

Berlin's Gallery Scene

With more than 400 galleries and 20,000 artists from around the world calling the German capital home, Berlin has become a top centre for contemporary art.

Berlin, March 2017 Whether an artist, gallery owner, curator, critic, or collector, no art professional can pass by Berlin. As a result, many artists are drawn to the German capital, whether for a few weeks, months or years for for a lifetime.

Artists such as Thomas Demand, Candice Breitz, Jonas Burgert, Olafur Eliasson, Jeppe Hein, Monica Bonvicini, Katharina Grosse and Ai Weiwei all live and work in Berlin. A recent report on the business aspects of Berlin's cultural industry revealed that more than 20,000 visual artists make their home in the city. About 6,000 of them show their work in Berlin galleries. After the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, the now reunited city developed into a centre for contemporary art with a well-deserved international reputation. Whether painting, sculpture, photography, performance art and installations, artists exhibit their works made in Berlin at all the major trade shows and exhibitions, biennials and the major Documenta show heldevery five years in Kassel. The major hotspots for galleries in Berlin-Mitte, Kreuzberg, Potsdamer Straße and recently again Charlottenburg have developed an excellent reputation. Information portals like INDEX Berlin also compile lists of trendy art spots in the city. www.indexberlin.de

Berlin is currently experiencing an artistic boom like that last seen in the 1920s.. . A look back at history shows that the excitement of city life with all of its rich contrasts exercised a major draw on artists in inter-war Germany turning Berlin into the focal point of the German arts and culture scene at the time. Movements such as Neue Sachlichkeit (New Objectivity) and the Secession and artists such as Max Beckmann, Käthe Kollwitz and Edvard Munch all shaped the image of a creative and turbulent city. With the exception of the West Berlin Junge Wilde movement in the 1970s and 80s, the city only regained its international reputation once the city's division had come to an end. Berlin's arts calendar now features several events that continue to attract more and more artists and art lovers each year. The Gallery Weekend, in which 47 private galleries now participate, has served as a role model for similar events in other cities. The weekend offers high-quality shows and an unrivalled look at the international art scene that bring in art collectors, curators, and art lovers who enjoy checking out Berlin's diverse galleries during their extended hours. Berlin Art Week is taking place for the sixth time with the Berlin Senate's support and brings together private and public institutions, museums, and arts associations to demonstrate how important the art scene is to the German capital. A varied programme of exhibitions, numerous gallery openings, lectures and discussions, performances, screenings, and other special events delight art lovers from around the world. Both recently opened and long-established galleries are among the co-initiators of Berlin Art Week, the exclusive exhibition format at the abc

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trade fair (abc stands for "art berlin contemporary"), and the more recent satellite fair "positions berlin". www.gallery-weekend-berlin.de, www.berlinartweek.de, www.artberlincontemporary.com/de, www.positions.de

Equally attractive for visitors to Berlin will be the 10th Berlin Biennale to be held in 2018. The 2018 curator will be South African artist and curator Gabi Ngcobo., www.berlinbiennale.de

Promoting International and Local Artists

Also worth mentioning are Berlin's grant programmes that have been bringing important international artists to the city for more than two decades. Key examples of these programmes include DAAD with its new premises on Oranienstraße and Künstlerhaus Bethanien. The United States operates the American Academy at Wannsee, which has also made significant contributions in recent years to the discourse in Berlin's art scene. Even The New York Times has sent its chief art critic to Berlin several times in recent years to report on art events throughout Europe. www.facebook.com/berlinerkuentstlerprogramm, www.bethanien.de

The importance of the approximate 150 non-profit and mostly self-funded artists' spaces was recently honoured by the Berlin Senate. In September 2012, the first prizes for artistic spaces were awarded. Each year, seven selected artists' initiatives receive grants of €30,000 each. Winners in 2016 included A Trans, which integrates artistic and architectural visions and social awareness (<http://atrans.org/>) and super bien!, a project space created from an ordinary greenhouse which examines the role of galleries in contemporary culture. Its simple, modular structure offers artists and curators the chance to radically redefine the space for each exhibition. <http://www.superbien.de/>

LAGE EGAL playfully and experimentally explores the mechanisms with which art presents and markets itself and organises shows not only in its own spaces, but in other such as private homes or galleries. <http://www.lage-egal.de>

The prestigious Nationalgalerie Prize for Emerging Art has been awarded since 2000. The most recent winner was Gießen native Anne Imhof. The next winner will be announced in September 2017.

