we head towards Nippes, a beautifully idyllic and familiar Veedel (the kölsch term for neighborhood). Small streets lead to great locations. We recommend a snack at Morio on Schillplatz taking an in depth look at the trendy houseplants in the cute Mooi store, before cycling to the hip district: of Ehrenfeld

Formerly a working-class neighborhood, today, a lively district full of young people. Many small, individual stores invite you to stroll along Körnerstraße and Bumann & Sohn, probably one of the hippest bars in the city which is only a few steps away. A quick craft beer at Braustelle, Cologne's smallest brewery, is a must. From Ehrenfeld you can cycle over the Belgisches Viertel to Südstadt.

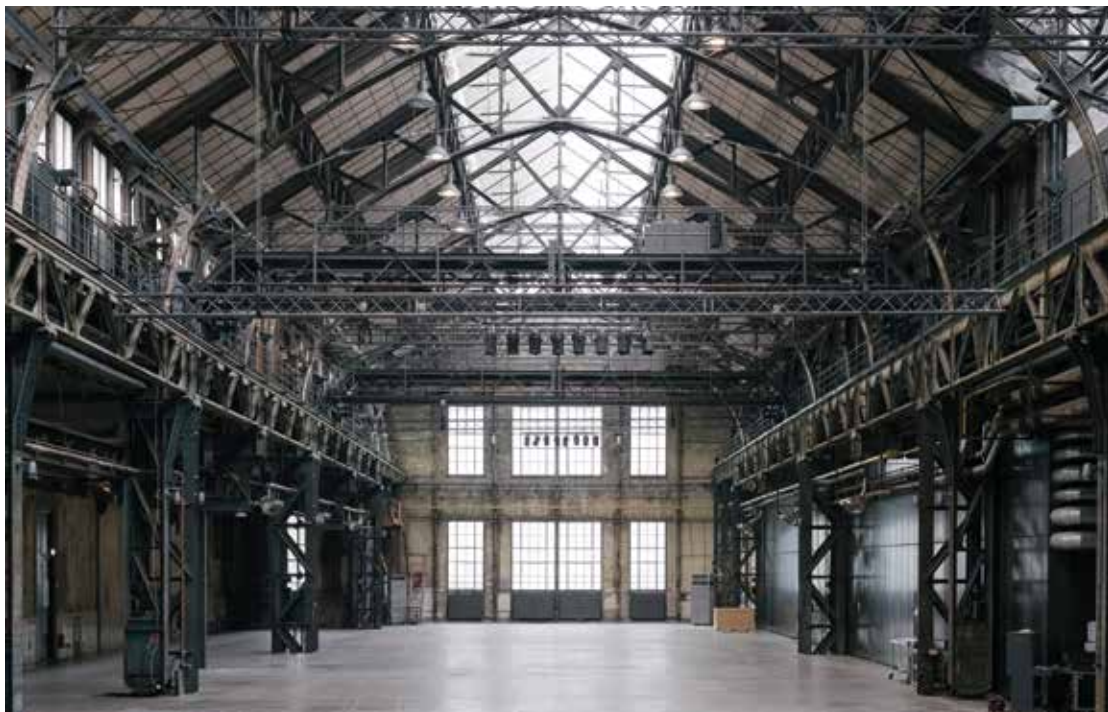
The picturesque Veedel which sits directly on the Rhine is one of Cologne's most popular neighborhoods. The special mix of urban wandering is unique, whether in the Alteburger Straße, where Southern European easiness arises in the cute brasseries or in the Rheinauhafen with its architectural highlights. Who would like to then end the day in review, sitting down at the Rhine beach with the sunset in view?

Prick up your ears!
Music in the Ruhrgebiet.



noisy

Once a year there's something for your ears in our huge industrial buildings. That's when the Ruhrtriennale brings world-class performers to the Ruhr (→ p. 54). We've explored the Sound of Silence with the guys from "Bohren & the Club of Gore" (→ p. 58) and had a look at what's happening on turntables – the vinyl scene with all its labels and shops. (→ p. 60)



JAHRHUNDERTHALLE BOCHUM, OSTKREUZ © JÖRG BRÜGEMANN

Star spaces

The Ruhrtriennale has been taking place in disused industrial areas of the Ruhr since 2002. This festival is unusual – not least because of its locations.



EVERYTHING... © HEINRICH BRINKMÖLLER-BECKER

TEXT
Andreas Wilink

It reads a bit like the Genesis story: “In the beginning God created...”. For the foundation of the Ruhrtriennale performing arts festival was laid by the Emscher Park International Building Exhibition (IBA). This large-scale, ambitious forward-looking urban renovation programme under the aegis of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia ran for ten years, between 1989 and 1999, and was many things in one: a think tank, an innovation laboratory and a social initiative to tackle the structural crisis in the coal-mining and steel-making region. The IBA promoted urban development and the renaturation of rivers and had a huge influence on housing, life and transport in the urbanised region. In this process of transformation, the industrial plants, collieries and halls that had come to a standstill also found a new life. They are often euphemistically called cathedrals of labour; indeed their huge multi-nave structures might at times justify this sacred name. Yes, functionality can be beautiful: we need only to look at the imposing UNESCO World Heritage Site Zollverein in Essen with its colliery and coking plant, designed by Fritz Schupp and Martin Kremmer in the mid-20th century, which shut down with the last shift in 1986, to find this confirmed.

The region’s prestige project was to become its cultural calling card – and have European stature. It was a coup to win over a man who introduced this format personally and who, in



GLADBECK MASCHINENHALLE ZWECKEL © JÖRG BRÜGGEMANN

his capacity as founding artistic director, impresario and master-mind got the Ruhrtriennale up and running.

Gerard Mortier, a Flemish native of Ghent, Jesuit student and Doctor of Law, had previously turned the Brussels Opera de la Monnaie into a hotspot of modern music theatre and subsequently revamped and revitalised the Salzburg Festival with artists from the avant-garde. He was an independent critical spirit with a civic spirit, a rebel with the captivating charm of the scholar. The last thing he wanted was a representative festival like the one in Salzburg with its baroque cathedral backdrop. He was looking for an egalitarian art festival with a workshop character, in keeping with the area and its people, who are now joined in large numbers by visitors from neighbouring Belgium and the Netherlands. Off with working clothes and overalls, on with dinner jackets and evening gowns! No, no! It was not meant to be like that, nor did it turn out that way.

From 2002 to 2004 (a new director is appointed every three years by the state of North Rhine-Westphalia), Mortier shaped the summer festival, which begins each August, before passing it on to Jürgen Flimm, who in turn was followed by Heiner Goebbels and Johan Simons, among others. Currently, from 2021 to 2023, the Ruhrtriennale is in the hands of a woman for the first time: the Swiss director Barbara Frey and her mainly female team. The original question was how to deal with the



CONCERT AT DAWN BY VIRGINIE DEJOS © CHRISTIAN PALM

RUHRTRIENNALE

will be running from
August to September 2022

→ RUHRTRIENNALE.DE

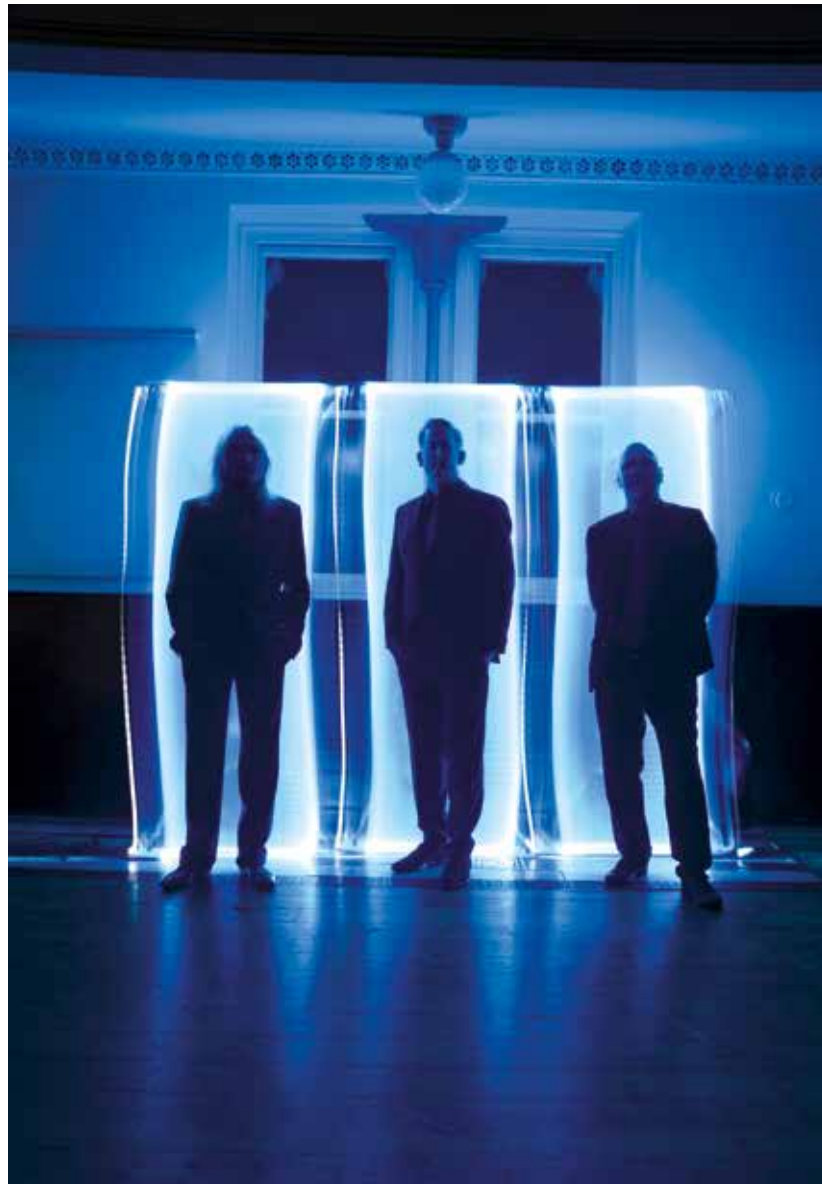
imposing buildings that embody the pure materialism of the industrial age and its 100 years of belief in progress, and which lay dying like oversized dinosaurs of yore? Mortier provided the answer with the invention of “creations”, in which drama, music theatre, dance, literature and visual arts can ideally come together and the stage space become a co-star, even the main star or – in a new sense – the working hero.

For these venues are not traditional theatre spaces with a proscenium stage, in front of which the audience sits in rows of stalls, but rather architecturally open, multiple and flexible spaces. They can either stretch out majestically like the Hall of the Century in Bochum, which forms the heart of the festival, and the gigantic, craggy power station in the North Duisburg Landscape Park. They can branch out in a labyrinthine manner like the multi-storey mixing plant of the Zollverein coking plant in the proletarian north of Essen, or present themselves in an elegant fashion like the intimate, classy Zweckel engine house in Gladbeck.

