

MANIFESTA

16

Ruhr

This is not a church

Guide^{EN}

21.06. – 04.10.2026

The first part of the paper discusses the importance of the research and the objectives of the study. It highlights the need for a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter and the role of the researcher in this process. The second part of the paper presents the methodology used in the study, including the data collection methods and the analysis techniques. The third part of the paper discusses the results of the study and the conclusions drawn from the findings. The final part of the paper provides a summary of the key points and offers suggestions for future research.

The research was conducted in a systematic and rigorous manner, following the principles of scientific inquiry. The data was collected from a representative sample of the population, and the analysis was performed using advanced statistical techniques. The results of the study are presented in a clear and concise manner, allowing for a thorough understanding of the findings. The conclusions drawn from the study are based on the evidence presented and are supported by the data.

The study has several limitations, which are discussed in detail in the paper. These limitations include the sample size, the duration of the study, and the potential for bias. Despite these limitations, the study provides valuable insights into the subject matter and contributes to the existing body of knowledge. The findings of the study have important implications for practice and policy, and they provide a foundation for further research in this area.

In conclusion, the study has successfully achieved its objectives and has provided a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter. The findings of the study are significant and have important implications for practice and policy. The study also highlights the need for further research in this area and provides suggestions for future research.

Manifesta 16 Ruhr 2026

21.06. – 04.10.2026

EN

Guide

Essen

St. Marien

St. Gertrud

Markuskirche

Bottrop⁺

Marl⁺

Gelsenkirchen

Oberhausen⁺

Duisburg

Essen

Mülheim
an der Ruhr⁺

Kulturkirche Liebfrauen

Duisburg

**This is
not a
church**

Manifesta 16 Ruhr unfolds across four main cities – Duisburg, Essen, Gelsenkirchen and Bochum – and twelve venues.

Cities marked with a + host projects from the Manifesta 16+ programme, in addition to the projects presented in the Host Cities.

Thomaskirche -
Hava Güleç
Living Room

St. Bonifatius -
Ferdane Satır
Tea Garden

St. Anna -
Hatay Engin
Music Hall

Gelsenkirchen

St. Josef

Herne⁺

Dortmund⁺

Bochum

Gethsemane-
Kirche

Bochum

St. Anna

Christ-König

St. Ludgerus



Manifesta 16 Ruhr Guide

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Welcome to Manifesta 16 Ruhr

Marking the 30th anniversary of the European Nomadic Biennial, founded in 1993, we are thrilled to welcome you to the 16th edition of Manifesta, in Germany's Ruhr Area. The biennial unfolds in twelve churches and brings together more than 100 participants and collectives, alongside a series of mediation projects rooted in local communities across the Ruhr Area. Whether you are a regular visitor to the biennial or a local resident curious to see what is happening in your area, we are very glad to have you with us.

Founded in 1993, Manifesta has been at the forefront of mapping Europe's ever-changing cultural DNA. With deep roots in producing and sharing urban interventions and artistic programmes in extraordinary spaces, Manifesta has evolved over the course of three decades into a multi-layered, inclusive tool for social change.

Our 16th edition, running from the 21st of June to the 4th of October 2026, is one of our most ambitious to date, taking place in the cities of Duisburg, Essen, Gelsenkirchen and Bochum, across twelve former church buildings.

At the centre of this edition is the question of how we can reimagine empty church buildings as spaces for civic life, physical well-being and community encounter.

Manifesta 16 Ruhr invites you to help us imagine new futures for these urban landmarks and to consider how such spaces might contribute to the social and cultural life of the Ruhr Area's cities. These buildings will be reconsidered as potential centres for renewed community spirit.

Rather than presenting a conventional series of exhibitions, Manifesta 16 Ruhr brings together Creative Mediators from across Europe to develop site-specific projects in each of the twelve churches. Working from an intergenerational perspective, three curators aged 80 and over collaborate with a younger colleague to respond to the historical and social context of each site – René Block with Leonie Herweg, Anda Rottenberg with Krzysztof Kościuczuk, and Henry Meyric Hughes with Michael Kurtz. Two additional Creative Mediators, Josep Bohigas, working from an

architectural viewpoint, and Gürsoy Doğtaş, engaging with the migration histories of the Ruhr Area, contribute independent perspectives on the concerns explored throughout the biennial.

Together, more than 100 projects address issues such as solidarity in the face of polarisation, distrust within civil society, fear of migration and the creation of neighbourhoods where people can live comfortably and feel connected. Combining artistic regeneration, urban transformation and social experimentation, Manifesta 16 Ruhr invites politicians, policy-makers and the wider public to consider how we might rebuild community spirit, public services and trust in European democracy.

We welcome everyone – local and international visitors alike – to explore the Ruhr Area: by bike, on foot or by public transport. We are pleased to offer a number of insider tips on how to navigate the different cities and venues.

We hope this Guide will be your gateway to the Ruhr Area and to all that Manifesta 16 Ruhr has to offer.



21.06.–04.10.2026

Opening Hours

Monday: closed
Tuesday: 11.00–18.00
Wednesday: 11.00–18.00
Thursday: 11.00–18.00
Friday: 11.00–19.00
Saturday: 11.00–19.00
Sunday: 11.00–18.00

Accessibility

All venues offer step-free access via ramps. Toilet accessibility varies, see venue pages for details. Assistance dogs are welcome in all Manifesta 16 Ruhr venues.

Practical Information

Entrance

Entry to Manifesta 16 Ruhr is free and open to everyone – no ticket needed!

Info Points

Speak to our team for help with your visit, pick up a free map or browse Manifesta 16 Ruhr merchandise.

Available at the four central venues: Kulturkirche Liebfrauen (Duisburg), St. Gertrud (Essen), St. Bonifatius – Ferdane Satir Tea Garden (Gelsenkirchen) and Christ-König (Bochum)

Info Point Opening Hours:
Friday/Saturday: 11.00–19.00
Sunday: 11.00–18.00

Card payments only.

For any deviations or updates to our opening hours, please visit our website manifesta16.org

Things to know

German and English are spoken at all venues.

Photography of the artworks is permitted unless stated otherwise. Please do not photograph other visitors without their prior permission.

Only assistance dogs are permitted inside Manifesta 16 Ruhr venues.

Manifesta 16 venues do not offer Wi-Fi.

Conditions of Entry

During your visit, you are asked to behave in a way that ensures the safety, dignity and enjoyment of all. Manifesta 16 Ruhr is committed to providing a respectful, inclusive and non-discriminatory environment.

Respect and consideration

Treat all visitors, staff and participants with respect. Be mindful of personal boundaries, different perspectives and shared space.

Non-discrimination

Any form of discrimination or exclusion – including origin, ethnicity, gender, sexual identity or orientation, religion or belief, disability or age – is not permitted.

No harassment or abusive behaviour

Harassment of any kind, whether verbal, non-verbal, physical, sexual or digital, as well as intimidation, threats or degrading language, is prohibited.

Appropriate interaction

Interact with others in a calm and courteous manner. Behaviour that is aggressive or intimidating is not permitted. This includes shouting, hostile gestures or refusal to follow staff instructions.

Care for artworks and spaces

Respect all artworks, installations and venues. Follow any guidance provided on-site by members of the Manifesta 16 Ruhr team.

Manifesta 16 Ruhr reserves the right to take appropriate measures in the event of violations of these rules. This may include being asked to modify behaviour, being required to leave the premises, or further action where necessary. Where relevant, incidents may be documented.

Visitor Guidelines

Follow staff instructions at all times.

We recommend that children under 16 are accompanied by a responsible adult.

Last entry may be restricted shortly before closing. Visitors may be asked to leave exhibition spaces up to 10 minutes before closing.

Large bags, food and drink are not permitted inside the venues.

Please approach a member of the Manifesta 16 Ruhr team if you have any questions or concerns.

Are you a member of the press, and do you have a specific request for our press team? Please email: m16press@manifesta.org

Please note that Manifesta 16 Ruhr events are documented, should you be attending and do not want to be documented, please inform a member of staff.

How to Navigate Manifesta 16 Ruhr

Manifesta 16 Ruhr takes place across twelve venues in four cities throughout the Ruhr Area. Whether you travel by bike or public transport, the biennial invites you to discover the region along canals, former railway lines and neighbourhood streets. Each Host City has a central venue near to the city centre, offering a convenient starting point for your visit.

