



Press Release/Pressemitteilung

Kunstmuseen Krefeld: Exhibition preview 2026

In the 2026 exhibition year at the Kunstmuseen Krefeld, the productive dialogue between art and craft takes center stage—from both historical and contemporary perspectives. While the artist Acaye Kerunen examines traditional weaving techniques and their social underpinnings, Bernhard Fuchs documents agricultural practices and architectures through photography. Johan Thorn Prikker's modernist ideal of the *Gesamtkunstwerk*—uniting painting, mosaic, stained glass, and architecture into a universal design—is juxtaposed with Emma Talbot's vibrantly colored, contemporary visual worlds rendered on painted silk. The applied arts of the Brücke artist group will be placed in dialogue with an exhibition curated by Slavs & Tatars, addressing the cultural significance of craft today.

Museum Director Katia Baudin explains: "The connection between the fine and applied arts is part of the Kunstmuseen Krefeld's very DNA. This interdisciplinary mindset also provides the framework for our 2026 exhibitions: they demonstrate how closely artistic practices can be tied to craft techniques and materials, and how compellingly both historical and contemporary positions evolve at the intersection of art and design."

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HL HE Dialog: What Comes After Art April 19–September 6, 2026

Acaye Kerunen and Bernhard Fuchs come from very different cultural backgrounds and artistic traditions, yet both share a deep connection to their places of origin — sources of inspiration that continue to shape their artistic visions. In both artists' work, notions of preservation, appreciation, continuity, and the longing for repair form a shared conceptual framework.

Acaye Kerunen at Haus Lange

The power of Acaye Kerunen's practice (born in Kampala, Uganda) lies in her unique fusion of traditional natural materials and a collaborative, community-based approach to artmaking. Working with handwoven textiles created collectively by women in her home region, Kerunen develops sculptural and spatial installations that tell stories of craft traditions, social rituals, and structures of cooperation. Dance, song, and language are integral parts of these communities, which Kerunen connects to her works through performative actions.

At Haus Lange, the artist presents an immersive installation combining her sculptural works with newly developed performances. The Kunstmuseen Krefeld are proud to host her first institutional solo exhibition and first presentation in Germany.

Bernhard Fuchs at Haus Esters

Bernhard Fuchs (born 1971 in Haslach an der Mühl, Austria) is part of the established generation of the Düsseldorf School of Photography. With his series *Heustöcke* (Haystacks), he has completed a new body of work shown almost in its entirety—forty photographs—in Haus Esters. The series depicts the storage of hay on the floors of various barns in the artist's native Upper Austria.

Kunstmuseen Krefeld

Kaiser Wilhelm Museum Haus Lange Haus Esters

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These haystacks, once common in rural life, are now increasingly disappearing. Through this series, Fuchs reflects not only on traditional agricultural processes of storing and producing materials, but also on the nature and temporality of photography itself.

The exhibition Bernhard Fuchs. Heustöcke is organized in cooperation with the Lentos Kunstmuseum Linz (Austria), where it will be shown in 2027.

Curator: Sylvia Martin

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Beautiful Anarchy. Johan Thorn Prikker and His Time
Kaiser Wilhelm Museum (KWM)
May 17, 2026–August 2027

Between socially engaged “artistic labor” and spiritual exploration, between ornament and abstraction — Johan Thorn Prikker (1868–1932) stands as one of the most influential artists of the 1910s and 1920s in the Rhineland. His vision united painting, applied arts, and architecture into a total work of art. Trained in the Netherlands, Thorn Prikker came to Krefeld in 1904 and later taught in Düsseldorf and Cologne. The Kunstmuseen Krefeld hold the world’s most extensive collection of Thorn Prikker’s work — around one thousand pieces, including completed stained-glass windows, posters, paintings, and designs for textiles, murals, and mosaics. For the first time since the 1960s, this exceptional collection will be presented in a comprehensive exhibition that situates the artist’s multifaceted oeuvre within the museum’s holdings. Highlights include monumental designs for mosaics and stained-glass windows created for the groundbreaking Düsseldorf exhibition GeSoLei (1926).