After two decades, the Ruhrtriennale, which is concentrated on Bochum, Duisburg, Essen and Gladbeck with a few local excursions to other venues, has established itself in the European festival circuit as a place of experiments, daring artistic ventures and clear dramaturgical concepts that will never be satisfied with conventional solutions. ➤

Sounds

of



KIM VON COELS

Silence

It was once known as trash metal, now it's "doom ridden jazz music". The three musicians in the band "Bohren & der Club of Gore" from Mülheim an der Ruhr create extraordinary sound and concert spaces with their unhurried instrumental pieces.

TEXT
Volker K. Belghaus

The 1980s in the Ruhr region were loud and dirty. Although the collieries and steelworks were nearing their end, they were still impressively noisy. The "pulse of steel" that Herbert Grönemeyer sang about in his 1984 Ruhr anthem – it has long since become a folk song – was still palpable. The pulse was reflected in the regional music scene. Trash metal bands like "Sodom" from Gelsenkirchen and "Kreator" from Essen blasted the fans with heavy metal sounds.

In 1988 Thorsten Benning, Morten Gass, Robin Rodenberg and Rainer Heseleit founded the band "Bohren" in Mülheim an der Ruhr. Their pounding metal, hardcore sound could be heard on their first album "Gore Motel". This was followed in 1992 by a radical change of style. The musicians expanded their name to "Bohren & der Club of Gore" in imitation of the Dutch band "Gore" and from then on played self-styled "doom ridden jazz". Their consequent rediscovery of slowness and renunciation of noise ran parallel to the ongoing structural changes in the Ruhr area, which was also becoming quieter.

Silence was turned into sound
by lengthy sublime sequences
combined with sombre atmospheric tones.

On their double album "Midnight Radio" (1995), the metal elements disappeared completely from their music. They were replaced by a double bass, a Rhodes piano, a piano, a vibraphone, analogue synthesizers, a saxophone and gently brushed drums. Following a number of internal changes in the band, Morten Gass, Robin Rodenberg and Christoph Clöser now play as a trio.

The shows given by "Bohren & der Club of Gore" create a very special atmosphere. The rooms are sparsely lit, the three men stand in dark suits beneath cascades of coloured light, and create extraordinary soundscapes by emitting long, overlapping sequences of sounds into the darkness and allowing them to reverberate. In 2020, after a five-year break, they released their eighth studio album "Patchouli Blue", eleven instrumental pieces that recall florid German hits of the 70s, like "Deine Kusine", "Meine Welt ist schön" and "Zwei Herzen aus Gold".

The musicians respond to critics who accuse their work of boredom and tedium with ironic aplomb. Their website welcomes readers with the words "Dear fans of uneventful music!", and in an interview with the portal "laut.de" in 2013 Morten Gass laconically reformulated the metal slogan "Other bands play, Manowar kill!" as "Other bands play, Bohren bore!".
→ BOHRENUDDERCLUBOFGORE.COM



TEXT
Frank Weiffen

A LOUNGE FOR RECORD FANS

In Essen Stephan Wiehe specialises in classical music and jazz ... and it's all on vinyl! It's almost impossible to specialise more. "You need stamina to be able to operate in this particular niche," says Stephan Wiehe, who recently opened his "Vinyl Lounge" in Essen. That said, the passionate vinyl and classical music fan would do the same again at any time because, before he did so, he had sorely missed a record shop that catered for his wishes and interests. Accordingly, the shelves in the "Vinyl Lounge" are full of jazz and classical records. His current stock contains a good 20,000 items from all eras. No new pressings, mind you, but well-preserved second-hand copies. For experts: "very good+" to "near mint". When all's said and done everything is possible at Wiehe's. You can browse, listen to records, read, drink a coffee and talk shop with like-minded fans of vinyl. His customers are particularly keen on records that were not produced for the mass market at the time they were pressed. Such rarities are therefore of special interest to collectors. Sometimes even DJs come here looking for clips for their shows. As for visitors from overseas: the internet is so comprehensive that a unique shop like this can be found thousands of kilometres away.

ESSEN | Kahrstraße 54
→ VINYL-LOUNGE.COM

Vinyl and the Ruhr area somehow go together. Vinyl is generally regarded as an outdated medium. But not by music lovers, because it combines haptics with crackling, hissing, nostalgia and delightful imperfection. All these features can ultimately also apply to the Ruhrgebiet as an industrial region. It was here that the first noteworthy metal scene in the country was launched, which turned a band like "Kreator" from Essen into world stars whose albums are still being pressed over and over again. The venues and clubs here have always been shot through with rowdy, raucous punk. Poly takes a look at the scene with its unusual labels, clubs and shops.

beautiful





COLLECTION KEIENBURG © ANJA KEIENBURG

A MEETING-PLACE FOR THE MUSIC SCENA

Christian and Carmen Fischer run “Sunny Bastards”, a vinyl label and a club of their own. When Christian Fischer was showing his wife Carmen some old music documentaries on DVD and VHS at the end of the 90s, he realised that the sound quality was pretty low. Without further ado, the two decided to set up “Sunny Bastards” and specialise in rereleasing old recordings, as well as filming concerts themselves. In 2022 the former video and film label “Sunny Bastards” will be celebrating its 20th birthday. To date, the Fischers have released over 280 recordings, 148 of them on vinyl. They also own their own club, “Don’t panic” in Essen, where homegrown bands can perform. Recently the two have even turned their attention to so-called vinyl broking. “We have years of experience working with pressing firms, collaborate with two of them and also have albums pressed by bands that are not part of our label.” Now major labels – the ones who contract the stars of the (mainstream) industry – are coming along to enquire about joint projects. “What’s important to us is that no band is treated as a product,” says Christian Fischer. It’s not about “what’s ‘in’ at the moment”, but that each band is authentic and can realise its ideas when it comes to creating its own record. The artwork should be of high quality. But unfortunately, special artwork for records – coloured vinyl, gatefold covers, large booklets inside, special features like posters, even card games etc. – is often outside a normal budget. “Limited editions in particular – we usually only press 500 to 1000 records, including a few unique one-offs – are prohibitively expensive.” For such things, “Sunny Bastards” has a special solution. “Do-it-yourself style. The band drops by for a beer in the evening – and we put it together ourselves. But why vinyl? It makes the music more valuable. Because it’s listened to and celebrated in a special way, it can’t become muzak.”

“DON’T PANIC” CLUB: PUNK AND ROCK CONCERTS, BAR

ESSEN | Viehofer Platz 2

→ DONTPANICESSEN.DE

→ SUNNYBASTARDS.DE

VINYL TO READ

The vinyl magazine “Mint” is published in Dortmund. Sometimes you can also find a comfortable place in a niche – like Dortmund’s “Mint” magazine. That said, is vinyl a niche at all? In a way, yes, because it’s still mainly something for aficionados and collectors. And in a way, no. Because vinyl is not the only thing to be experiencing a revival. And in addition, because “Mint” – it was first published at the end of 2015– has long since acquired a firm place in the jungle of magazines and quite a large, steady readership. It’s the child of a magazine called “Visions”, which has always been about the vinyl-savvy genres of punk, indie and alternative sounds with all their subvarieties. “Mint” means “brandnew”: and the magazine now covers every music style because vinyl can now be found everywhere once more. In addition to confidently stylish buying tips and quality reviews of new pressings, the magazine also publishes reportages and background texts. If you read “Mint” you’ll find out all the latest news about record fairs and collectors who have stuffed their stalls to the rafters with LPs. About labels – and about particularly valuable recordings.

→ MINTMAG.DE

→ SCHALLPLATTE.ORG

“DIE SCHALLPLATTE” (THE RECORD) HAS EXISTED SINCE 1954

A shop in Duisburg has been selling LPs since Elvis Presley released his first single. This shop has outlived everything: the CD, the cassette, MP3 files. “Die Schallplatte” in Duisburg opened in 1954, and is probably the oldest record shop in Germany. Here everything still revolves around vinyl: from rock and pop to jazz, classical and special interest music. If you’re into something really special, you can even listen to audiophile high-end LPs.

DIE SCHALLPLATTE

DUISBURG | PULVERWEG 33



Culture 2022 tips



JAN VAN MUNSTERS "ICH (IM DIALOG)" IN THE CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL LIGHT ART IN UNNA. © VG BILD KUNST

Take your pick from a gigantic globe of the earth, fascinating water puppetry and famous 20th century paintings in Poly's culture tips for 2022.



Art Events

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOLKWANG MUSEUM

In 1922 the foundation stone was laid for a museum that is now one of the most important in Germany: the Museum Folkwang. Its 100th anniversary is being celebrated with two major exhibitions. The first starts in spring: "Renoir, Monet, Gauguin – Pictures of a Flowing World". On display will be around 120 late Impressionist works drawn from the museum's collection and the National Museum of Western Art in Tokyo. They will include well-known paintings by Claude Monet, Pierre-Auguste Renoir and Paul Gauguin. This will be followed in the autumn by a major exhibition entitled "Expressionists at the Folkwang. Discovered – Ostracised – Celebrated". It will feature paintings, sculptures and graphic works by Max Beckmann, Oskar Kokoschka, Franz Marc and Paula Modersohn-Becker.

ESSEN | Museumsplatz 1

"Renoir, Monet, Gauguin" 6. February to 15. May

"Expressionists at the Folkwang" 20. August to 8. January 2023

→ MUSEUM-FOLKWANG.DE

THE PHOTO/MEDIA ART AND THE C.A.R. CONTEMPORARY ART RUHR

Not one, but two trade fairs specialising in media art?! In spring, international galleries, art schools and artists will be showing photos, installations, videos, animations and light art at the Photo/Media Art Fair. And in the following autumn the art scene will be meeting up at the "C. A. R. – Contemporary Art Ruhr" fair. Galleries and artists will showcase their work in five halls. There will also be workshops, exhibitions and performances.

ESSEN | Zollverein

12. to 13. March & 28. to 30. October

→ CONTEMPORARYARTRUHR.DE

URBAN ARTS RUHR

"Urban Arts Ruhr" is one of the most important decentralised cultural institutions in the region. It promotes projects and residency programmes, and organises exhibitions, all exclusively dedicated to contemporary art. In 2022 it will be presenting "Duutopia": a large-scale project by Thomas Hirschhorn in cooperation with the Ruhrtriennale. Starting in August the Swiss installation artist will be inhabiting the old power station in the North Duisburg Landscape Park. For a period of around five weeks the old building will then be open to visitors 24 hours a day. Hirschhorn's aim is to create an inclusive public space for people to meet up with one another.