The Ruhr Area's extensive cycle network connects many of the venues. In Essen, Gelsenkirchen and Bochum, clusters of former church buildings can be explored by bike and are linked by the Erzbahntrasse, a former freight railway line now converted into one of the region's most scenic cycle paths. This guide also includes recommendations for places to eat, drink and explore in each city, many of them favourites of our team, participants and Creative Mediators.

Getting around the Ruhr Area

Public transport: The eezynrw app is the easiest way to travel by tram, subway, bus and regional train: simply check in and out, and the app calculates the best fare for you. Useful connections between our core cities include the 302 tram (Bochum ↔ Gelsenkirchen) and frequent regional trains between Duisburg, Essen, Gelsenkirchen and Bochum.

By bike: Manifesta 16 Ruhr cooperates with metropolradruhr. A day pass for a bike costs 5 euro – simply install the app and register. Stations are located either at, or very close to, all our venues.

Routes: All recommended cycling and walking routes are available on our website and in the Komoot app. Search for “Manifesta 16 Ruhr” in the Komoot app to find routes within each city as well as connections between all four cities.

Mobility maps: Each venue page in this guide includes a map showing the nearest public transport stops; check the eezynrw app for up-to-date schedules.



Education and Mediation Programme

The Education and Mediation Programme is at the heart of Manifesta 16 Ruhr. For us, mediation is more than an introduction to the works on view – it is a practice that brings people together to exchange ideas about art, culture and the societies we share.

Alongside the Mediation Programme, the Communities & Education Programme offers a wide range of long-term projects created in cooperation with artists, schools and community associations across the Ruhr Area. These projects extend the biennial into neighbourhoods, classrooms and everyday spaces, inviting residents to engage not only as visitors, but as participants of Manifesta 16 Ruhr.

Plan your visit

Scan a QR code below to find current Open Walks times, to book a Group Walk or Activities for Schools and to explore the full Communities & Education Programme.



Mediation Programme:
Open Walks, Group Walks &
Family Activities



Communities & Education
Programme: ongoing projects
across the Ruhr Area

The **Mediation Programme** offers Walks and other activities through the venues of Manifesta 16 Ruhr, accompanied by specially trained mediators. Rather than guiding visitors through fixed narratives, our mediators invite you to pause, to ask questions, to share what you notice and to begin a conversation with those walking beside you. In these exchanges, participants and mediators collectively engage with the participants' proposals, with the buildings that host them and with the neighbourhoods in which they stand.

All activities are developed by a diverse team of Manifesta 16 Ruhr mediators, whose backgrounds, languages and perspectives shape the tone of each encounter.

We look forward to walking, talking and thinking with you.



**You are welcome to join in
whichever way suits you best:**

Open Walks

free walks for
individual visitors

Activities for Schools

free programme designed
for pupils and teachers

Group Walks

tailored walks for pre-booked
groups of up to 16 people.

100 euro for German groups, 125 euro
for English and other language groups.

Family Programme

free activities every Sunday
for visitors of all ages

Duisburg



Duisburg sits at the confluence of the Rhine and the Ruhr, where water and industry have shaped the city's character. Home to the world's largest inland port, it remains a key logistical hub in Europe. Districts such as Marxloh and Bruckhausen reflect this industrial past, while projects like Landschaftspark Duisburg-Nord – a former ironworks turned public park – show how these sites have been adapted for recreation and culture.

The city's cultural life includes the Lehmbruck Museum, known for its sculpture collection, and the Museum Küppersmühle, which presents contemporary art in a converted industrial building. The Theater Duisburg hosts productions by Deutsche Oper am Rhein, while the filmforum Duisburg at Dellplatz combines a historical archive with a regular cinema programme, including Duisburg Film Week.

Recommendations



Culture & Sights

Lehmbruck Museum – One of Europe's most significant sculpture museums, set in the Kantpark. With an additional open-air sculpture trail. Friedrich-Wilhelm-Straße 40, 47051 Duisburg

 10-minute walk from Kulturkirche Liebfrauen

Museum DKM – Private art collection of international standing, spanning antiquity to the present.

Güntherstraße 13–15, 47051 Duisburg

 11-minute walk from Kulturkirche Liebfrauen

Innenhafen und Garten der Erinnerung – Regenerated harbour quarter with Dani Karavan's memorial garden.

Philosophenweg, 47051 Duisburg

 12-minute walk from Kulturkirche Liebfrauen

MKM Museum Küppersmühle – Contemporary art in a former grain silo at the Innenhafen, extended in 2021 by Herzog & de Meuron.

Philosophenweg 55, 47051 Duisburg

 15-minute walk from Kulturkirche Liebfrauen

Kunstverein Duisburg – A local art association, supported by a large number of members, also exhibits international art on its premises.

Weidenstraße 10, 47059 Duisburg

Landschaftspark Duisburg-Nord – Former ironworks, now a public park with climbing walls and nightly light installation.

Emscherstraße 71, 47137 Duisburg

Tiger & Turtle – Magic Mountain – Walkable rollercoaster sculpture with panoramic views across the southern Ruhr Area.

Ehinger Straße, 47249 Duisburg



Food & Drink

Simply Coffee – Roastery and café in a quiet side street behind Theater Duisburg.

Moselstraße 41–43, 47051 Duisburg

 4-minute walk from Kulturkirche Liebfrauen

Stapeltor – Café and bar inside a historic city gate in the old town.

Stapeltor 6, 47051 Duisburg.

 7-minute walk from Kulturkirche Liebfrauen

Café Pollok neues Glück – A small but charming owner-run cultural café right next to Kantpark.

Wallstraße 3, 47051 Duisburg

 9-minute walk from Kulturkirche Liebfrauen

Küppersmühle Restaurant – Refined seasonal cuisine with a waterfront terrace, housed in the same building as the MKM Museum.

Philosophenweg 49, 47051 Duisburg.

 15-minute walk from Kulturkirche Liebfrauen

Café Edel – All-day café with a cultural programme in the Dell quarter.

Mülheimer Straße 97a, 47058 Duisburg

 18-minute walk from Kulturkirche Liebfrauen

Finkenkrug – Legendary pub in the university quarter with 300 beers on the menu and a beer garden in the summer.

Sternbuschweg 71, 47057 Duisburg

Lokal Harmonie – Socio-cultural bar and events space in the harbour district of Ruhrort.

Harmoniestraße 41, 47119 Duisburg

Kulturkirche Liebfrauen

Practical Information

Address: König-Heinrich-Platz 3,
47051 Duisburg

Opening Hours:

Monday: closed
Tuesday: 11.00–18.00
Wednesday: 11.00–18.00
Thursday: 11.00–18.00
Friday: 11.00–19.00
Saturday: 11.00–19.00
Sunday: 11.00–18.00

The venue is wheelchair
accessible, but some parts
of the exhibition can only be
accessed by lift.

Wheelchair-accessible toilets

Starting Point for Open Walks
and Group Walks

Family Activities every other
Sunday

🚲 Bike Rental Point

📍 Info Point

Kulturkirche Liebfrauen, located in Duisburg's lively city centre, is one of the most important post-war modernist churches in the Rhine and Ruhr Areas. It stands as a testament to civic commitment toward the reorientation of secular churches.

Its striking two-storey cubic structure combines architecture and art. Inside, a folding wall is made of glass-fibre-reinforced Plexiglas. The interior also includes elements from the previous church, which was destroyed during the war, alongside mural paintings and mosaics first shown in the Vatican pavilion at the 1958 World Exhibition in Brussels. While parts of the Kulturkirche Liebfrauen are still used for religious services, the Upper Church has been converted into a cultural venue – a transition that Manifesta 16 Ruhr continues through exhibitions and public programmes. Curated by Henry Meyric Hughes and Michael Kurtz, the presentations engage directly with the building's fabric and the values built into its post-war design.



Participants

Julian Irlinger,
Athina Koumparouli,
Elizabeth Price, Emil
Walde, Abbas Zahedi

Note: You can find a description of each participant's work on page 76-81.

Creative Mediators:

Henry Meyric Hughes & Michael Kurtz

Architect: Dr. Toni Hermanns

Year Built: 1958–1971

How to get there

Kulturkirche Liebfrauen is centrally located, just a 15-minute walk from Duisburg Hauptbahnhof.