Artists at Work and Living Here – Studio Spaces in Berlin

Beyond the well-known and established showrooms and platforms for contemporary art, it can be more difficult to locate artists at work. The majority of studio collectives and individual work spaces are found in the latest hotspots for creativity in Kreuzberg and Neukölln. However, as rents rise, artists are moving to Wedding, a district with a large inventory of empty industrial space that's become attractive to those seeking studio space. One example are the former garages of the BVG, Berlin's public transport company, which have reopened as a privately-run culture centre called the Uferhallen. Artists such as

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Katharina Grosse, John Bock, and Wolfgang Ganter have created interesting contexts for their work here. www.uferhallen.de

The hidden places of art production can be found in former factory buildings and commercial complexes that were abandoned after the fall of the Wall many industrial and commercial businesses left the city. Many of the vacated spaces were rescued through an initiative of the Kulturwerk bbk berlin e.V., an association of visual artists in Berlin. Together with the Berlin Senate and other partners, a grant programme to support studios was developed that now offers around 830 subsidised artists' studios and studio apartments. In Neukölln, the studio buildings at Donaustraße 83 and Hobrechtstraße 31 are just two of the former factories that have been revitalised in this way. Located between Maybachufer and Kottbusser Damm, they now house 20 studios. www.bbk-berlin.de

Along the banks of the river in Treptow, the Kunstfabrik am Flutgraben provides space for 40 studios. Among the artists working here are many prominent names such as Eberhard Havekost and the Raumlabor. The Kunstfabrik is located on the site of a former tram depot. www.flutgraben.org

The interest in unconventional and historic locations that can be converted into artist space has not abated. Investors, including several art collectors, are constantly creating new creative studio spaces in former breweries, crematoria, and even a former Communist party car park. For example, the Kindl brewery in Neukölln offering more than 1,200 m² of exhibition space and other rooms for events of all kinds. Other examples include Krematorium Wedding (a former crematorium), the Malzfabrik in Schöneberg (a former factory for the production of malt), and Atelierkontext by collector Axel Haubrok in Lichtenberg. Funkhaus Nalepastraße is another location far from the city centre, this time in Oberschöneweide. Built in the 1950s, this building was converted into an arts and cultural centre some years ago by a new investor, offering recording and artists' studios for rent. funkhausberlin.blogspot.de <http://www.kindl-berlin.de>, <http://www.haubrok.org>, <https://www.silent-green.net>

Private Art – For the Public

The art boom in Berlin has also led collectors to put their private collections on public display. One of the most famous of these is that owned by communications magnate Christian Boros, currently shown in a former bunker from the Second World War. Boros had the massive building gutted and redesigned as an exhibition space. Works by trendy international artists, including Tobias Rehberger, Olafur Eliasson and Alicja Kwade are part of what has become an internationally renowned contemporary art collection. The roof of the bunker, once one of the city's most well-known techno clubs, is now topped by a penthouse where Boros makes his home. The exhibition is being rebuilt and will reopen 3 May 2017. www.sammlung-boros.de

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Erika and Rolf Hoffmann came to Berlin shortly after German unification in 1990 to give their collection a suitable setting. The couple moved their collection of concept art to their private residence in a former sewing machine factory in Berlin's Mitte district. The art is displayed throughout their home, which is open to the public on most Saturdays. (Advance registration required.) The collection includes works from the 1960s by Lawrence Wiener as well as works by contemporary multimedia artist John Bock. Many of the works are some of the artists' earliest pieces. Since the death of her husband, Erika Hoffmann continues to manage the collection on her own. www.sammlung-hoffmann.de

Dr Thomas Olbricht, who is also heir to the Wella fortune, has been buying art since his youth. However, his passion is not limited to contemporary art. He is fascinated by so-called exotica, the kinds of things royalty once exhibited in the cabinets of curiosity that were the precursors of the modern museum. From tusks and unicorns to editions of Gerhard Richter and representatives of 21st century art, Olbricht's collection covers an incredible range and is on display at the "me collectors room". *me*, by the way, stands for "moving energies". Olbricht regularly invites other collectors to show their collections in his premises on Auguststraße. He also works with curators to put together thematic exhibitions that create a constant flow of new input. The museum shop itself is worth a visit, with its selection of unusual objects on sale, some of which are only available in limited editions. www.me-berlin.com

Art consultant and collector Desiré Feuerle focuses on collecting pieces by contemporary international artists as well as antique Chinese furniture and Southeast Asian art. The Feuerle Collection opened near Gleisdreieck in 2016 in a former telecommunications bunker. Very promising here is the dialogue across periods, styles, and cultures on display here. <http://thefeuerlecollection.org>

Heiner Bastian who has been showing his collection of modern and contemporary art in a building opposite the Museum Island that he had commissioned from David Chipperfield will be giving the building in late summer 2017 to the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation.