"Duutopia" 15. August to 18. September

DUISBURG | Landschaftspark Duisburg-Nord

→ URBANEKUNSTERUHR.DE

A DAZZLING MUSEUM

In the East of the Ruhrgebiet there's a place where you can find light at the end of the tunnel. The town of Unna is home to the Centre for International Light Art. Installations by Olafur Eliasson, Rebecca Horn and James Turrell shine out through the tunnel-like rooms and corridors of the disused Linden Brewery. Multimedia installations can also be seen until 24. April under the title, "The Fascination of Light". One of them is a work by the American artist Adela Andea, who has been working on a room especially for the Centre for Light Art. Her colourful projections will flood the old walls, creating a dazzling network of light.

UNNA | Lindenplatz 1

"Faszination Licht" until 24. April

→ LICHTKUNST-UNNA.DE



MAKROSCOPE

The Makroscope in Mülheim is not satisfied with simply being a location for art. The socio-cultural art space combines studios, a record label, concerts, exhibitions and a very special museum, all under a single roof. The "Museum für Fotokopie" has the most important international collection for the art and technology of copying. The exhibits include copying machines from the last 100 years, but also feature international copy art by David Hockney, and Anna and Bernhard Blume. In addition, the Makroscope hosts the annual "Shiny Toys Festival" of time-based experimental arts. It features music, light art, technology and moving images.

MÜLHEIM AN DER RUHR | Friedrich-Ebert-Straße 48
→ MAKROSCOPE.EU

THE VROOM

Digital is sometimes better! If you feel like a great escape from the world, you should visit the Gelsenkirchen district of Ückendorf, where the "VRoom" offers several virtual reality rooms. With the help of 3D data glasses, you can go on a zombie hunt or race cars through the city with friends. Analogue support is provided in the form of coffee and cake from the adjacent café. You can also watch films in the Vroom, when Hollywood films and local productions flicker across the screen at the "Ückendorf Film Evenings".

GELSENKIRCHEN | Bochumer Straße 110
→ VROOM.RUHR

PROVINZ

So much for "provincial"! The curator and art historian Stephan Strsembski has opened several galleries in the middle of Bochum. They all go by the name "Provinz" ("Province") and exhibit high-ranking works by international artists. Some of the editions and prints have been created especially for Strsembski's galleries. One "Provinz" is located in the trendy district of Ehrenfeld, another in a shop window opposite the Bochum Schauspielhaus ("theatre"). To find the newest "Provinz", you have to go to Schmechtingstraße 38 at the other end of the city.

BOCHUM | various locations
→ PROVINZEDITIONEN.DE

GALLERY OBRIST

Just a few steps away from the Museum Folkwang stands one of the most interesting galleries in the Ruhr area. For more than 20 years Thorsten Obrist has been showing installations, sculptures, paintings and photographs by international artists like David Lynch, Shinichi Tsuchiya and Andy Scholz in his gallery.

ESSEN | Kahrstraße 59
→ GALERIE-OBRIST.DE

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EXPLORE THE RUHR AREA BY SCOOTER, E-BIKE OR CAR

STARTING POINT

Essen City Center, you can arrive there from all other urbanana spots by train – because it is right next to the central station. Here, you will find e-scooters that you can rent. Remember to wear a helmet. Better be safe than sorry.



urbanana Ruhr Area

You can discover four cities in one fantastic trip. But beware: the Ruhr area is a huge conurbation. Either you rent a scooter, take an e-bike or get into a car. Have fun on our tour!

Downtown Essen already has plenty of bustling sights. Just scan the QR code with your smart phone and see for yourself. This area has many architectural and unexpected gems to offer. For example, the wonderful Folkwang Museum, which was redesigned by David Chipperfield back in 2010.

Are you ready for a coffee break yet? Sit down by the window of the Café De Prins at the Isenbergplatz and from there head towards the city's coolest shopping street, Rüttenscheider Straße, with its many boutiques and restaurants. We recommend stopping by Elya's concept store. But please don't be disappointed that their furniture doesn't fit on your scooter.

The tour continues via the picture-perfect Margarethenhöhe and from there, to the largest camera obscura, located in Mülheim Broich. In the old water tower, you can enjoy the optical phenomenon before continuing onward towards neighbouring Duisburg.

Before reaching our next destination, how about a quick urban art detour to the Meiderich Graffiti Tunnel? Then we'll move on our way to the Landschaftspark Duisburg-Nord. The Guardian refers to it as one of the most beautiful metropolitan oases in the world and one of the most wonderful and unusual parks in the world to explore.

Next stop, the Oberhausen Gasometer! Take the glass elevator take you up to the roof so you can enjoy the incredible view of the Ruhr area, which you have just traveled through in style. Afterwards, try a fun competition at the exciting 7th Space, a gaming place, where you can go on a virtual reality ghost hunt. And now you've really discovered some worthwhile spots! So, why not congratulate yourself for a job well done in urban exploration?

Art Museums

MKM KÜPPERSMÜHLE FÜR MODERNE KUNST

More than 2,000 works from the post-war period can be viewed in the impressive museum building designed and recently extended by Herzog & de Meuron.

DUISBURG | Philosophenweg 55

→ MUSEUM-KUEPPERSMUEHLE.DE

KUNSTMUSEUM GELSENKIRCHEN

Here you can find paintings and sculptures from the 19th to the 21st century and a collection of graphic art. Its “Kinetic Collection” can be viewed in the basement.

GELSENKIRCHEN | Horster Straße 5-7

→ GELSENKIRCHEN.DE/KULTUR/MUSEEN

THE GUSTAV-LÜBCKE-MUSEUM

The art museum houses the largest collection of ancient Egyptian art in the Ruhr region, with tombs, temples of the gods and hieroglyphs. That said, it has even more art on display. Until 20. March, an exhibition entitled “Treffpunkt Kneipe” (The Pub as a Meeting Point) will be looking back on the history of local pubs and bars.

HAMM | Neue Bahnhofstraße 9

→ MUSEUM-HAMM.DE

MÄRKISCHES MUSEUM

Its major collection features works from the 19th and 20th century, alongside a number of exhibits of contemporary art.

WITTEN | Husemannstraße 12

→ KULTURFORUM-WITTEN.DE

THE MÜLHEIM MUSEUM OF ART

The listed building displays exhibitions of classical modern art and international contemporary art. The square in front was designed by the sculptor, Otto Herbert Hajek.

MÜLHEIM AN DER RUHR | Synagogenplatz 1

→ MUELHEIM-RUHR.DE



ADOLF WINKELMANN

DORTMUNDER U

People associate Dortmund with football, mining, steel – and a single letter: a radiant “U” on the roof of the former Union Brewery near the Central Station. It signals the way to one of the most exciting cultural institutions in the region. Beer was once brewed here but now it houses the Ostwall Museum, a centre for art and creativity. The museum contains modern art, videos and experimental art, the latter being in the hands of the Hartware MedienKunstVerein. Movie director Adolf Winkelmann has set up his “Flying Pictures” on the façade surrounding the roof. At times the moving installation might show running water, at others, beer. And every hour on the hour, pigeons fly across the screens.

DORTMUND | Leonie-Reyggers-Terrasse

→ DORTMUNDER-U.DE

THE FLOTTMANN HALLS

The cultural centre is a place for a range of arts – from the new forms of circus to puppet theatre. Until the end of February local artists will be reflecting on the Corona pandemic in an exhibition called “Remaining Visible”.

HERNE | Straße des Borhammers 5

→ FLOTTMANN-HALLEN.DE

EMIL SCHUMACHER MUSEUM

The museum is dedicated to the Hagen citizen, Emil Schumacher who was an important representative of expressionist art.

HAGEN | Museumsplatz 1

→ ESMH.DE

GLASKASTEN SCULPTURE MUSEUM

Marl is a mecca for fans of brutalism.

Its museum combines classical modern sculpture with contemporary art, sculptors’ sketches and new media.

MARL | Creiler Platz 1

→ SKULPTURENMUSEUM-GLASKASTEN-MARL.DE

EMSCHER VALLEY MUSEUM

This regional museum is split between three locations: Schloss Strünkede, the municipal gallery in the Schlosspark, and the “Heimat- und Naturkunde-Museum” in Wanne-Eickel.

HERNE | Karl-Brandt-Weg 2

→ HERNE.DE/KULTUR-UND-FREIZEIT/MUSEEN

Music

THE WORLD MUSIC FESTIVAL

Music knows no geographical or cultural boundaries. The world music festival at the Philharmonic Hall in Essen is proof of this. Under the motto “Sounds of East to West”, international stars like Aynur, Anouar Brahem and Kinan Azmeh will be performing in the city. On the open-air day regional artists will also be playing on stage.

ESSEN | 12. to 15. May

→ THEATER-ESSEN.DE

MOERS FESTIVAL

For the last 50 years jazz fans from all over the world have been flocking to the town of Moers on the western edge of the Ruhr region to admire the international stars of the music scene. Founded in 1972, the Moers Festival is one of the biggest events for experimental music outside the mainstream.

MOERS | 3. to 6. June

→ MOERS-FESTIVAL.DE



Theatre

WORLD-CLASS PUPPETRY

Every two years international stars from the world of puppet and figure theatre meet up in Bochum for the Fidena Festival. Their fascinating performances, installations and plays demonstrate that their art is anything but harmless nonsense for children. The variety of forms ranges from glove puppets to water puppets, shadow theatre to marionettes, and robots to digital projections.

BOCHUM | 7. to 19. May 2022

→ FIDENA.DE

THE “FAVORITEN” FESTIVAL

The “Favourites” have been around for more than 30 years. That said, this traditional fringe festival is anything but old. Independent artists meet up here to discuss the latest developments and artistic approaches. It goes without saying that there's plenty of action on stage: innovative performances, exhibitions, theatre, dance and a lot more besides.

DORTMUND | September 2022

→ FAVORITEN-FESTIVAL.DE

MIROLOI

A mysterious village in the middle of nowhere is the setting for an unusual emancipation story. In her novel “Miroloi”, the German author Karen Köhler portrays a nameless young woman who is raised as a foundling in a patriarchal society. Men are allowed to do almost everything, women very little. Above all, they are not allowed to read and write. But someday things will change... Two years ago, the novel was nominated for the German Book Prize. Now “Miroloi” is being presented on stage for the first time: Dortmund's Theatre will tell the story with a lot of contemporary relevance – and a good deal of anger in the belly.

DORTMUND | Theaterkarree 1-3
from May 2022

→ THEATERDO.DE



THE ETCETERA AND MURTRA ENSEMBLE PLAYS “DER TRAUM VOM KARNEVAL DER TIERE” AT THE FIDENA FESTIVAL.
© ENRIQUE LANZ

RUHRFESTSPIELE RECKLINGHAUSEN

This festival is as multifaceted as the Ruhr region. For over 70 years the Ruhrfestspiele in Recklinghausen has been treating the Ruhrgebiet to plays, performances, readings, dance, concerts, cabaret and modern variations of circus shows. The “Ruhrfestspiele” is one of the largest cultural festivals in Europe. Every year renowned international artists and ensembles arrive to perform in the town in the north of the area. The festival also features co-productions with major German-language theatres, outstanding works from the fringe, and plays for children and young people. The programme is shaped to match the idea behind the Ruhrfestspiele: to be a festival for everyone. The festival therefore traditionally kicks off with a public celebration on 1. May.