📍 Kulturkirche Liebfrauen 📍

🚊 U-Bahn

- 1 Rathaus
- 2 König-Heinrich-Platz

🚌 Bus

- 1 Lehmbruck-Museum
- 2 Duisburg Hbf Westeingang
- 3 Kuhtor
- 4 Schäferturm
- 5 Stadttheater

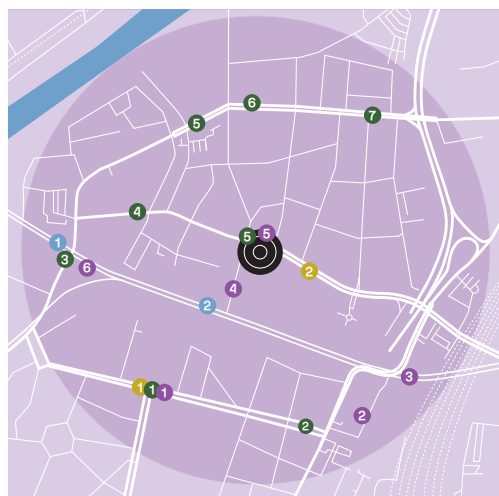
6 Stapeltor
7 Schillerplatz

🚕 Taxi

- 1 Lehmbruck-Museum
- 2 TAXI

🚲 Bike Sharing

- 1 Lehmbruck-Museum
- 2 Duisburg Hbf
- 3 Duisburg Hbf West
- 4 Forum
- 5 Stadttheater
- 6 Rathaus / Kuhstr.



Getting Around By Bike



Long-distance bike route

Duisburg – Bochum-Langendreer (~60 km)

Bike routes are available in all Manifesta 16 Ruhr cities, with options for different distances and levels. In Duisburg, the route is our most ambitious: a long-distance ride connecting all four Host Cities from west to east, linking Manifesta 16 Ruhr venues in one continuous route. It follows sections of the Ruhr and former railway lines, passing the river Ruhr and the Erzbahnbrücke in Gelsenkirchen. Along the way, you pass through industrial sites, neighbourhoods and green spaces, revealing the many different faces of the Ruhr Area.

Navigation

Interactive route maps are available on our website for free and also on the Komoot app (paid access).

Bike stations and pop-up rental points are available near all venues.

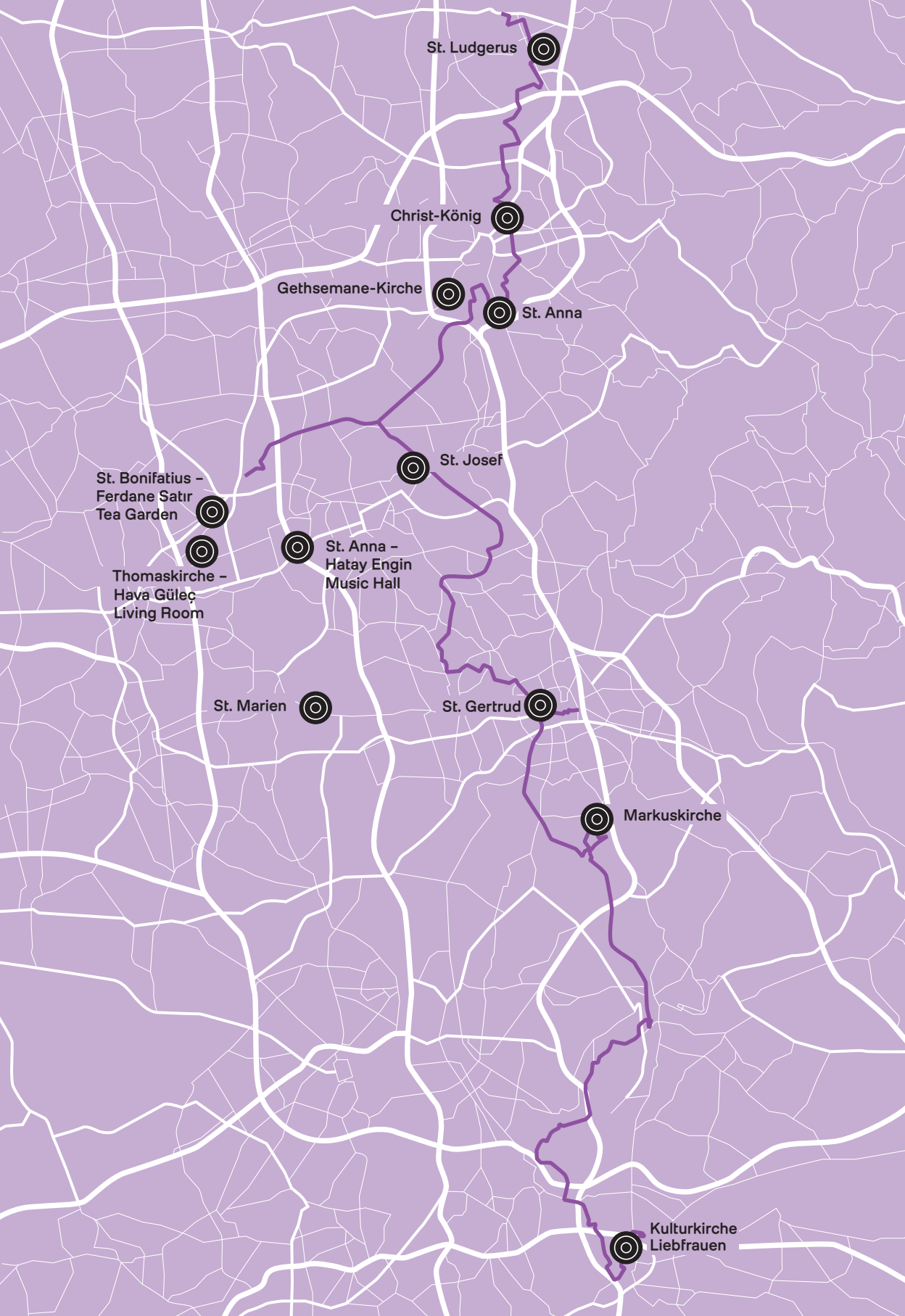
These bike routes were developed in cooperation with the Regionalverband Ruhr and Ruhr Tourismus GmbH.



Manifesta 16 Ruhr
website bike routes



Komoot routes
Manifesta 16 Ruhr



St. Ludgerus

Christ-König

Gethsemane-Kirche

St. Anna

St. Josef

St. Bonifatius -
Ferdane Satir
Tea Garden

Thomaskirche -
Hava Güleç
Living Room

St. Anna -
Hatay Engin
Music Hall

St. Marien

St. Gertrud

Markuskirche

Kulturkirche
Liebfrauen

Essen



Essen, once at the heart of Germany's coal and steel industry, has transformed into a city known for both culture and green spaces. This shift is reflected in landmarks such as UNESCO-Welterbe Zollverein, a coal mine industrial complex, and the Villa Hügel estate, former home of the Krupp family, as well as in parks and Lake Baldeney. The city is home to major cultural institutions including Museum Folkwang, the Aalto Theater, Philharmonie Essen and the Grillo-Theater, alongside contemporary venues such as PACT Zollverein and the Ruhr Museum. Manifesta 16 Ruhr engages with Essen's post-war architectural heritage across three venues in the city centre, Karnap and Frohnhausen.

Recommendations



Culture & Sights

Alte Synagoge Essen – House of Jewish culture and memorial site, one of the largest pre-war synagogue buildings in Germany.
Edmund-Körner-Platz 1, 45127 Essen

 8-minute walking from St. Gertrud

Lichtburg – Iconic cinema from 1928, home to Germany's largest cinema auditorium.
Kettwiger Straße 36, 45127 Essen

 9-minute walking from St. Gertrud

Essen Cathedral and Goldene Madonna – Houses the world's oldest surviving free-standing sculpture of the Virgin Mary, from around 980 AD.
Burgplatz 2, 45127 Essen

 9-minute walking from St. Gertrud

Neuer Essener Kunstverein – Non-profit space for contemporary art, with a well-curated programme of shows and talks.
Bernestraße 3, 45127 Essen

 9-minute walking from St. Gertrud

UNESCO-Welterbe Zollverein – UNESCO World Heritage site and epicentre of the region's transformation; the nightly headlamp tour is especially worthwhile.
Gelsenkirchener Straße 181, 45309 Essen

Ruhr Museum – A social and natural history of the region, housed in Zollverein's monumental former coal washery.
Gelsenkirchener Straße 181, 45309 Essen

PACT Zollverein – Production house for contemporary dance and performance.
Bullmannaue 20a, 45327 Essen

Museum Folkwang – World-renowned collection of modern art, anchored in the legacy of Karl Ernst Osthaus.
Museumsplatz 1, 45128 Essen



Food & Drink

Felis Bar – Lively student bar near the main station, known for Tuesday jam sessions.
Kastanienallee 16, 45127 Essen

 2-minute walking from St. Gertrud

Divine Bar – Queer bar with regular drag shows, in the Viehofer Straße.
Viehofer Straße 39, 45127 Essen