The Düsseldorf-based Julia Stoschek Collection opened its new Berlin location on Leipziger Straße in February 2017. The collection has an increased focus on time-based media. The private collection mainly includes videos, installations, and photographs that present a scientific elaboration of the focus. <http://www.julia-stoschek-collection.net/>

Booming Gallery Scene

Berlin has more than just one hotspot of the international art market. No other major city in the world has such a large, dense art scene: Germany's capital is home some 350 galleries. There are also about 150 non-commercial showrooms and off-spaces that regularly show new exhibitions. For almost 20 years, a new gallery has opened almost weekly at various locations across the city. Some veteran gallerists from the Rhineland have even shifted their

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entire business to the German capital. The galleries offer more than 57,000 m² of exhibition space for some 6,000 artists from home and abroad to show their work. One of the latest arrivals is renowned Cologne gallerist Michael Kewenig who works not only with well-known and established artists such as Beuys, Boltanski and Kounellis, but also with contemporaries such as Ralf Ziervogel. His new gallery recently opened in the Palais Happe, the second oldest town house in the city in Berlin's Mitte district; his show warehouse will be in the former substation at Moabit. kewenig.com

The majority of the artists working in Berlin today flocked here after the fall of the Berlin Wall as the newly named capital awoke from decades of post-war slumber. Reclaimed factory buildings such as the former margarine factory in Auguststraße became internationally renowned centres for art. Under the leadership of Klaus Biesenbach, now the director of MoMa PS1, the KW Institute for Contemporary Art achieved from the time of its founding in 1990 an international reputation as a laboratory and a place to cooperate in pioneering trends in contemporary art since it was founded in 1990. www.kw-berlin.de/de/

Mitte

Mitte has become home to one of the liveliest and most prestigious gallery districts in Berlin. Early leaders on the scene included Gerd Harry Lybke, who moved to the Spandauer Vorstadt neighbourhood in 1992 from Leipzig to offer painters from the now world-famous Neue Leipziger Malschule a forum to show their work in Berlin. Even as many galleries moved to bigger quarters in other trendy districts by the late 1990s, names such as Kicken and neugerriemschneider moved in to lend stability to the Mitte gallery scene. A continuous influx of new projects in recent years have kept things fresh in Spandauer Vorstadt, including the elegant headquarters of Sprüth/Magers on Oranienburger Strasse. Galerie Crone, previously near Checkpoint Charlie, is moving to Linienstraße in April 2017. The gallery works with artists like Rosemarie Trockel and Norbert Bisky. Dittrich & Schlechtriem has also moved into new quarters on Linienstraße. Within walking distance of Museum Island is the Deutsche Bank Kunsthalle, formerly the German Guggenheim, which hosts three to four important exhibitions annually. www.eigen-art.com, www.spruethmagers.com, <http://www.galeriecrone.com>, www.deutsche-bank-kunsthalle.de

One of the new art hotspots on Auguststraße is located in the city's former school for Jewish girls that has been renovated with a 20-year lease by Charlottenburg gallerist Michael Fuchs. The project offers several gallery spaces including one for Michael Fuchs' own gallery and CWC (Camera Work Contemporary), a branch of Camera Work, a Charlottenburg gallery specialising in photography. The Kennedy Museum is located on the building's second storey. Equally attractive are the building's restaurants. They bring together the older and the younger history of the site. Deli Mogg offers pastrami sandwiches and does its best to connect the Berlin of the 1920s with the hip Berlin of today. www.maedchenschule.org, www.moggmogg.com

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Kreuzberg

Another centre for art is found a little further south along the former path of the Berlin Wall at Checkpoint Charlie. The influential Carlier|Gebauer gallery and its neighbour Barbara Thumm have made their home in the block around Charlottenstraße and Markgrafenstraße since the 1990s, surrounded by a Spanish food wholesaler and Turkish bridal shops.

www.carliergebauer.com, www.bthumm.de

A little further south, right behind the Axel Springer building, the Lindenstraße 34/35 gallery building opened in 2007 in close proximity to the Jewish Museum. Gallerist Claes Nordenhake acquired the stately 1912 building in 2003 together with a Swedish collector. Nordenhake was the first foreign art dealer to set up in Berlin when he brought the gallery he founded in Malmö in 1973 to the German capital in 2000. Today, a total of thirteen galleries are housed in this building. The long-established Düsseldorf blue-chip Konrad Fischer gallery has its Berlin branch on the ground floor. www.galerienhaus.com

A small gallery spot opened recently near Moritzplatz, home to the Aufbau Haus, an important cultural centre, when Galerie Klemm's moved to Prinzessinnenstraße in 2013.