RECKLINGHAUSEN | 1. May to mid-June

→ RUHRFESTSPIELE.DE

STÜCKE

This is where contemporary plays compete against each other for the Mülheim Dramatists' Prize. The supporting programme includes symposia, jury debates and audience discussions.

MÜLHEIM | 7. to 28. May

→ STUECKE.DE

Accomplices of art

One of Germany's largest and most ambitious arts festivals doesn't take place in elegant temples of culture, but places where people used to sweat for a living amidst the roar of machinery. To match this, the founding director Gerard Mortier devised the Ruhrtriennale as an arts festival with the feel of a workshop.



SCENE FROM “BÄHLAMMS FEST”, 2021 © VOLKER BEUSHAUSEN

Most of the venues that have hosted the Ruhrtriennale since its founding in 2002 are huge. These include the Hall of the Century in Bochum, the blast house and power station in the North Duisburg Landscape Park, the grounds of the Zollverein colliery and coking plant, and the engine house in the Zweckel coal mine in Gladbeck. Because of their structural impact these locations provide more than a stage. Gerard Mortier even described them as “cathedrals of art”. The venues cannot be blacked out. Daylight is part of the show, as is a hot summer day, a cold wind, and rain pelting down on the roof.

“All these industrial sites are a bit like gigantic personalities. Then again, they reveal an unfathomable sensitivity and vulnerability in their desolation and rootlessness,” says the current artistic manager and Swiss director Barbara Frey. Here you can dig for hidden treasures and trace the essence of humankind.

A new artistic director is appointed every three years and each revises the programme accordingly. Following Mortier, Jürgen Flimm, Willy Decker, Heiner Goebbels, Johan Simons and Stefanie Carp have all left their mark on the cultural memory of the Ruhrgebiet. But one thing does not change every three years: from mid-August to the end of September, contemporary, international artists engage in an inspiring dialogue between music theatre, drama, dance, performance and literature. The venues always play their part: architectural heavyweights as accomplices to art.

→ RUHRTRIENNALE.DE

RUHRTRIENNALE

Photography

PHOTOGRAPHY IN THE WEIMAR REPUBLIC

400 photos in the Peter Behrens Building (Oberhausen), some of them never previously shown, will give you a gripping insight into the turbulent times of the Weimar Republic. Revolution and Republic, workers' photography, sport, architecture, fashion and dance are just some of the themes that will revive the spirit of this contrasting epoch. Alongside well-known photographers like August Sander, Lotte Jacobi and Alfred Eisenstaedt, pictures by unknown artists will also be on display. In addition, the exhibition features magazines, photo books, postcards and posters.

OBERHAUSEN | LVR Industrial Museum
Peter-Behrens-Bau | until 30. May
→ [INDUSTRIEMUSEUM.LVR.DE](https://www.industriemuseum.lvr.de)

LINDA MCCARTNEY – THE SIXTIES AND MORE

She went shopping with Janis Joplin for peanut butter and rode the underground with Jackson Browne. The photographer Linda McCartney belonged to the inner circle of the rock and pop scene in the 60s. Her photographs still define our visual memory of the era: Jimi Hendrix, Nico, The Who, The Doors, Bob Dylan and The Beatles all posed in front of her camera. A large selection of these images, as well as some of Linda McCartney's more experimental works, will be exhibited at the Ludwig Galerie Schloss Oberhausen in 2022. Famous record covers of the time will also be on display, including "Sticky Fingers" created by Andy Warhol for the Rolling Stones, and Pink Floyd's "The Dark Side of the Moon" designed by Hipgnosis. To cap it all, you can also dive into the 60s acoustically on a soundwalk specially compiled for the exhibition.

OBERHAUSEN | LUDWIG GALERIE Schloss Oberhausen | 15. May to 11. September
→ [LUDWIGGALERIE.DE](https://www.ludwiggalerie.de)



OFF TO THE 20S! ROSY BARSONY, 1932 FROM THE F.C. GUNDLACH COLLECTION © THE MARTIN MUKASCI ESTATE

AWARD-WINNING PHOTOS

Every year an international competition organised by the World Press Photo Foundation honours the best press photos. A touring exhibition also brings them to the attention of the general public. In 2022, 150 prize-winning photos – from poetic images of nature to intimate reportages – will be on display at the Depot in Dortmund.

DORTMUND | Depot Dortmund
Immermannstraße 29 | 7. to 29. May
→ [DEPOTDORTMUND.DE](https://www.depotdortmund.de)

DINOSAURS IN ESSEN

At the Ruhr Museum on the UNESCO World Heritage Site Zollverein you can find out what the Ruhr region looked like 300,000 million years ago and how it has changed to the present day. An exhibition called "Nature, Culture and History of the Ruhr Area" features more than 6,000 exhibits ranging from dinosaur skeletons to workers' gear. And all this in the impressive architecture of the old coal washing plant. Even the entrance up to the museum is visually striking: a bright orange outdoor escalator designed by the leading architect Rem Koolhaas leads up to the box office.

ESSEN | Gelsenkirchener Straße 181
→ [RUHRMUSEUM.DE](https://www.ruhrmuseum.de)

Industrial Heritage

EXTRASCHICHT

You can explore the entire Ruhr region in just one night by planning a visit to "Extra Shift". This large-scale cultural festival takes place in around 50 venues, including disused industrial sites and many museums. Shows, installations, comedy, classical music and fireworks are all part of the exhilarating "Industrial Heritage Night".

RUHRGEBIET | 25. June
[EXTRASCHICHT.DE](https://www.extraschicht.de)

A SPECTACULAR SCIENCE EXHIBITION IN THE OBERHAUSEN GASOMETER

You can travel all over the world in the Ruhr region if you visit the Gasometer in Oberhausen. Here, a huge 20-metre globe of the Earth has been specially constructed for an exhibition entitled "The Fragile Paradise". This monumental creation floats beneath the dome of the former industrial site, which is now not a home for art and culture, but – at around 100 metres – the highest exhibition space in Europe. The current exhibition, "The Fragile Paradise" is much more than a spectacular large-scale installation. It focuses on the beauty of the Earth, which is suffering more than ever from the impact of human activity. A virtual journey will take you across the Tumucumaque rainforest region in north-eastern Brazil. Photos of flood disasters, illegal ivory trade and starving polar bears highlight the devastating effects of human activity on the fragile structures of nature. In addition, current scientific analyses are displayed on 20 illuminated globes. These include the German Aerospace Centre's satellite data on the geological changes of the earth, and holograms of scientists talking about climate change. The exhibition could hardly be more topical and relevant.

OBERHAUSEN | Gasometer | Arenastraße 11
→ [GASOMETER.DE](https://www.gasometer.de)

Dance

PACT ZOLLVEREIN

This dance venue was once the place where colliery workers used to change their clothes before going down the pit. The PACT modern dance centre is located in the old shower rooms on the grounds of the Zollverein Coal Mine Industrial Complex. International dancers and ensembles are regular guests. In 2022 the British company Forced Entertainment will be presenting the world premiere of a show called "Under Bright Light". Six performers will stand on a stage flooded with light and transform it into an image of our world with movement, dance and improvisation.

ESSEN | PACT Zollverein | Bullmannau 20A
"Under Bright Light" 24. to 26. March
→ [PACT-ZOLLVEREIN.DE](https://www.pact-zollverein.de)

I WANNA BE A BOI BAND

The 90s have been experiencing a fashion revival for some time now. The theatre in Oberhausen is going one step further and bringing boy bands, the musical phenomenon from this era, back to the stage. Director Shari Asha Crosson will be asking what the Backstreet Boys, N'Sync & Co. can still tell us about forms of masculinity and identity today. She and her performers will be exploring a new type of boy band – with lots of dancing and maybe even a few old hits.

OBERHAUSEN | Theater Oberhausen | Will-Quadflieg-Platz 1 | From 19. March
→ [THEATER-OBERHAUSEN.DE](https://www.theater-oberhausen.de)

MILLENNIALS

Between hypercommunication and endless possibilities – the Spanish choreographer Marcos Morau takes us on a journey into the world of Millennials.

GELSENKIRCHEN | Musiktheater im Revier Kennedyplatz | from 30. April
→ [MUSIKTHEATER-IM-REVIER.DE](https://www.musiktheater-im-revier.de)

As long as it's tasty – Culinary highlights
in the Ruhr Area



tasty

Sales kiosks are more than just places to buy food long after supermarkets have closed. They often function a bit like neighbourhood social centres. They can even sell culture! We've discovered art exhibitions, readings and postcard nostalgia among fizzy sweets and bottles of washing-up liquid. (→ p. 76); and submitted the well-known "mixed bag of sweets" to a design check (→ p. 80). What's more, our culinary section shows you the best places to eat. (→ p. 82)

Magical Kiosks

TEXT

Volker K. Belghaus

Kiosks are outlets for cold drinks, sweets, cigarettes and newspapers. Occasionally they also offer culture. A quick look at some of the outstanding drinking holes in the Ruhr region.

“BEI MAMPF-FRED” (MUNCHY FRED’S)

The name says it all – no one goes hungry here. The kiosk has been in existence for over a century, but it’s much more than a classic drinking hole. It’s a small shop that also sells groceries, pet food and cosmetics – along with freshly-spread bread rolls, potato salad and sausages.

ESSEN | Humboldtstraße 190

THE BERGMANN KIOSK

The elegant airy concrete canopy is only a few steps away from the Dortmund U. This free-standing kiosk is the epitome of 1950s architecture. It used to offer the classic range of kiosk goods, but some time ago the local “Bergmann Bier” brewery took over the listed building and transformed it into a meeting place and sales outlet for its products. In addition to the traditional Dortmund “Export” beer, the range also includes the “Spezial”, a beer with a light caramel note, and the malty, top-fermented “Adambier”, which has a similar taste to Rhineland Altbier.

DORTMUND | Hoher Wall 3

→ [HARTE-ARBEIT-EHRLICHER-LOHN.DE/BRAUEREI/KIOSK](https://harte-arbeit-ehrlicher-lohn.de/brauerei/kiosk)



ONE OF THE “KIOSK” – PICTURES OF REINALDO CODDOU H. 2017 IN BOCHUM-WATTENSCHIED, WHICH WAS PUBLISHED IN EDITION PANORAMA.

THE SCHAUBÜDCHEN – KIOSK FOR SMALL-SCALE ARTS

The former kiosk is now an exhibition space. Starting in early 2021, art, literature and discussion formats have been presented in a compact, concentrated space of 15 square metres. Texts, photographs, objects, video and light are on display, curated and performed by an artistic consortium called “Dunkelkammer / Raum für Entwicklung” (Darkroom / Space for Development), which gives artists’ collectives a space for installations. Sound art, interviews, discussions and radio plays are broadcast on the “Büdchenfunk” radio station.