 2-minute walking from St. Gertrud

Rosemarie – Garden bar in the city centre, best after dark.
Kettwiger Straße 36, 45127 Essen

 9-minute walking from St. Gertrud

LUA – Vietnamese kitchen with a strong following, not far from Essen Hauptbahnhof.
Lindenallee 81, 45127 Essen

 10-minute walking from St. Gertrud

Eis Casal – Family-run ice cream parlour in Frohnhausen, an Essen institution since 1950.
Mülheimer Straße 62, 45145 Essen

 14-minute walking from Markuskirche

Arcangelo – Coffee roastery and small café in Frohnhausen, fresh beans roasted on-site, open Thursday to Saturday.
Pollerbergstraße 2, 45145 Essen

 16-minute walking from Markuskirche

Ampütte – Traditional German pub and restaurant in Rüttenscheid, known for its schnitzel and local beers.
Rüttenscheider Straße 42, 45136 Essen

Le Chat Noir – Great wines and small bistro menu, with inside and outside seating options.
Brigittastraße 22, 45130 Essen

St. Gertrud

Practical Information

Address: Rottstraße 36,
45127 Essen

Opening Hours:

Monday: closed

Tuesday: 11.00–18.00

Wednesday: 11.00–18.00

Thursday: 11.00–18.00

Friday: 11.00–19.00

Saturday: 11.00–19.00

Sunday: 11.00–18.00

While the venue is wheelchair accessible, a part of the exhibition cannot be accessed via wheelchair.

Wheelchair-accessible toilets

Starting Point for Open Walks and Group Walks

 **Bike Rental Point**

 **Info Point**

Info Point and Manifesta 16+ project, Maktaba Room, are located around the corner from St. Gertrud at Kastanienallee 14, 45127 Essen
See map for details.

The Student Café in St. Gertrud will also be open during our opening hours.

Located near Essen's city centre and railway station, St. Gertrud Church (built in 1877 and rebuilt in 1955 by Emil Jung) offers a quiet contrast to the surrounding bustle. Severely damaged during the Second World War, the neo-Romanesque brick church was reconstructed in a simplified style, giving it its distinctive "broken" architecture. Following its final religious service in June 2025, St. Gertrud is being transformed into a centre for art, culture and education. The University of Fine Arts Essen (HBK) has consolidated its offices and seminar rooms within the church complex. Under the working title *Exercises in Respect*, René Block and Leonie Herweg approach the church with attentiveness to its history and spatial conditions. Several works were developed in collaboration with HBK students and other participants, including Nasan Tur's piece made from former church pews.

Creative Mediators: René Block & Leonie Herweg

Architect: Emil Jung

Year Built: 1877, rebuilt 1955

Located around the corner, at Kastanienallee 14, you will find the Manifesta 16+ project, Maktaba Room. This is an on-going project by Donja Nasser and Cate Lartey that creates an inclusive cultural space highlighting stories of global migration through literature and photography.

Participants

Halil Altındere, Ayşe Erkmen, Mona Hatoum, Pravidoliub Ivanov, Šejla Kamerić, Jarosław Kozłowski, Maktaba Room, Olaf Metzel, Donja Nasser, Navid Nuur, Coumba Samba, Nasan Tur

Maktaba Room is presented as part of the Manifesta 16+ programme.

Note: You can find a description of each participant's work on page 76-81.

How to get there

St. Gertrud is centrally located, just a 15-minute walk from Essen Hauptbahnhof.

📍 St. Gertrud 📍

🚇 U-Bahn

- 1 Rathaus Essen
- 2 Viehofer Platz
- 3 Am Freistein
- 4 Rheinischer Platz
- 5 Berliner Platz

🚌 Bus

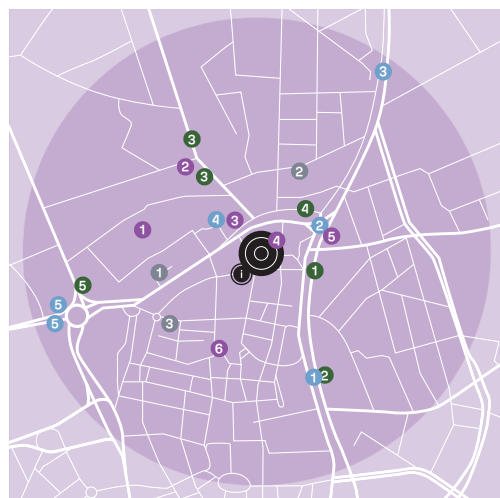
- 1 Viehofer Platz
- 2 Rathaus Essen
- 3 Universitätsstraße
- 4 Rheinischer Platz

🚲 Bike Sharing

- 1 Unviertel
- 2 Universitätsstraße
- 3 Rheinischer Platz
- 4 Viehofer Str. 41
- 5 Schützenbahn
- 6 Kopstadtplatz

🅑 Parking

- 1 Contipark, Berliner Pl.
- 2 Parkplatz Viehofer Pl.
- 3 Parkhaus Weberplatz



St. Marien

Practical Information

Address: Meersternweg 10,
45329 Essen

Opening Hours:

Monday: closed

Tuesday: 11.00–18.00

Wednesday: 11.00–18.00

Thursday: 11.00–18.00

Friday: 11.00–19.00

Saturday: 11.00–19.00

Sunday: 11.00–18.00

Wheelchair accessible

Wheelchair-accessible toilets

 **Bike Rental Point**



In the North of Essen, the former St. Marien Church is a striking landmark. Built between 1961 and 1963 by architect Hans Schilling, it reflects the industrial identity of the Ruhr Area. With its dark brick façade and tall sanctuary, the church recalls the Malakow towers that once shaped the region's mining landscape, linking sacred architecture to the neighbourhood's industrial past. Inside, expressionist stained-glass windows by Manfred Ott bring colour and movement to the vast interior, providing a vivid contrast to the building's austere post-war modernism.

After standing unused for years, St. Marien now faces an uncertain future. Manifesta 16 Ruhr inhabits this moment of transition, placing the work of René Block and Leonie Herweg's *Exercises in Respect* within a building suspended between its past and its impending change.

Creative Mediators: René Block & Leonie Herweg

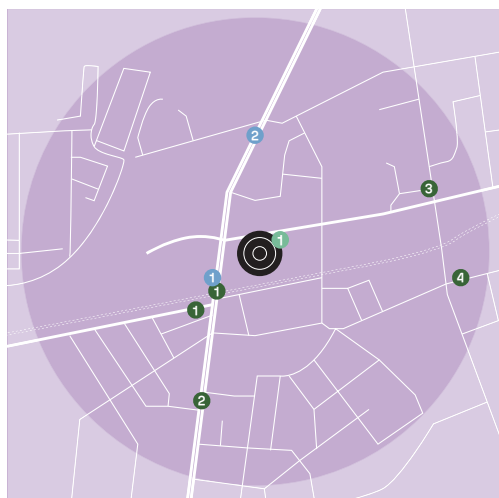
Architect: Hans Schilling

Year Built: 1963

Participants

Jason Dodge, William Engelen, Katharina Fritsch, Annika Kahrs, Jarosław Kozłowski, Alicja Kwade, SUPERFLEX, Evita Vasiljeva, Mira M. Yang, Amanda Ziemele

Note: You can find a description of each participant's work on page 76-81.



How to get there

🎯 St. Marien

🚲 Bike Sharing

① Bike Rental Point

🚊 U-Bahn

① Boyerstraße

② Alte Landstraße

🚌 Bus

① Boyerstraße

② Sigambreweg

③ Karnaper Straße

④ Laurentiusstraße

Markuskirche

Practical Information

Address: Danziger Straße 6,
45145 Essen

Opening Hours:

Monday: closed

Tuesday: 11.00–18.00

Wednesday: 11.00–18.00

Thursday: 11.00–18.00

Friday: 11.00–19.00

Saturday: 11.00–19.00

Sunday: 11.00–18.00

Wheelchair accessible

Wheelchair-accessible toilets

 **Bike Rental Point**

Located in the residential district of Essen-Frohnhausen, Markuskirche is a striking example of early 20th-century sacred architecture. Reflecting the principles of Reformed church design, it is defined by clear forms, minimal ornamentation and a spatial atmosphere reduced to the essentials. With its tall tower, bright façade and functional hall layout, the church is a place of focus and simplicity. Embedded in its neighbourhood – with a nearby kindergarten, school and community centre – Markuskirche enters a moment of transition. Curated by Henry Meyric Hughes and Michael Kurtz, the presentations take up the early Christian image of the church as a vessel, asking what we would gather, preserve and build if the building could set sail.