www.klemms-berlin.com

The long-time multi-cultural centre of Kreuzberg between Mehringdamm and Schlesisches Tor is a trendy location for the hip Galerie Wentrup. Galleries like Chert at Schlesisches Tor also present established artists and the rising stars of tomorrow. One of the latest projects is by Johann König: the St Agnes Church, built by Werner Düttmann in 1967, will soon be opened as an exhibition space for young art. König comes from an influential family in the international art trade and is one of the most charismatic young gallerists in the city.

www.wentrupgallery.com, chert-berlin.org, <http://www.koeniggalerie.com>. Most of the established galleries in Berlin have several moves behind them, from one art centre to the next gallery hotspot. The gallery spaces near the Jannowitzbrücke or behind the Hamburger Bahnhof have since closed down.

Potsdamer Straße – Trendy Hotspot for Art in Berlin

The area is booming and is seeing more and more galleries move in, turning this into an arts district where the galleries mutually benefit from their proximity, sometimes even coordinating their hours with one another. Up-and-coming gallerists Supportico Lopez, Tanya Leighton, and Thomas Fischer have all been in the area for some years now. In the meanwhile, almost 45 galleries have breathed new life into the neighbourhood around Potsdamer Straße and are drawing the interest of other companies in the creative sectors. Esther Schipper, which has recently merged with the well-known Johnen Galerie, is moving from Schöneberger Ufer to new premises on the former Tagesspiegel site on Potsdamer Straße, where international galleries such as influential London gallerist Blain Southern have brought in the crowds. Andreas Murkudis, who sells selected fashion and design, art editions,

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and other luxury objects in and around the area, is curating a showroom directly opposite on Potsdamer Straße, scheduled to open for Gallery Weekend 2017. A newcomer to Schöneberg is Cavuspace and the Urban perfumerie, creating links between the visual arts and the art of the scent. www.supporticolopez.com, www.tanyaleighton.com, www.galeriethomasfischer.de, <http://www.blainsouthern.com>, www.estherschipper.com, www.andreamurkudis.com www.cavuspace.com

Art Spots in Berlin – From East to West

Galerie Capitain Petzel has made its home in Friedrichshain for seven years. It is the result of a merger of two major players in the international art trade: Cologne-based Gisela Capitain with New York-based German dealer Friedrich Petzel. The gallery is located in one of the rare gems of East German modernism. The 1964 elegant and light-filled pavilion was once a socialist showcase for the decorative arts called "Kunst im Heim". This distinctive building has been carefully restored and offers three levels of space for exhibitions of all kinds. It has since become a place of pilgrimage for art collectors and lovers of architecture alike. For more than five years, it has also been home to Los Angeles-based peresprojects, active in Berlin for several years now and responsible for making young artists like Terence Koh into rising stars of the art world. www.capitainpetzel.de, peresprojects.com Galerie Sexauer opened in a former factory hall in Weißensee near a number of artists' studios in 2014. Well-connected lawyer and cultural organiser Jan-Philipp Sexauer has created some very high-end shows that have rapidly made this a popular hotspot for art. <http://www.sexauer.eu>

Renowned gallerist Max Hetzler moved from from Cologne to Berlin back in the early 1990s. After stops in Kreuzberg and Wedding, he opened two new locations in Charlottenburg near the Museum of Photography, the Newton Foundation, and C/O Berlin, a private museum/gallery devoted to photography. www.maxhetzler.com

Daniel Buchholz from Cologne also decided several years ago to open up a space in Charlottenburg's Fasanenstraße, an area of nineteenth-century town houses. Charlottenburg was already the preferred neighbourhood of some important galleries and dealers in the years before the Wall fell. Volker Diehl, formerly located in Charlottenburg and for many years active in other districts of the city, has now decided to return to his former neighbourhood. He has opened another spot, the Diehl Cube, very close to Emser Straße. This cube is a 7 x 7 x 7 m glass display case/shop window where current exhibitions can be viewed 24/7. Next to the Neumeister Bar-Am on Goethestraße is the home to one of the trendiest galleries of the moment: the new Mathew Gallery run by David Lieske and Peter Kersten not far from Schaperstraße.

The Contemporary Fine Arts Gallery formerly located on Kupfergraben since 2007 has since moved to Charlottenburg. Gallery partners Nicole Hackert and Bruno Brunnet have earned a reputation as the pacesetters of the art market thanks to their early discovery and promotion of art market stars such as Peter Doig, Daniel Richter and Raymond Pettibon.

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| Research Text



www.galeriebuchholz.de, www.galerievolkerdiehl.com, neumeisterbaram.com,
www.mathew-gal.de, <http://www.cfa-berlin.de>

More information can be found at visitBerlin.de.

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