BOCHUM | Ursulastraße 24
→ [SCHAUBUEDCHEN.DE](https://schaubuedchen.de)



© DUNKELKAMMER – RAUM FÜR ENTWICKLUNG

THE KIOSK AT HOHENSYBURG

Admittedly the castle was there first, for Hohensyburg Castle was built around the year 700, whereas of course the nearby kiosk is somewhat younger. This is a typical day-trip destination where you can explore the castle ruins, the Vincke Tower and the Kaiser Wilhelm Monument. The kiosk not only sells food, but also fancy old-school postcards, as well as hiring out outdoor games. By contrast, the magnificent view over the Ruhr Valley is free of charge.

DORTMUND | Hohensyburgstraße 200
→ [SYBURG.DE](https://syburg.de)
→ [HOHENSYBURG.DE/KIOSK.HTML](https://hohensyburg.de/kiosk.html)

THE KIOSK ON THE BERGMANNSPLATZ ESTATE

The Bergmannsplatz housing estate is a real industrial monument – especially from an architectural point of view. It was built between 1907 and 1909 for the miners at the Neumühl colliery. 15 different types of houses are grouped around a central square. Today the settlement is under a preservation order – just like the kiosk with its quaint slate and tile roof. It was closed for a long time but has had a new owner since 2021 and is once again the social centre of the settlement.

DUISBURG | Bergmannsplatz 19

LOTTOBUDE SEEL

“We’re a lottery outlet in the Dortmund suburb of Barop, offering tobacco, books, greetings cards and magazines. So far the description of the “Lottobude Seel” on its Facebook page sounds quite normal. Then it gets unusual: “Readings are regularly held in our shop”. In fact, the “Lottobude” is a cabaret insider tip that the Dortmund author Katrin Pinetzki revealed in her latest book “Dortmund erleben! 500 Freizeittipps” (Experience Dortmund! 500 Spare Time Tips). Authors like Adolf Winkelmann present their books here to an audience that is generally sold out and in the best of moods. Small-scale concerts are also part of the programme.

DORTMUND | Baroper Marktplatz 3

THE KIOSK ON EBERTPLATZ

The kiosk on Ebertplatz, opposite the Oberhausen Theatre and the Ebertbad cabaret theatre, is the epitome of the historic kiosk culture in the Ruhrgebiet. In addition to its typical range of products, the kiosk is also a mine of information about the latest neighbourhood gossip, and a place for people of all ages to meet and socialise.

OBERHAUSEN | Ecke Grillostraße / Ebertstraße

From coal to culture

How about a voyage of discovery to places full of art in blast furnaces and winding towers? You can also climb to the top of spoil tips which offer some breathtaking views. Industrial heritage in the Ruhr region can be enjoyed in many different ways.



RTG

Coal, steel, coke and gas have shaped the region to this day. The best way to find out about their history is to follow the Industrial Heritage Trail. The 400-kilometre route, featuring 27 anchor points as its highlights, will take you to the most important sites.

The Industrial Heritage Trail has many locations, some of which are utterly idyllic. Take the Aquarius Water Museum in Mülheim an der Ruhr, for example, which offers a wonderful panoramic view of the lower valley of the River Ruhr. Coal barges used to pass one another here on what was once Europe’s busiest river. Today you can learn everything about the impact of water and ecological cycles in the old water tower – and also enjoy the fantastic view.

If you’re looking for insights into the world of work you should take a trip to DASA in Dortmund. Here there are a variety

of ways for you to witness hands-on how machines determine the pace of our everyday lives – and also learn how to control a power station.

One of the imposing industrial monuments in the region, which must be seen for its size alone, is the Hall of the Century in Bochum. The disused headquarters of a steel-works is longer than a football field and has now been transformed into a vibrant power station for all branches of culture. Urban arts feel just as much at home here as jazz and rock, not forgetting the Ruhrtrienale Festival of classical music and theatre.

A hidden gem of high-class culture is the Hohenhof artists’ housing estate in Hagen, which was built by the industrialist Karl Ernst Osthaus on designs by Henry van de Velde. The winter garden was designed by none other than Henri Matisse. This was the cradle of the so-called “Hagen Impulse” that gave a boost to the arts and inspired architects, painters and designers. Without it, the Ruhr Region would look utterly different today.

You can find all the anchor points along with further tips at
→ [INDUSTRIEKULTUR.RUHR](https://industriekultur.ruhr)

Utterly Sweet!

TEXT
Volker K. Belghaus

What would a good meal be like without chewing a sweet afterwards? In the Ruhrgebiet so-called “mixed bags” from a nearby kiosk were specially invented for this purpose. They contain a mixture of wine gums, (shapes like frogs, cherries, and sour tongues), crowned with liquorice wheels. Buy a bag of childhood memories! A review of shapes and flavours.

THE COLA BOTTLE

The wine gum shaped like a Coke bottle was much loved back then – in the absence of the real soft drink which parents said, was bad for your health and could only be drunk on special occasions like holidays or New Year's Eve. They were better than nothing, but no real substitute, as you can taste today. Sure, it tastes roughly like cola, but more like a warmed-up version from a discount store without the fizz.

STRAWBERRY

This could also be a flaming pine cone. Or an outstretched tongue belonging to one of the very old Rolling Stones. Its shape is somewhat indeterminate.

STRAWBERRY (TYPE B)

Better by a long way. Soft and curvacious in shape, crowned with leaves and dusted with sugar. Figuratively speaking it's as realistic as a trompe l'oeil painting! Until the strawberry flavour hits your taste buds. Then it's a bit like eating a perfumed air freshener.

THE BAT

Okay, it's clearly a bat. But with coloured wings? Just like Batman when Joel Schumacher sadly took over from Tim Burton for two of the films, and turned Gotham into a candy-coloured toy universe.

THE FROG

A classic amongst kiosk sweets. A transparent green amphibian squatting on a pillow of white sugar foam. As you chew it, it tastes more and more sour. A bit like eating a frog.

CHERRY

About as natural as cherries in a tin of fruit salad. Another classic wine gum creation and part of digital pop culture since “Pac Man”. Like in the computer game, it should earn bonus points when eaten.

THE LIQUORICE LOZENGE

Geometric, austere, formal – liquorice lozenges stand out in the colourful mix, if only because of their size, which is somewhat reduced by the hole in the middle. Otherwise, this Brutalist liquorice is ideal for architects. Quite a chew.

THE LIQUORICE WHEEL

Rumour has it that in the Bonn factory where the wheels are made, a specially constructed liquorice wrapping machine has been in service for decades. Sacrilegious contemporaries simply bite them in half, others lovingly unroll them before eating. The Op Art object in the assortment.

PEACH

So this is how wine gum designers imagine a peach – thick, soft and a watery reddish-yellow. Somewhat vague and wispy in shape, from a distance it smells as delicious as peach shampoo.

THE SMURF

Another example of how poorly comic characters can be transferred into gelatine. The grumpy, bespectacled little fellow has precious little to do with the cuddly original, apart from its colour and approximate shape. A bit like the turquoise Smurf ice cream, it tastes of next to nothing. And is just that.

THE RONDO

A combination of liquorice and a colourful coconut-like coating. Although it's available in many colours they mostly taste the same. The round Rondos, on the other hand, are the Sushi in the multi-coloured bag.

THE SOUR TONGUE

An absolute must for the multi-coloured bag. It's synthesis of three-colours suggests a variety of flavours, but it's so infernally bitter that it turns your entire mouth inside out and wipes out any sensation of flavour.

CANDIED MUSSELS

Famous and notorious. Plastic shells filled with a sugary mass of red and green that's almost impossible to lick out. At worst, the sharp edges leave you with a sore tongue and a lot of waste, since the plastic shells are also packed in plastic. Typical 80s sustainability.

PICKLED GHERKIN

How nice it would be if the thing actually tasted like a pickled gherkin! Otherwise you have to know what the amorphous green wine gum is supposed to represent: maybe a remnant of ghost slime from the “Ghostbusters” films. That would really delight the kids.

RASPBERRY

For gourmets only! A layer of tiny pink sugary beads surrounds the core of pink jelly, before being gently crushed in the mouth. It's a rarity in kiosks: so if you spot it, be sure to grab it! Also available as a blackberry.

Bars and Pubs

From the oldest pub in Essen to a homely pub in Recklinghausen – our tips for good drinks in the Ruhr region.

SIMPLY DRINK: SCHLIPS

Three drinks, two days, one pub: anyone who wants to understand the "Schlips principle" doesn't have to be a math-ematician. The little old building opened in 1950 as the "tast-ing room" in the Dortmund Krämer distillery, and changed hands several times before standing empty for many years. Now the bar and the bowling alley have been revamped with fresh ideas: There are two opening days (Tuesday and Saturday) and only three drinks (really!): juniper tonic, water and "Stößchen" – a beer in a glass that widens towards the top. It's a Dortmund speciality. On the first Saturday of every month, the bar table becomes a DJ podium and "Schlips" becomes the smallest disco in town.

ZUM SCHLIPS | Brückstraße 64 | Dortmund

(G)OLD TIMES

A warm, reddish light beams at you when you enter the "Goldbar" in Essen's southern quarter. Right away you want to fall into one of the soft leather armchairs with a few friends, and chat for hours over a bottle of wine. The "Goldbar" is the perfect place for a relaxed evening. The cosy atmosphere is created by the nostalgic, casual furnishings: dark red walls, scuffed wooden shelves full of old books, golden chandeliers, lots of candlelight and a warm stove in the corner. The name "Goldbar" is a little misleading, because the "bar" is also a café that opens at half past nine in the morning. When the weather's fine, you can sit outside.

GOLDBAR | Rellinghauser Straße 110 | Essen
→ CAFE-GOLDBAR.DE



AMPÜTTE

The oldest bar in Essen is the perfect place for an evening drink.

ESSEN | Rüttenscheider Straße 42
→ AMPUETTE-ESSEN.DE

DRÜBBELKEN

In the middle of Recklinghausen there's a place that's a bit like a British pub. The mixture of pub and restaurant has been around for a good few years. The name says it all: Drübbelken is a Low German word meaning "a group of people".

RECKLINGHAUSEN | Münsterstraße 5
→ DRUEB.DE

FINKENKRUG

300 kinds of beer in just one pub! The Finkenkrug in the Duisburg suburb of Neudorf offers a wide range of beers from all over the world: specialities like Meta beer from Ethiopia and Tiger from Singapore. If you suddenly get hungry you can choose between pasta and burgers.

DUISBURG | Sternbuschweg 71
→ FINKENKRUG.DE

FLOTTMANNKNEIPE

A relaxed pub in the Flottmannhallen cultural centre. In addition to alcoholic drinks, you can also get milkshakes, coffee and tea here.