Creative Mediators:

Henry Meyric Hughes & Michael Kurtz

Architect: Wolfgang Müller-Zantop & Heinz Kahlenborn

Year Built: 1961–63



Participants

Sara Bichão, Pele Collective, Lilli Lake, Augustas Serapinas

Note: You can find a description of each participant's work on page 76–81.

How to get there

📍 **Markuskirche**

🚲 **Bike Sharing**

1 Bike Rental Point

🚊 **U-Bahn**

- 1 Frohnhausen Breilsort
- 2 Kieler Straße
- 3 Onckenstraße

🚌 **Bus**

- 1 Frohnhausen Breilsort
- 2 Rüdeshimer Platz

3 Onckenstraße

4 St. Elisabeth Grundschule

5 Herderschule

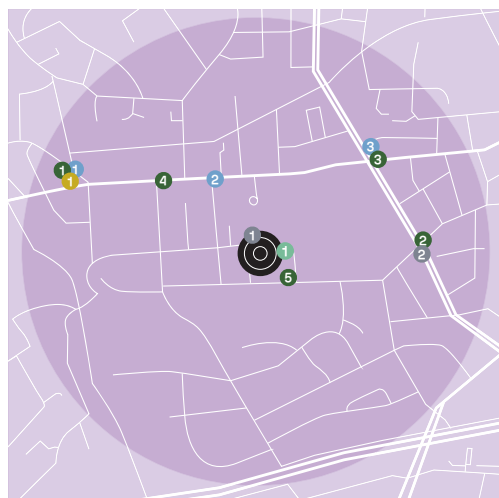
🚗 **Taxi**

1 Richtenberg

🅑 **Parking**

- 1 Markuskirche
- 2 Rüdeshimer Platz

Please note there is very limited parking, we encourage arriving by public transport.



Getting Around by Bike



The Essen bike route follows long stretches of the regional Grubenfahrt cycle path and brings you close to all three Manifesta 16 Ruhr venues in the city: St. Marien, St. Gertrud and Markuskirche. The route moves through both the city's industrial and green areas, passing former colliery landscapes, residential quarters and post-war neighbourhoods.

A detour worth taking, especially for ambitious riders: the Tetraeder Bottrop on the Halde Beckstraße – a sculptural steel landmark from the 1990s with a 360-degree panorama over the western Ruhr Area. The climb is steep, but the view rewards every metre.

Navigation

Interactive route maps are available on our website for free and also on the Komoot app (paid access).

Bike stations and pop-up rental points are available near all venues.

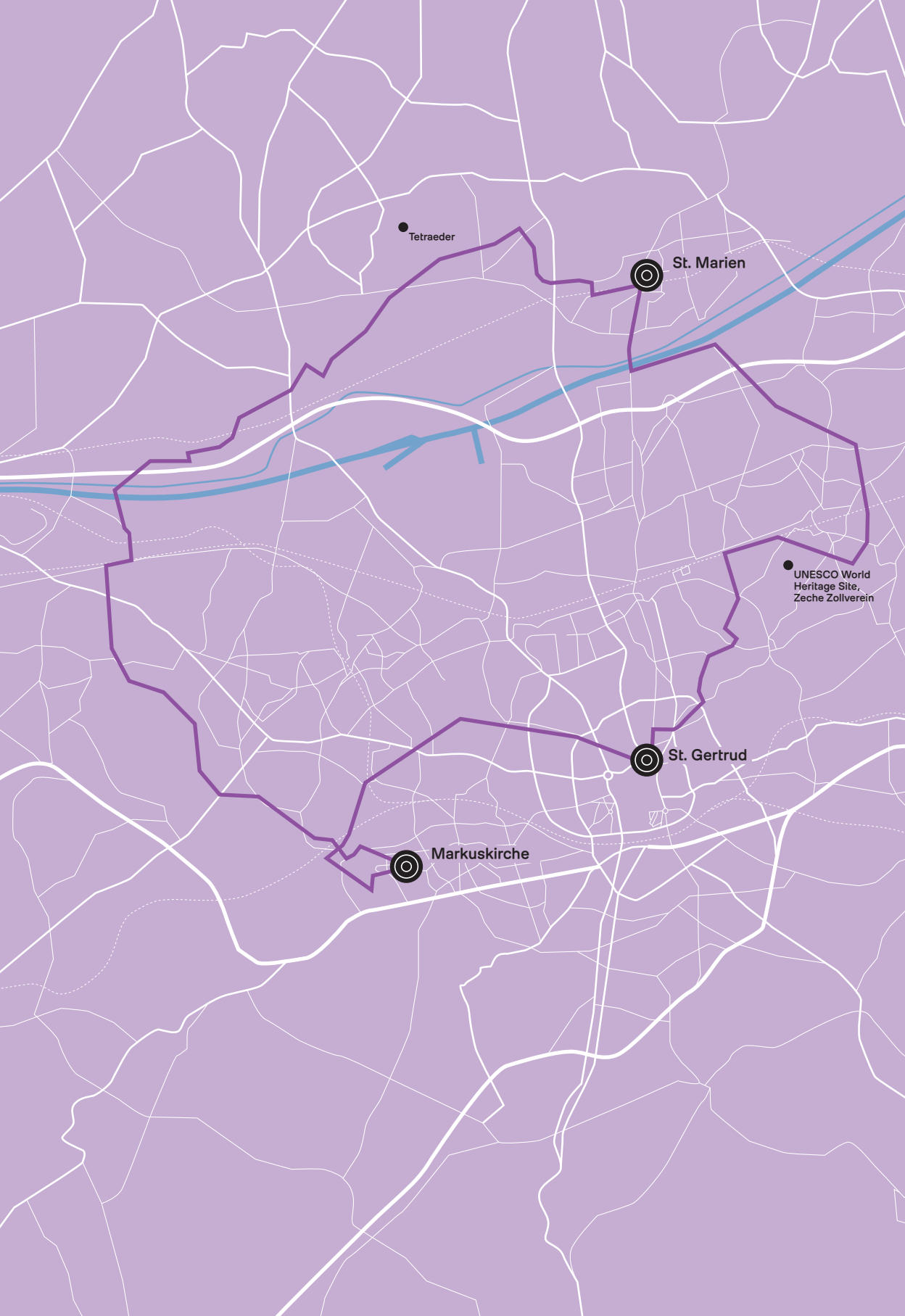
These bike routes were developed in cooperation with the Regionalverband Ruhr and Ruhr Tourismus GmbH.



Manifesta 16 Ruhr
website bike routes



Komoot routes
Manifesta 16 Ruhr



Tetraeder



St. Marien

UNESCO World
Heritage Site,
Zeche Zollverein



St. Gertrud



Markuskirche

Gelsenkirchen



Gelsenkirchen was once one of Europe's most productive coal-mining centres, earning the nickname "City of a Thousand Fires" from the glow of its coking plants. Today, former industrial sites such as Nordstern Colliery and the impressive post-war cultural building Musiktheater im Revier reflect the city's transformation, while slag heaps and disused railway lines have been reclaimed for the public and turned into green parks and viewpoints. This history of industry, migration and renewal continues to shape Gelsenkirchen's neighbourhoods and diverse communities. Manifesta 16 Ruhr responds to this context by focusing on residential districts and the city's distinctive "slipper churches" – neighbourhood churches built close to where workers and their families once lived. The biennial's headquarters are located in the former parsonage of St. Josef in Ückendorf.

Recommendations



Culture & Sights

GeOrgel – Local art installation inspired by the “Gelsenkirchener Baroque” style, with a regular events programme.
Bochumer Straße 150, 45886 Gelsenkirchen

 8-minute walking from St. Josef

Hier ist nicht da (HIND) – Sociocultural space on Bochumer Straße, with concerts, exhibitions and community events.
Bochumer Straße 138, 45886 Gelsenkirchen

 10-minute walking from St. Josef

Kunstmuseum Gelsenkirchen – Collection of modern and contemporary art in the northern district of Buer.
Horster Straße 5–7, 45897 Gelsenkirchen

Nordsternpark – Former Nordstern Colliery, now a park crowned by Markus Lüpertz’s monumental Hercules sculpture.
Am Bugapark 1, 45899 Gelsenkirchen

Emscherkunstweg – *Monument for a Forgotten Future* and other outdoor works along the Emscher river, best discovered by bicycle.
An den Schleusen 29, 45891 Gelsenkirchen



Food & Drink

Ibo's Ocakbasi – Turkish charcoal grill in Erle, within walking distance of two venues.
Cranger Straße 333, 45891 Gelsenkirchen

 3-minute walking from St. Bonifatius – Ferdane Satır Tea Garden, 20-minute walking from Thomaskirche – Hava Güleç Living Room

Restaurant Farina – Laid-back restaurant serving Italian cuisine in Erle.
Cranger Straße 188, 45891 Gelsenkirchen

 17-minute walking from Thomaskirche – Hava Güleç Living Room, 22-minute walking from St. Bonifatius – Ferdane Satır Tea Garden

Just a short walk from St. Josef and the Manifesta 16 Ruhr headquarters, Bochumer Straße is home to a lively mix of cultural spaces and excellent spots for a drink or a bite.