Curator: Magdalena Holzhey
Scientific advisory: Christiane Heiser

Collection Satellite #10: Emma Talbot
Kaiser Wilhelm Museum (KWM)
May 17, 2026–January 24, 2027

Since 2018, the Collection Satellite series has opened up new and unexpected perspectives on the Kunstmuseen Krefeld’s collection and history. For the tenth edition, British artist Emma Talbot (born 1969 in Stourbridge, UK) responds to one of the Kaiser Wilhelm Museum’s most significant monumental works: the mural cycle Ages of Life (Lebensalter) created by Johan Thorn Prikker in 1923. With an expansive installation in the Thorn Prikker Hall and additional works, Talbot will present her vividly painted visions of the life cycle — set within a multi-layered, interwoven, and unstable present. Known for her expressive installations made of painted silk, sculptural ensembles, drawings, and film animations, Emma Talbot is the winner of the 8th Max Mara Art Prize for Women and participated in The Milk of Dreams at the Venice Biennale 2022.

Curator: Magdalena Holzhey

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HL HE Dialog: Art x Craft
October 4, 2026–March 7, 2027

More than a century separates the creative output of the Brücke group and Slavs and Tatars, yet their practices share striking conceptual affinities. This dual exhibition explicitly invites visitors to reconsider the traditional boundaries between applied and fine art, challenging established narratives of art history and the present day.

Kunst Hand Werk Brücke, Haus Lange

The exhibition *Kunst Hand Werk Brücke* focuses for the first time on the craft practices of the early 20th-century artist group Die Brücke. Beyond their expressionist paintings and prints, the Brücke artists actively engaged with craft: they designed furniture, everyday objects, stationery, stained glass, jewelry, and textiles in pursuit of a holistic lifestyle where art and life were inseparable. Folk craftsmanship and non-European art served as key sources of inspiration.

The Kunstmuseen Krefeld present this exhibition at Haus Lange — the place where collector and industrialist Hermann Lange assembled his Expressionist collection in the 1920s already. At the same time, the Kaiser Wilhelm Museum was among the first German museums to exhibit Expressionism and especially works by the Brücke artists.

Kunst Hand Werk Brücke is organized by the Brücke-Museum Berlin in collaboration with the Kunstmuseen Krefeld.

Curator: Ann-Kathrin Hörrlein

Slavs and Tatars: Handsschob, Haus Esters

In parallel, the internationally renowned artist collective Slavs and Tatars has been invited by the Kunstmuseen Krefeld to curate an exhibition at Haus Esters. Working at the intersection of language, politics, religion, and identity, the collective draws its narrative and visual material from the cultural diversity of "Eurasia." Together with a group of invited artists, Slavs and Tatars explore craft as a vessel of collective cultural and social meaning, reexamining the relationship between fine and applied art from a contemporary perspective. The "rivalries" they observe—between art and craft, innovation and tradition, individual and collective—form the guiding theme of their exhibition at Haus Esters.

Curators: Slavs and Tatars

Project assistance: Linn Küsters

Artistic director: Katia Baudin

HL HE Dialog Series

Since 2017, the HL HE Dialog series has fostered encounters between historical and contemporary positions in art, design, and architecture within the neighboring Mies van der Rohe villas. Each edition reflects anew on the legacy of modernism, bringing past and present into dynamic conversation.

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International exhibitions

MUSEUM GRENZENLOS – MUSÉES HORS FRONTIÈRES: Part Two!

Art – Design / Dunkirk – Krefeld

Frac Grand Large - Hauts-de-France

January 24 to August 30, 2026

Following its successful launch in Krefeld in 2024, the collection exchange between the Kunstmuseen Krefeld and the Frac Grand Large in Dunkerque continues. Under the title MUSEUM WITHOUT BORDERS – MUSÉES HORS FRONTIÈRES, the Frac Grand Large in Krefeld's twin city of Dunkerque is presenting an extensive exhibition featuring works from the Kunstmuseen Krefeld collection.

The show highlights the close connection between art, design, and industry – from early advertising graphics and the Bauhaus era to contemporary positions and design. Historical works meet current artistic perspectives and open up new perspectives on social, aesthetic, and political issues.

With works by Anni Albers, Josef Albers, Peter Behrens, Alexander Calder, Christo, Sonia Delaunay, Lucio Fontana, Gilbert & George, Andreas Gursky, Hans Haacke, Candida Höfer, Wassily Kandinsky, Yves Klein, Karin Kneffel, Eva Kot'átková, László Moholy-Nagy, Marcel Odenbach, Claes Oldenburg, Otto Piene, Sigmar Polke, Gerhard Richter, Daniel Spoerri, Jean Tinguely, and Rosemarie Trockel.