HERNE | Flottmannstraße 94
→ FLOTTMANNKNEIPE.DE

ZUM SCHRÄGEN ECK

This quaint pub (the name roughly means "The skew-whiff corner") in the so-called "poets' quarter" has been around for more than 40 years. It offers a wide selection of drinks and snacks.

MÜLHEIM A. D. RUHR | Klopstockstraße 25
→ SCHRAEGEN-ECK.DE

DORTMUND

→ DORTMUNDER-U.DE
→ FUSSBALLER-MODELSZIVILISTEN.DE
→ SCHOENES-LEBEN-DORTMUND.DE
→ SISSIKINGKONG.DE

ESSEN

→ CAFE-NORD.DE
→ FCUK-YOGA.DE
→ PELAYO-ESSEN.DE
→ RESTAURANT-ZODIAC.DE

TEXT

Kristina Schulze



SCHLIPS IN DORTMUND © SEBASTIAN VAN DEN AKKER

An evening out...

...in Dortmund

Dortmund offers film fans a very special venue for a pleasant evening out; the Dortmunder U cultural centre (Leonie Reygers Terrace) has regular "after-work" showings on the big screen. For a mere 3 euros you can watch everything from major Hollywood movies to small indie gems. It's best to check the weekly programme beforehand.

From there it's a 20-minute walk to the lively Kreuzviertel district which boasts plenty of friendly pubs, cafés and restaurants between Möllerbrücke S-Bahn station and Kreuzstraße. At "Balke" (Hohe Straße 127) you can enjoy cocktails and live football streaming; at "Schönes Leben" (Liebigstraße 23), open wines and Mediterranean cuisine. The legendary "Sissikingkong" (Essener Straße 10) has also recently moved to the Kreuzviertel – it's a restaurant, bar and bowling alley all in one. Try the black pasta with red mullet, orange and mint. Or the home-made dumplings in a vegetable stew.

...and Essen

Fancy a game of billiards and live music? Then start your evening in Essen at Café Nord (Viehofer Platz 1). The bar with its beer garden is about 15 minutes from the central station. It's packed here at non-Corona times. Small wonder! The surroundings are rough-and-ready and the atmosphere very relaxed. There's rock and alternative music for the ears, and all kinds of drinks from Vodka Lemon to Campari Mezzo Mezzo. Café Nord also does delicious, uncomplicated food.

Alternatively, you can take the 101 tram/underground line to the suburb of Rüttenscheid (journey time approx. 20 minutes). This urban chic and trendy district is full of great restaurants, bars and cafés. "Fcuk Yoga" (Emmastraße 13) serves excellent cocktails with names like "Le Gurk" or "C'est la vie". If you're feeling peckish, stop by for a bite at the Pelayo restaurant (Rüttenscheider Straße 138), which has a large selection of tapas. Very good vegan pizzas and pasta are on the menu at Zodiac (Witteringstraße 41). And for a nightcap, head to Drehscheibe (Alfredstraße 21). The owner, Rene Pascal, is a real character who regularly transforms his small pub into a party zone with hit music.

Cakes and tarts ...

for those with a sweet tooth

CHILDHOOD MEMORIES

You can search in vain for vegan cheesecake or smoothie bowls with Acai-beeren Acai berries at the Café Wiacker patisserie in Herne. And that's how it should be. Instead of woke food, there are sweet pastries that recall memories of childhood: juicy butter crumbles, chocolatey almond slivers and sugared marzipan strawberries. The atmosphere is somewhat dignified with chandeliers, leather armchairs and cream-coloured wallpaper, but that doesn't distract from the impressive cake and gâteau counter in the entrance area. And the menu doesn't stop with sweet choices: there are also savoury classics like "Strammen Max" with bread, ham, cheese and fried eggs.

HERNE | Neustraße 1

Also in Bochum, Recklinghausen and Dortmund
→ WIACKER.DE

DOLCINELLA

You can find sensational cakes and a small lunch menu just a few steps away from the S-Bahn station in Essen-Werden. They also offer English scones at teatime. Should you prefer to spend some time in the nearby countryside, simply book a Dolcinella picnic basket. It's packed with quiches, tortillas, sandwiches, fruit, cupcakes and drinks.

ESSEN | Im Löwental 15

→ DOLCINELLA.DE

GOLDBERGS TÖRTCHEN

On the south-eastern edge of the Ruhr region there's an excellent address for sweet pastries. At "Goldbergs Törtchen" in Hagen you can not only enjoy an excellent breakfast, but also choose between many small delicacies. What about a Danube wave tartlet?

HAGEN | Goldbergstraße 4

→ GOLDBERGSTOERTCHEN.COM

CAFÉ KÖTTER

Following the motto "We're not hip, we're scrumptious", Susanne Kötter and her team serve up such classics as cream puffs and marble cake.

ESSEN | Rüttenscheider Straße 73

→ CAFE-KOETTER.DE

STADTCAFÉ SANDER

The speciality at this patisserie is the "Sandersche Baumkuchen". They also offer fruit cakes, cream gateaux and butter cream cakes.

MÜLHEIM A. D. RUHR | Kohlenkamp 12

→ STADTCAFESANDER.DE

CAFÉ + KONDITOREI WENNING

Hot chocolate, coffee and a large variety of cakes are served in this small 200 year-old slate house.

HERDECKE | Hauptstraße 2

→ CAFE-WENNING.DE

CAFÉHAUS DOBBELSTEIN

This is one of the oldest cafés in the Ruhr area. It's renowned for its wide selection of cakes and gateaux.

DUISBURG | Sonnenwall 8

→ CAFEHAUS-DOBBELSTEIN.DE

GASTHOF BERGER

This is basically a restaurant, but their selection of cakes is as extensive as it is delicious.

BOTTROP | Schloßgasse 35

→ GASTHOF-BERGER.DE

CRÊPERIE

The menu includes cakes, tarts – and of course crêpes (not forgetting fried potatoes and baguettes au gratin).

GELSENKIRCHEN | Hagenstraße 36

Düsseldorf
Live close Feel free

The best Japanese desserts?



**Our tips
for Düsseldorf**

Düsseldorf Stories –
the Visit Düsseldorf blog.

duesseldorf-tourismus.de/stories

Coffee

Where to get the pick of the bunch

KIJAMI

One of the top addresses for fair-trade coffee can be found in the centre of Witten. The beans come from the Aranga cooperative in Tanzania, while the milk for the cappuccino and flat white comes from the Sauerland region. The coffee bar also has its own pastry shop with delicious organic cakes and pastries.

WITTEN | Oberstraße 4
→ KIJAMII-KAFFEE.DE

POTTSCHWARZ

Admittedly, "Pottschwarz" is not exactly in the centre of town. But it's well worth a trip to the suburb of Saarn. This pleasant Mülheim café is renowned for its excellent speciality coffees from its own roasting oven. Would-be barristas can learn to prepare their coffee at home: the café has its own workshop, where you can buy things like sustainable coffee capsules made of wood shavings, test different types of beans and even take out a coffee-house subscription.

MÜLHEIM AN DER RUHR | Lehnerstraße 14
→ POTTSCHWARZ.DE

SIMPLY COFFEE

There are six different varieties of coffee beans at Simply Coffee in Duisburg. The menu features paninis, banana bread and all sorts of tasty snacks. If you prefer tea there's also plenty on offer. You must try a Tea-Latte.

DUISBURG | Moselstraße 43 & Sternbuschweg 104

NEUES SCHWARZ

One of the best addresses for really great coffee in the East of the Ruhrgebiet. The beans are freshly roasted in their own roasting oven. Anyone curious for more should call in at one of their regular tastings (they call them cuppings!). There's not only coffee on offer, but also lemonade and tea.

DORTMUND | Kleppingstraße
→ NEUESCHWARZ.DE

Ice Ice Baby



CASAL – DIE EISMACHER

This little café has a secure place in the top ten list of "Germany's best ice cream parlours".

ESSEN | Mülheimer Straße 62

EMMA THE MU

Delicious hand-made ice cream with no artificial colours or flavours!

HERNE | Behrensstraße 10
→ EMMATHEMU.DE

I AM LOVE

In addition to the classic strawberry and vanilla flavours, the menu also includes unusual varieties of ice cream like cinnamon pop choc, asparagus strawberry or orange candied ginger.

BOCHUM | Dibergstraße 2 | **WITTEN** | Bahnhofstraße 3 | **ESSEN** | Moltkestraße 3
→ I-AM-LOVE.DE

CALABRESE

The atmosphere is rather retro and the ice cream especially delicious.

RECKLINGHAUSEN | Kampstraße 64
→ EISCAFE-CALABRESE.DE

EDELWEISS

Cheesecake on a stick? A flair for unusual creations – and mouth-watering ice cream. There are 24 different flavours.

OBERHAUSEN | Bahnhofstraße 10
→ EDELWEISS-EISCAFE.DE

EISCAFÉ SENATORE

This family-owned business in Mülheim's tranquil suburb of Dümpten has been providing the locals with delicious ice cream and creative ideas since 1978.

MÜLHEIM AN DER RUHR | Heiermannstraße 10



RUHRKUNSTMUSEEN.COM



Experience art and culture in the Ruhr area.

You will love it!

James Turrell „Floater 99“, © Frank Vinken



RUHRBUEHNEN.DE

For woke eaters

From organic bread rolls to a menu made from salvaged food: our eco-friendly culinary tips.

LABSAL

Shaved cheese spaetzle in the middle of the Revier? “Labsal” is the name of the small restaurant in Dortmund’s Union Quarter that serves Swabian organic cuisine. Florian Kohl serves up sophisticated combinations – like Schupfnudeln (potato noodles) with apricot-nut pesto or crispy Wiener Schnitzel – with organic meat from Schultenhof.

DORTMUND | Rheinische Straße 12
→ LABSAL-DORTMUND.DE

FABULOSE

The “Fabulose” restaurant serves up dishes made from salvaged food that would otherwise have ended up in the bin. In addition to vegan three to five-course menus, there is a delicious vegan lunch every day during the week: this might be spaghetti with green spelt bolognese, or falafel with braised vegetables. In the evenings, there are concerts featuring indie pop or West African rhythms. You can also take part in workshops on sustainable consumption.

DORTMUND | Braunschweiger Straße 22
→ FRAULOSE.DE

FARBENFROH

Apricot marinated lentil salad, pine nut rice with coriander peas and caramelised figs – and to round things off, a pear dessert with warm nut-nougat cream. Although there are never more than ten dishes on the menu at “Farbenfroh”, their range of dishes is anything but boring. On Sundays they offer a vegan brunch between 10 am and 2 pm.

ESSEN | Franziskastraße 69
→ FARBENFROH-ESSEN.DE

BACKBRÜDER

A gluten-free organic bakery offering everything from walnut bread to French biscuits.