Café Ütelier – Daytime café with great coffee, indulgent cakes and hearty salads; a true neighbourhood meeting point.
Bochumer Straße 114, 45886 Gelsenkirchen

 8-minute walking from St. Josef

Trinkhalle am Flöz – Reimagined local kiosk in the Ückendorf district, serving a variety of beers in a relaxed atmosphere. A favourite spot for the Manifesta 16 team!
Bochumer Straße 139, 45886 Gelsenkirchen

 9-minute walking from St. Josef

Rosamunde – Bar and event space, a hub for local initiatives. Open from Thursday through Sunday.
Bochumer Straße 117, 45886 Gelsenkirchen

 10-minute walking from St. Josef

Eine gute Adresse – Cocktail bar in Ückendorf, open Fridays and Saturdays, with a stylish interior and a small but distinctive drinks list.
Bochumer Straße 100, 45886 Gelsenkirchen

 14-minute walking from St. Josef

Taste of Masala – Delicious Indian cuisine with friendly staff and an inviting atmosphere.
Bochumer Straße 95, 45886 Gelsenkirchen

 12-minute walking from St. Josef

Olivia – food & more – Italian restaurant in Ückendorf with a focused menu of Sicilian and Northern Italian classics.
Bochumer Straße 93, 45886 Gelsenkirchen

 12-minute walking from St. Josef

St. Bonifatius – Ferdane Satır Tea Garden

Practical Information

Address: Cranger Straße 338,
45891 Gelsenkirchen

Opening Hours:

Monday: closed
Tuesday: 11.00–18.00
Wednesday: 11.00–18.00
Thursday: 11.00–18.00
Friday: 11.00–19.00
Saturday: 11.00–19.00
Sunday: 11.00–18.00

Wheelchair accessible

**No wheelchair-accessible
toilets**

**Starting Point for Open Walks
and Group Walks**

 **Info Point**

 **Bike Rental Point**

Among the church buildings in Gelsenkirchen, St. Bonifatius stands out as a compelling example of how former houses of worship can be creatively repurposed. The post-war church from the 1960s was first reimagined in the context of Urbane Künste Ruhr, which transformed it into a meeting place fostering close collaboration between artists, local residents and a wider community of stakeholders. For Manifesta 16 Ruhr, St. Bonifatius becomes the St. Bonifatius – Ferdane Satır Tea Garden, curated by Gürsoy Doğtaş. It takes its name from Ferdane Satır (1944–1984), a labour migrant who was killed, with six members of her family, in a racist arson attack in 1984. The garden takes up motifs from the first gardens cultivated by labour migrants in the Ruhr Area: growing, gathering and building a place of one's own.

Creative Mediator: Gürsoy Doğtaş

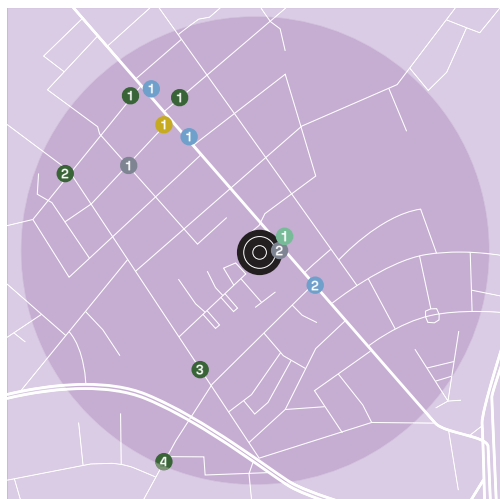
Architect: Ernst von Rudloff

Year Built: 1963

Participants

Begzada Alatović, Atiye Altül, Özlem Altın, Akbar Behkalam, Bureau Baubotanik, Vlassis Caniaris, İsmail Çoban, Yıldırım Denizli, İhsan Ece, Füzuzan, Abuzer Güler, Nejla Gür, Judith Hopf, Merve Kaplan, Justin Lieberman, Julia Logothetis, Mihály Moldvay, Jannis Psychopedis, Metin Talayman, Rıza Topal, Yıldız Tüzün, Nil Yalter, Hanefi Yeter

Note: You can find a description of each participant's work on page 76-81.



How to get there

St. Bonifatius – Ferdane Satır Tea Garden is located in Gelsenkirchen-Erle, just a 15-minute tram ride from Gelsenkirchen Hauptbahnhof.

📍 St. Bonifatius – Ferdane Satır Tea Garden 📍

🚲 Bike Sharing

1 Bike Rental Point

🚊 U-Bahn

1 Marktstraße

2 Friesenstraße

🚌 Bus

1 Marktstraße

2 Heistraße

3 Auguststraße

4 GAFÖG

🚕 Taxi

1 Marktstraße

🅑 Parking

1 Erler Markt

2 St. Bonifatius

Thomaskirche - Hava Güleç Living Room

Practical Information

Address: Surkampstraße 33,
45891 Gelsenkirchen

Opening Hours:

Monday: closed
Tuesday: 11.00–18.00
Wednesday: 11.00–18.00
Thursday: 11.00–18.00
Friday: 11.00–19.00
Saturday: 11.00–19.00
Sunday: 11.00–18.00

Wheelchair accessible

Wheelchair-accessible toilets

**Ending Point for Open Walks
and Group Walks**

 **Bike Rental Point**

Though modest in size, Thomaskirche stands out with its crystalline form. Built in the mid-1960s, it introduced a new architectural language to Gelsenkirchen-Erle and remains a striking presence in the neighbourhood today. The building is defined by contrasting forms: the eastern end rises in a curved, bow-like shape, while the western façade is sharply angled around the main entrance. Inside, the traditional church layout gives way to an open, unified space designed to bring people together. Deconsecrated in May 2026, the Thomaskirche will reopen for Manifesta 16 Ruhr as the Thomaskirche – Hava Güleç Living Room, curated by Gürsoy Doğtaş. The space is named after Hava Güleç (1941–2009), a piece-rate worker at Seppelfricke in Gelsenkirchen whose care held her neighbourhood together. It gathers textile works by women who came to the Federal Republic as labour migrants from the late 1950s onwards, alongside works by participants who expressed solidarity with them.

Creative Mediator: Gürsoy Doğtaş

Architect: Fred Janowski & Albrecht Wittig

Year Built: 1965



Participants

Mehmet Aksoy, Atiye Altül, Bettina Allamoda, Ayzit Bostan, Fatma Ceylan, Yıldırım Denizli, Hava Güleç, Mehmet Güler, Abuzer Güler, Nejla Gür, Muhlis Kenter, Azade Köker, Julia Logothetis, Asimina Paradissa, Judith Raum, Dennis Siering, Nesrin Tanç, Gülbin Ünlü, Weber Kai, Hanefi Yeter, Serpil Yeter

Note: You can find a description of each participant's work on page 76-81.