Artistic Direction: Katia Baudin, Keren Detton

Curator of the exhibition in Dunkirk: Keren Detton

Charlotte Perriand. L'Art d'habiter / The Art of Dwelling

Kaiser Wilhelm Museum (KWM), Haus Lange, Haus Esters

until March 15, 2026

The Kunstmuseen Krefeld are dedicating the first major retrospective in Germany to the French architect and designer Charlotte Perriand (1903–1999). Perriand ranks among the most influential designers of the 20th century and played a decisive role in shaping modern living. As a central figure in the circle surrounding the

influential French architect Le Corbusier, she united functionality, aesthetics, and a social vision in a groundbreaking body of work. Featuring more than 500 exhibits across a total of over 1,200 square meters of exhibition space, the show unfolds a multifaceted portrait of this exceptional pioneer—inviting visitors to reflect on design as an expression of political commitment, tradition, progress, and social responsibility. Her credo was: „The extension of the art of dwelling is the art of living.“ This guiding principle permeates her entire oeuvre—as a vision of living in harmony with the environment, society, and cultural identity. Perriand created furniture, interiors, and architectures that were often far ahead of their time—and have become more relevant than ever today in light of ecological and social challenges.

Developed in close collaboration with the Archives Charlotte Perriand in Paris, *L'Art d'habiter / The Art of Dwelling* presents a richly layered portrait of this extraordinary designer across all three venues of the Kunstmuseen Krefeld:

At the **KWM**, Perriand's work—from her tubular-steel furniture of the 1920s to her large-scale project Les Arcs—is brought to life through reconstructions, original objects, and archival material.

At Mies van der Rohe's **Haus Lange**, the exhibition explores Perriand's "synthesis of the arts" as a dialogue between art, nature, and cultures, shaped by international residencies and collaborations with major artists such as Le Corbusier, Fernand Léger, and Isamu Noguchi.

At **Haus Esters**, the retrospective weaves together the history and design collection of the Kunstmuseen Krefeld, highlighting the contemporary relevance of Perriand's ideas, particularly with regard to sustainability.

Curators of the exhibition in Krefeld: Katia Baudin with Waleria Dorogova

An exhibition collaboration between the Kunstmuseen Krefeld, the Museum der Moderne Salzburg, and the Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona. It is the first retrospective on Charlotte Perriand in all three countries.

Museum der Moderne Salzburg

May 1 to September 13, 2026

and

Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona

October 22, 2026 to February 27, 2027

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Education and Outreach Program

For 2026, the Art Education Department is once again planning a wide-ranging program featuring diverse and inclusive projects for children and young people, for example within the framework of Kulturrucksack NRW or in cooperation with local and supra-regional cultural partners (ranging from the municipal KRESCH Children's and Youth Theatre in Krefeld to Hochschule Niederrhein and the University of Duisburg–Essen, as well as Museum Abteiberg in Mönchengladbach). As in previous years, the Museums-Uni program will be offered in collaboration with Hochschule Niederrhein, and on the first Thursday of every month (except January) the popular evening opening KunstImPuls, funded by SWK and Sparkasse Krefeld, will take place, featuring music programs, workshops, guided tours, and much more.

In cooperation with the K+ Café at KWM, the new series The Red Carpet. Film Art and Culinary Experiences at K+ is being launched, presenting programs related to current exhibitions as well as award-winning festival films and rare cinematic gems. As early as February, the silent film classic *L'Inhumaine* from the 1920s will be screened with live piano accompaniment.

Further highlights include projects in Studio 2 / KreativLabor, the interactive platform of the Art Education Department. While in spring Studio 2 will be transformed into an artists' studio in conjunction with the exhibitions by Emma Talbot and Johann Thorn Prikker—where visitors can design posters as well as spatial works such as window or wall paintings—by the end of 2026, in the context of the exhibitions Kunst Hand Werk Brücke and *Slavs and Tatars: Handdschob*, it will evolve into a walk-in collage of texts, handcrafted objects, images, and graphics created by visitors through courses and collaborative projects.

An overarching focus of many education and outreach activities in 2026 will be on craft techniques shaped by different cultural traditions from Africa, Asia, and Europe.

Visit**KUNSTMUSEEN KREFELD****Kaiser Wilhelm Museum**

Joseph-Beuys-Platz 1

47798 Krefeld

Haus Lange Haus Esters

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The Kunstmuseen Krefeld are a cultural institution of the city of Krefeld.

Admission is free for children and young people under the age of 18.

Director

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