ESSEN | Rellinghauser Straße 286
→ backbrueder-glutenfrei.de

KRÜMELKÜCHE

A vegan café with home-made delights.

DUISBURG | Johannerstraße 28
→ KRUEMELKUECHE.DE

SCHNIBBELGRÜN

This salad bar has lots of local products.

UNNA | Massener Straße 11a
→ SCHNIBBEL-GRUEN.DE

REINHARDTS

A restaurant & wine bar with regional supplies.

HAMM | Oststraße 15
→ REINHARDTS-HAMM.DE

LISA – EINFACH GUT ESSEN

A deli with a breakfast and lunch menu.

HERNE | Bebelstraße 16
→ FEINKOST-LISA.DE

NÄHRSTOFFREICH

A bistro offering dishes without artificial additives.

BOCHUM | Trankgasse 3
→ NAEHRSTOFF-REICH.DE

RESTAURANT RONJA

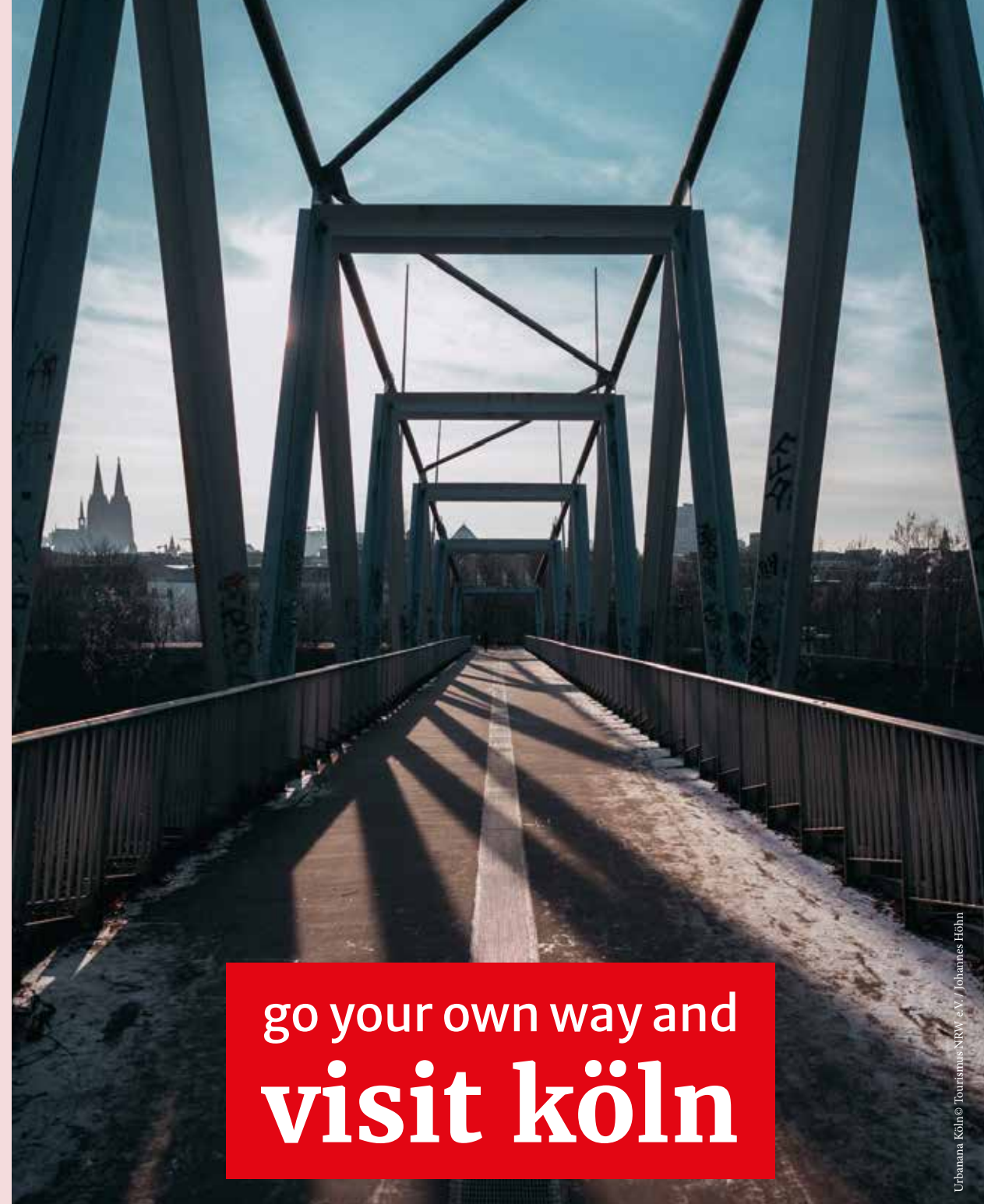
A friendly little restaurant offering vegan and vegetarian dishes in the Ringlokschuppen Ruhr. The menu changes every week.

MÜLHEIM A. D. RUHR | Am Schloss Broich 38
→ RESTAURANT-RONJA.DE

CAFÉ KASBAR

The snug backyard bistro serves Arabic-inspired food. Most dishes are vegan or vegetarian, and many are gluten-free.

DUISBURG | Heerstraße 276
→ CAFEKASBAR.DE



go your own way and
visit köln

Almost like home

Once you've found a seat here you won't want to get up in a hurry. Cosy cafés and restaurants in the Ruhrgebiet.

ZWEIBAR

The cosy "Zweibar", a mix of bar and restaurant, is very close to the Museum Folkwang. Drinks, lunch and a small, select evening menu await you on the fashionable Rüttenscheider Straße. The Zweibar follows the "green economy" principle: it is powered 100% by eco-electricity, and around half of the ingredients they serve are organically grown. Rumour has it, they do the best cappuccino in town.

ESSEN | Rüttenscheider Straße 63
→ PROJEKTZWEIBAR.DE

LIMA'S

Just 15 minutes walk from Duisburg central station there's a great address for a really good breakfast. "LiMa's" has dispensed with a menu. Instead there's a long list of delicious suggestions. To order your highly individual breakfast just put a cross against whatever you fancy. Take your pick from home-made jams, salmon in a honey-dill sauce or brownie bowls. The breakfast boxes are also a great idea: place your order in advance and pick up a tip-top breakfast.

DUISBURG | Sternbuschweg 310
→ LIMAS-DUISBURG.DE

BUTTERBROTBAR

Germans are renowned for their bread. It's especially tasty in the "Butterbrotbar" in Bochum. The small café offers home-made bread with a choice of spreads like tomato-sunflower, or trout and cream cheese. Aside from breakfast they also do a lunch menu.

BOCHUM | Hans-Ehrenberg-Platz 1
→ BUTTERBROTBAR.DE



BEFORE THE TAKE-OFF

We all know that it's better for the climate to avoid air travel. But if you still feel like an airport atmosphere, you should stop by at the Checkin Café at Essen/Mülheim Airport.

Mülheim an der Ruhr | Brunshofstraße 1
→ CHEKIN-CAFE.DE

HARBOUR VIEWS

Relax over a glass of white wine and enjoy the view of Europe's largest inland port at the Küppersmühle Restaurant in Duisburg.

DUISBURG | Philosophenweg 49-51
→ KUEPPERSMUEHLE-RESTAURANT.DE

ASCHKLÖSKEN

In the "Aschklöskken" beer garden things are pretty simple: just grab a chair and a cold beer and sit down right next to the bank of the Rhine.

DUISBURG | Am Hasselberg 290

RESTAURANT BURG BLANKENSTEIN

From the courtyard of the historic castle there's a fantastic view of the green Ruhr valley. The beer garden serves up delicious lemonades and coffee

HATTINGEN | Burgstraße 16
→ BURGBLANKENSTEIN.DE

WIRTSHAUS ZUR HEIMLICHEN LIEBE

High above the beautiful Lake Baldeney and surrounded by greenery, this restaurant and beer garden offers a breakfast buffet.

ESSEN | Baldeney 33
→ HEIMLICHE-LIEBE.DE

From India to Austria

International feasting in the Ruhr Area

INDIA: MAHARANI

Indian cuisine with fresh ingredients and spices is available at "Maharani" in Hamm. With his father Vipan, Alex Wahi cooks such traditional dishes as tandoori chicken and lentil daal. The menu varies according to the season. Besides meat and fish dishes, there are also vegetarian and vegan dishes like coconut soup with curry and parsnip. You can also learn how to cook good Indian food yourself – the restaurant doubles as a cooking school.

HAMM | Martin-Luther-Straße 10
→ MAHARANI.DE

FRANCE: LE CHAT NOIR

A piece of France – right in the middle of Essen. "Le Chat Noir" is a mix of bistro and restaurant. French specialties like Breton fish soup and rata-touille are served here from 6 pm. The wine list is as extensive as it is excellent. You can have a leisurely breakfast on Saturdays; and in the evenings there are often concerts and readings.

ESSEN | Brigittastraße 22
→ LE-CHAT-NOIR.DE

AUSTRIA: FRANZ FERDINAND

"Franz Ferdinand" is not just an inn, but a real "Beisel" (the Austrian name for a Viennese pub with cuisine that is as sophisticated as it is down-to-earth). Here you'll find dark green velvet armchairs, turquoise ornamental wallpaper and Austrian delicacies like Tyrolean "Kasspatzen" in alpine cheese sauce and "Kaiserschmarrn" with stewed plums.

BOCHUM | Klinikstraße 51
→ FRANZFERDINAND-BOCHUM.DE

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kultur.west

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about art
and culture
in NRW
10 issues a year
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INSTAGRAM.COM/KULTUR.WEST/

In other people's beds

TEXT

Thomas Machoczek



HOTEL ANA

Admittedly, Oberhausen is not Manhattan. But the view of church spires and the expressionist municipal library in fine weather exudes an urban charm even in this rather modest city. Consequently, the rooftop bar is a popular haunt during rooftop concerts when visitors can enjoy a cool drink and relaxing sounds under its sunshades. The Hotel Ana is surrounded by cultural centres, pubs and the Ebertbad comedy theatre. It is thus poised to give the changing city centre a boost on its way to becoming a creative quarter. In 1961 a branch of the Kaufhof department store was opened in the same building; and today the Ana accommodates business visitors on its third floor, known as “Ana-Living”. Here there are 65 suites, each with a kitchenette. Anyone who wants to socialise only has to visit the communal kitchen for a game of billiards or table football. The first and second floors offer classic hotel rooms under the “Ana Soul” label. The North Duisburg Landscape Park, the Gasometer and the Zollverein Coal Mine Complex are all within easy reach. Bicycles can be rented free of charge. And if there's a disagreement about where to go, it can be decided in a game at the table tennis table or a race on the Carrera track in the lobby.