How to get there

📍 Thomaskirche –
Hava Güleç
Living Room

🚲 Bike Sharing

1 Bike Rental Point

🚌 Bus

1 Pannhütte

2 Lehenstraße

3 Lindemannsweg

4 Pottenort

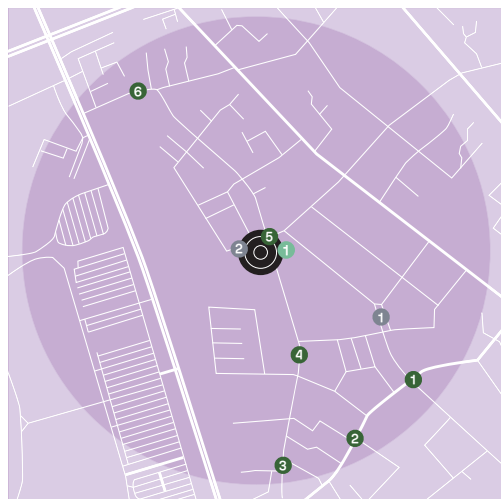
5 Am Fettingkotten

6 Schweidnitzer Straße

P Parking

1 Pannhütte

2 Thomaskirche



St. Anna - Hatay Engin Music Hall

Practical Information

Address: Kapellenstraße 6,
45881 Gelsenkirchen

Opening Hours:

Monday: closed
Tuesday: 11.00–18.00
Wednesday: 11.00–18.00
Thursday: 11.00–18.00
Friday: 11.00–19.00
Saturday: 11.00–19.00
Sunday: 11.00–18.00

Wheelchair accessible

Wheelchair-accessible toilets

 **Bike Rental Point**



St. Anna in Gelsenkirchen-Schalke-Nord shows how a former church can take on a new role as a place for community and inclusion. The original church, consecrated in 1908, was destroyed during the Second World War and replaced by the current building in 1970. Its modern architecture is complemented by glass artworks by Johannes Beeck from 1972, which give the interior its distinctive character.

Participants

Emre Abut, Cana Bilir-Meier, Constructlab, İhsan Ece, Philipp Gufler, Nejla Gür, Cihangir Gümüştürkmen, Gašper Kunšič, Jannis Psychopedis, Mesut-Sabuha Salaam, Ming Wong, Hanefi Yeter

Constructlab is presented as part of *Schule, Nachbarschaft und Wir* (School, Neighbourhood and Us) from the Manifesta 16 Ruhr Education programme.

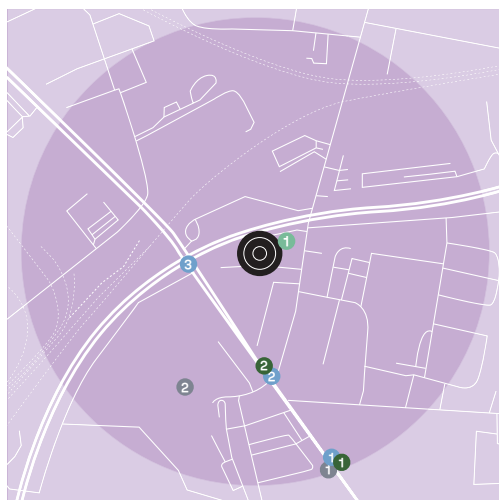
Note: You can find a description of each participant's work on page 76-81.

After the church closed in 2007, Sozialwerk St. Georg transformed the building into an inclusive meeting centre. For Manifesta 16 Ruhr, St. Anna becomes the St. Anna – Hatay Engin Music Hall, curated by Gürsoy Doğtaş. Named after the singer Hatay Engin (1948–2020), a defining voice of Turkish art music (*Sanat Müziği*) in the Berlin diaspora, the hall approaches music as a moving archive of the voices, languages and memories that travelled with labour migrants to the Ruhr Area.

Creative Mediator: Gürsoy Doğtaş

Architect: Dr. Paul Günther

Year Built: 1908, rebuilt 1970



How to get there

📍 St. Anna –
Hatay Engin
Music Hall

🚲 Bike Sharing

① Bike Rental Point

🚊 U-Bahn

① Berliner Brücke

② Schalker Meile

③ Ernst-Kuzorra-Platz

🚌 Bus

① Berliner Brücke

② Schalker Meile

🅑 Parking

① Berliner Brücke

② Kampfbahn

St. Josef

Practical Information

Address: Ückendorfer Straße
124, 45886 Gelsenkirchen

Opening Hours:

Monday: closed
Tuesday: 11.00–18.00
Wednesday: 11.00–18.00
Thursday: 11.00–18.00
Friday: 11.00–19.00
Saturday: 11.00–19.00
Sunday: 11.00–18.00

Wheelchair accessible

Wheelchair-accessible toilets

Family Activities every other Sunday

 **Bike Rental Point**

Among the venues of Manifesta 16 Ruhr, St. Josef in Gelsenkirchen-Ückendorf occupies a special place. Built between 1894 and 1896 by Lambert von Fisenne, with a sacristy added in 1912 by Josef Franke, it is older than most of the biennial's venues and combines neo-Gothic and Classical elements. Its distinctive red-brick façade stands out against the greenery of the neighbouring park. The church closed in 2023. Since the summer of 2025, its former parish house has served as the headquarters of Manifesta 16 Ruhr, making St. Josef the organisational centre of the biennial. Curated by Josep Bohigas, the church's interior is veiled by a large inflatable membrane developed with Penique Productions, while Curro Claret reconfigures the church pews into furniture for shared use via workshops with local residents. Through this, the space becomes radically available and open to new ways of gathering.

Creative Mediator: Josep Bohigas
Architect: Lambert von Fisenne
Year Built: 1894–1896



Participants

Havîn Al-Sîndy,
 Curro Claret,
 Dúo Barber-Palacios,
 Penique Productions

Havîn Al-Sindy is presented as part of *Schule, Nachbarschaft und Wir* (School, Neighbourhood and Us) from the Manifesta 16 Ruhr Education programme.

Note: You can find a description of each participant's work on page 76–81.

How to get there

📍 St. Josef

🚊 U-Bahn

- 1 Stephanstraße
- 2 Gesamtschule Ückendorf
- 3 Ückendorfer Platz

🚌 Bus

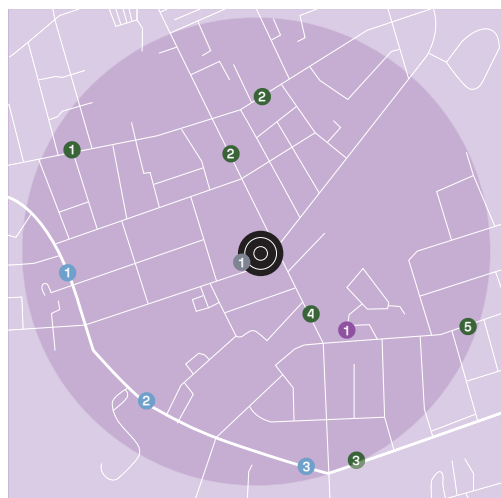
- 1 Carl-Mosterts-Straße
- 2 Bergmannstraße
- 3 Ückendorfer Platz
- 4 Lazarettstraße
- 5 Kettelerstraße

🚲 Bike Sharing

- 1 LIDL

🅑 Parking

- 1 St. Josef



Special Venue: Musiktheater im Revier

Throughout Manifesta 16 Ruhr, Musiktheater im Revier is host to a video installation by Robert Fleck.

The Musiktheater im Revier, designed by Werner Ruhnau and opened in 1959, is one of the most significant post-war cultural buildings in Germany. It is celebrated for the integration of architecture and art that defined its design from the outset – most prominently the six vast monochrome paintings and sponge reliefs created for the building by Yves Klein between 1958 and 1959. His signature “International Klein Blue” proved unsuitable for the task, so he developed a similar bright tone – a shade that has since inspired the city’s official colour, “Gelsenkirchen Blue.”

Almost seven decades on, the works are about to undergo a conservation campaign. Two historical films document Klein and his collaborators at work in the half-finished building in 1958, and the completed Musiktheater at its opening the following year. For Manifesta 16 Ruhr, the Musiktheater is featured on the Moderne Ruhr map, which locates the building within a wider geography of post-war modernism in the region.

Architect: Werner Ruhnau
Year Built: 1959



Practical Information

Address: Kennedyplatz,
45881 Gelsenkirchen

Please note that the opening hours of this installation may vary throughout the exhibition period due to the venue's programme. Please consult the Manifesta 16 website for up-to-date opening times.

Head to the Musiktheater im Revier website to discover their programme.
mirkelsenkirchen.de



Wheelchair accessible

Wheelchair-accessible toilets

Getting Around by Bike



Three of Manifesta 16 Ruhr's four venues in Gelsenkirchen lie within easy reach of one another by bicycle in the North of the city. This route follows cycle paths, winding through residential neighbourhoods that tell the everyday story of the city beyond its industrial landmarks.

Highlights along the route include the Veltins-Arena (the home of the local football team, FC Schalke 04), the green expanses of the Emscherbruch, the Grimberger Sichel bridge over the Rhine-Herne Canal and the harbour Graf Bismarck.

Please check the Veltins-Arena event schedule before starting: match days bring large crowds and may make some sections difficult to pass through.

Navigation

Interactive route maps are available on our website for free and also on the Komoot app (paid access).

Bike stations and pop-up rental points are available near all venues.