OBERHAUSEN | Paul-Reusch-Straße 38

→ ANA-HOTELS.COM/SOUL-OBERHAUSEN

HOTEL FRANZ

It's the little things that make the difference: room numbers that can be identified by touch, the lit-up bells, and the rooms which are not only wheelchair-friendly, but available in two versions, depending on which side it is easier for their occupants to get in and out of. Such details show that Hotel Franz not only attaches great importance to accessibility. The hotel, conveniently located between Essen's city centre and the district of Steele, is largely operated on an inclusive basis.

ESSEN | Steeler Straße 261

→ HOTEL-FRANZ.DE

THE ALTE LOHNHALLE

If you want to get to know the Ruhr metropolis from its industrial past, the Alte Lohnhalle (“Old Wage Hall”) at the Bonifacius colliery is the place to stay, for the listed red-brick building stands directly beneath the imposing winding tower of shaft number 1. Indeed, it would be no great surprise to see the ghosts of former miners passing by the breakfast buffet on their way to changing shifts. Relics of mining history can be found in every corner. There is an attractive beer garden on the square in the middle, and a wine shop in the engine room next door. The Zollverein Trail leads cyclists directly to the nearby World Heritage Site. And in the other direction, the Kray-Wanner railway offers a direct connection to the up-to-date cycle trails to Bochum and Gelsenkirchen.

ESSEN | Rotthausen Straße 40

→ ALTE-LOHNHALLE.DE



COFFEE FELLOWS

Dortmund was the first place where the Coffee Fellows chain wanted to show that it can also cater for overnight visitors. The result is a reception area with a constant smell of coffee, and a delicious breakfast buffet, not least because of its creative selection of beans. On top of that, the house aims for maximum sustainability. This begins with its selection of vegan products and continues all the way to the purchase of fair-trade coffee. The team has thus managed to reach GreenSign Level 4. The rooms come in subtle shades of grey and brown, and pets are provided with a bowl and basket. The hotel on Hansaplatz could not be more central: the concert hall, the football museum and the Dortmunder U cultural centre are all just a few minutes' walk away.

DORTMUND | Schwarze-Brüder-Straße 1

→ COFFEE-FELLOWS.HOTELS-DORTMUND.COM

HOTEL FRIEDERIKE

Even from the outside the late Wilhelminian red-brick facade of the Hotel Friederike in Mülheim an der Ruhr stands out from the other buildings in Friedrichstraße. Here you will find timelessly stylish rooms, a good breakfast at no extra charge and a battery-charging point for e-bikes right outside the door. The River Ruhr flows almost directly behind the sweeping garden, unfolding a particularly beautiful innercity vista along the floodplain setting. The newly designed municipal harbour and the restaurants in the old town are within walking distance – as are almost all of the city's cultural highlights: Broich Castle, the Ringlokschuppen cultural centre, the Art Museum and the Stadthalle, which plays host to both the “Stücke” new play theatre festival and the Ruhr Piano Festival. In addition, one of the most attractive cycle routes in Germany passes by the hotel: the Ruhr Valley Cycle Trail runs from its source in Winterberg all the way to the mouth of the Rhine near Duisburg.

MÜLHEIM AN DER RUHR | Friedrichstraße 32

→ HOTEL-FRIEDERIKE.COM

On foot

In many cities in the Ruhr area the nearest trendy neighbourhood is only a few minutes' walk from the central station. In Essen the so-called "Südviertel" (south quarter) is within easy reach, in Bochum the Bermuda Triangle is only a few hundred metres away, and the same goes for the Dell quarter in Duisburg. For those who like a bit more peace, why not try one of the many Revierparks, which are currently being upgraded. Even hikers can find what they're looking for: a classic example is the 27-kilometer "Baldeneysteig" overlooking Lake Baldeney in the south of Essen.

By bike

Especially in busy cities, cycling can sometimes be a real challenge. Nevertheless there are some great cycling trails. One of the longest is the "Industrial Heritage Trail" which has over 700 kilometres of cycle routes. It connects Duisburg with Hamm, and also passes numerous industrial monuments. The so-called "Radschnellweg" – a sort of motorway for cyclists – is conveniently laid out and well-lit, mainly between Essen and Mülheim. Sad to say, further plans for expansion are only making slow progress...

You can hire a bike at many bike rental stations (most of them are at railway stations), and at → METROPOLRADRUHR.DE

If you want to put together your own individual cycle route, take a look here

→ RADROUTENPLANER.NRW.DE

By car

The A40 motorway is legendary – for its traffic jams. The busiest motorway in Germany runs through Duisburg, Mülheim an der Ruhr, Essen, Bochum and Dortmund, to name just the largest cities. If you don't have your own car, you can turn to car-sharing providers like Stadtmobil, Greenwheels or Flinkster. For an overview see

→ CARSHARING-NEWS.DE

By taxi

Like everywhere else in Germany, Ruhrgebiet taxis have a pale yellow "pensioner" look. One small problem is that the call numbers vary from town to town. They can also be booked online on portals like → CABDO.DE

By train

If you want to commute quickly between the various cities, it is better to travel on the train and S-Bahn (the overground suburban railway) than on the trams and underground trains. From east to west (and vice versa), this usually works a treat. The regional express train takes just 20 minutes to get from Essen to Dortmund (here you can sit back and enjoy the view of the congested traffic on the A40 motorway from the top floor of the double-decker carriages). In contrast, the connections between the north and south are more complicated. Time-consuming changeovers are often necessary here. → DB.DE

By bus, tram and underground

If you're looking for a local public transport system that connects all the cities in the Ruhr area, no problem! There's only one. In theory. Because different transport companies such as the DVG in Duisburg or the EVAG in Essen seem to make the whole thing more complicated. Nonetheless they're all a part of a single transport association, the VRR, where ticket prices vary according to the length and time of the journey. Here's a tip. The "culture line" (tram 107) connects many cultural highlights between Essen and Gelsenkirchen. If you take the 107 tram, you will pass Werner Ruhnau's legendary Musiktheater im Revier (Gelsenkirchen), as well as the UNESCO World Heritage Site Zollverein and the Museum Folkwang in Essen. For information on tickets and prices (also in English) see → VRR.DE

By E-Scooter

Germany's first e-scooters went on the road in Herne in 2019. Since then the network has been further expanded and e-scooters are usually accessible without problems in Duisburg, Essen, Bochum, Bottrop and Dortmund, from companies like Lime, Bird, Spin and Tier.

By boat

Canals may look less idyllic in the Ruhrgebiet than in Italy. But industrialisation has ensured that there is a dense network of waterways – and structural changes have resulted in many cycle and walking trails along their banks. Europe's largest inland port is in Duisburg, where the "White Fleet" pleasure boats also set out. Pedal boats, canoes and the like can be hired from the "Six Lakes" in Duisburg, Lake Kemnade in Bochum and Lake Berger in Gelsenkirchen, to name but three. You can book a tour along the canals at

→ KULTURKANAL.RUHR

By air

Dortmund Airport serves many destinations within Europe. It can be easily reached by the airport shuttle bus from Dortmund central station. The smaller Essen/Mülheim airport does not offer scheduled flights, but gliders, helicopters and planes take off here. As does an airship called "Theo". When the weather's fine in summer, you can take a 60 minute round tour aboard the airship, sometimes over the Bergisch Land area. If you fancy booking a ride on "Theo", take a look here: → WDL-WORLDWIDE.DE

Apart from that you can...

...glide over Dortmund on the overhead railway → WWW.H-BAHN.INFO or travel the area on a steam train, say from the Railway Museum in the Bochum suburb of Dahlhausen → EISENBAHMUSEUM-BOCHUM.DE

And if you want to travel back in time why not take a trip on the Hespertal Railway from the suburb of Kupferdreh along Lake Baldeney in Essen? Some of the night-time scenes for the '20s tv series "Babylon Berlin" were shot here. More info: → HESPERTALBAHN.DE

Imprint Once a year “Poly” provides an overview of all the key issues affecting art and society in the Ruhr region. If you want to find out more about art and culture in North Rhine-Westphalia, why not take a look at our magazine “kultur.west” (which is published ten times a year), or every day at: www.kulturwest.de

PUBLISHER

K-West Verlag GmbH
Dinnendahlstraße 134
45136 Essen
T +49 201 49 068-14
info@kulturwest.de
www.kulturwest.de

CONCEPT & EDITOR IN CHIEF

Annika Wind
Volker K. Belghaus

CREATIVE DIRECTION

Morphoria Design
www.morphoria.com

TEXT

Volker K. Belghaus, Max Florian
Kühlem, Thomas Machoczek,
Kristina Schulze, Stefanie Stadel,
Frank Weiffen, Andreas Wilink,
Annika Wind

TRANSLATION & PROOF-READER

Roy Kift

ILLUSTRATION

Brian Storm
www.storm-illustration.de

TITLE

Markus J. Feger
www.m-j-feger.tumblr.com

MARKETING & SALES

Anja Keienburg
Marcus Schütte
Netzkult Marketing & PR
T +49 208 828 776 00
www.netzkult.de

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anzeigen@poly-magazin.de

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CONTACT

www.poly-magazin.de
info@poly-magazin.de

WHAT ELSE?

If you're keen to discover more hot spots and insider tips in North-Rhine Westphalia, we can highly recommend the following two magazines: “hiddencologne” for Cologne and “The Dorf” for Düsseldorf.

MORE INFO AT

→ HIDDENCOLGNE.DE
→ THEDORF.DE
→ URBANANA.DE



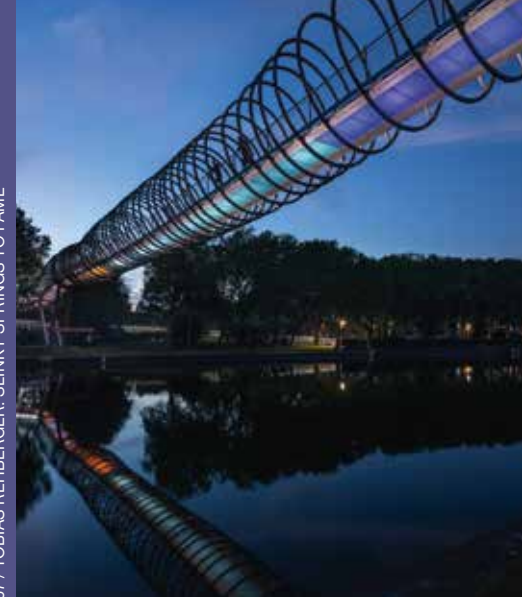
kultur.west

EMS CHER



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KUN ST

70 / HENNING ROGGE



74 / JULIUS VON BISMARCK
WITH MARTA DYACHENKO: NEUSTADT

W EG

ART FOR EVERYONE
AT ALL TIMES



gentle curves sharp edges



Change your perspective and see the world from a different angle - immerse into the unknown territory of edgy **urbanana**. Stretching from the Ruhr Area to the Rhineland, you find a banana-shaped metropolis with hazy boundaries. Gear up your curiosity and zoom in on Cologne, Düsseldorf and the Ruhr.

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urbanana.de



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