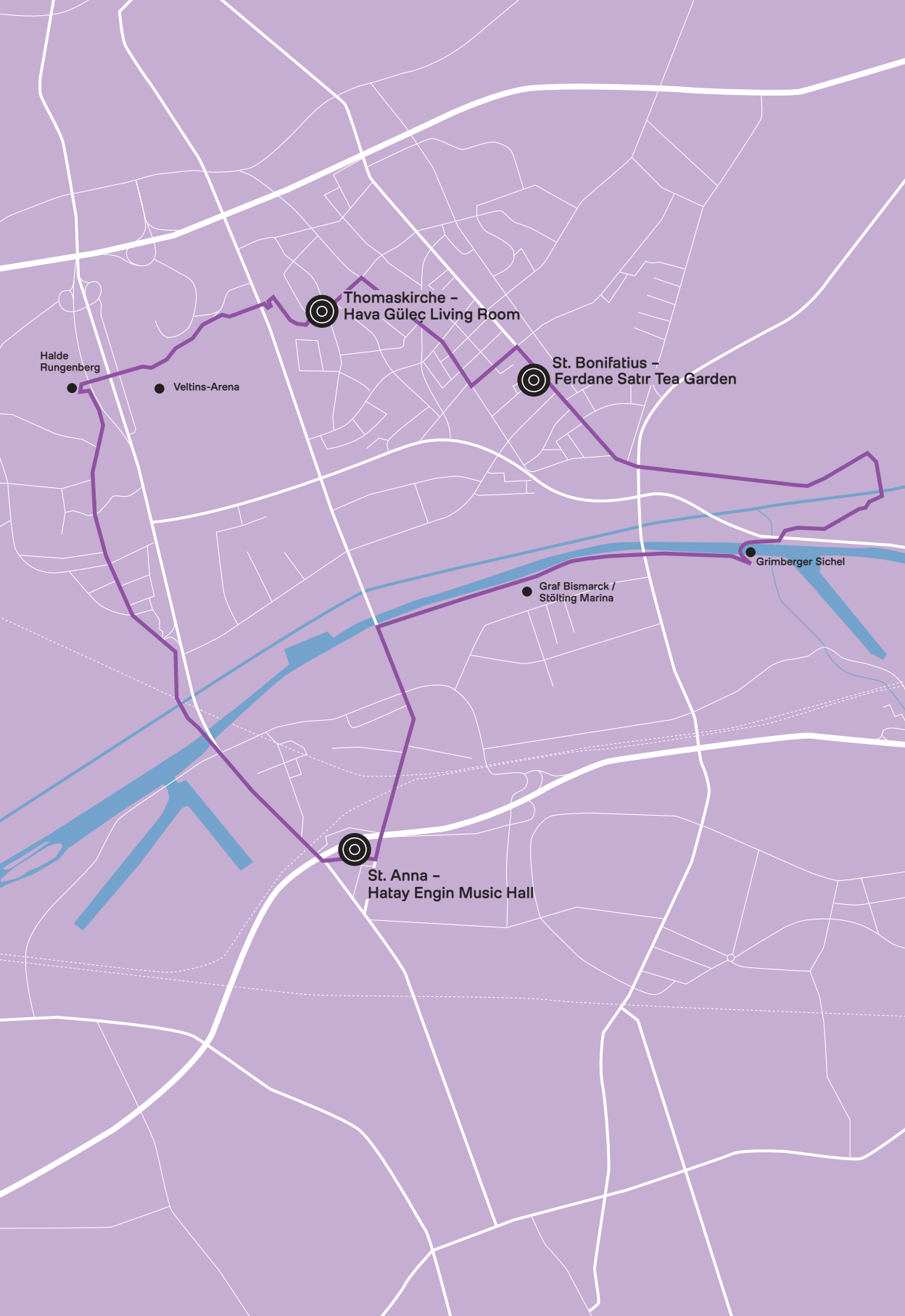
These bike routes were developed in cooperation with the Regionalverband Ruhr and Ruhr Tourismus GmbH.



Manifesta 16 Ruhr
website bike routes



Komoot routes
Manifesta 16 Ruhr



Halde
Rungenberg

Veltnins-Arena



Thomaskirche -
Hava Güleç Living Room



St. Bonifatius -
Ferdane Satır Tea Garden



Grimberger Sichel



Graf Bismarck /
Stölting Marina



St. Anna -
Hatay Engin Music Hall

Bochum



Bochum is one of the Ruhr Area's leading centres for research, culture and education. Beyond its industrial heritage, the city is shaped by neighbourhoods that reflect the region's ongoing social and economic transformations. Its cultural landscape ranges from the Deutsches Bergbau-Museum and the Jahrhunderthalle – central venue of the Ruhrtriennale – to the Ruhr University, Schauspielhaus Bochum and Kunstmuseum Bochum. Together, these institutions highlight Bochum's rich mix of industrial history, contemporary art and student life. Manifesta 16 Ruhr focuses on four churches in residential districts shaped by migration, economic change and evolving social structures. The biennial takes place across four venues in Bochum, including a post-war emergency church and a historic cultural church in the former working-class district of Goldhamme.

Recommendations



Culture & Sights

Schauspielhaus Bochum – One of Germany's leading dramatic stages.
Königsallee 15, 44789 Bochum

16-minute walking from Christ-König

Deutsches Bergbau-Museum – Tells the story of the Ruhr Area underground, with panoramic views from the landmark winding tower.
Am Bergbaumuseum 28, 44791 Bochum

23-minute walking from Gethsemane-Kirche

atelier automatique – Artist-run space for the Bochum independent scene, hosting exhibitions, performances and workshops since 2017.
Rottstraße 14, 44793 Bochum

25-minute walking from St. Anna and Christ-König

Kunstmuseum Bochum – Located near Bochum's Stadtpark, leading museum with a particular focus on Eastern European modernism.
Kortumstraße 147, 44787 Bochum

25-minute walking from Gethsemane-Kirche,
 30-minute walking from Christ-König

Bahnhof Langendreer – Sociocultural centre in the east of the city, close to St. Ludgerus.
Wallbaumweg 108, 44894 Bochum

30-minute walking to St. Ludgerus

Situation Kunst / Museum unter Tage – Art in the Weitmar castle park, partly staged below ground.
Nevelstraße 29c, 44795 Bochum

LWL-Museum Zeche Hannover – Industrial monument with a walkable Malakow tower, in the western part of the city.
Günigfelder Straße 251, 44793 Bochum



Food & Drink

Monikas Eisspezialitäten – Take-away ice cream parlour near St. Anna, well-loved across the region for its many flavours and affordable prices.
Cimbernstraße 14, 44793 Bochum

2-minute walking from St. Anna

Zum kleinen Esel – Plant-based kitchen with delicious burritos, tacos and quesadillas and a friendly atmosphere.
Universitätsstraße 79, 44789 Bochum

7-minute walking from Christ-König

Agnes – Newly opened café and restaurant between Christ-König and Bochum Hbf, featuring an interior designed by Bochum graphic designer Cihan Tamti, who also collaborated on the design of Manifesta 16 Ruhr's T-shirts.
Ferdinandstraße 44, 44789 Bochum

9-minute walking from Christ-König

Goldkante – Laid-back alternative pub with live music and a relaxed atmosphere in the university quarter.

Alte Hattinger Straße 22, 44789 Bochum

18-minute walking from Christ-König

Café Tucholsky – Café, bar and Bochum institution since 1988, on the cultural axis between Schauspielhaus and Musikforum. In a lively spot, called Bochum Bermuda3eck, with many other places to eat and drink nearby.
Viktoriastraße 73, 44787 Bochum

19-minute walking from Christ-König

STÜH 33 Café – Neighbourhood café and third-wave coffee spot in the KoFabrik, a creative hub in the Gleisdreieck quarter.
Stühmeyerstraße 33, 44787 Bochum

19-minute walking from Gethsemane-Kirche

Maza Restaurant – Afghan kitchen with traditional dishes such as Mantu, Qabeli and charcoal-grilled kabab.
Herner Straße 19, 44787 Bochum

20-minute walking from Gethsemane-Kirche

Christ-König

Practical Information

Address:

Kunstkirche Christ-König,
Steinring 34, 44789 Bochum

Opening Hours:

Monday: closed
Tuesday: 11.00–18.00
Wednesday: 11.00–18.00
Thursday: 11.00–18.00
Friday: 11.00–19.00
Saturday: 11.00–19.00
Sunday: 11.00–18.00

Wheelchair accessible

No wheelchair-accessible
toilets

Starting Point for Open Walks
and Group Walks

 Info Point

 Bike Rental Point



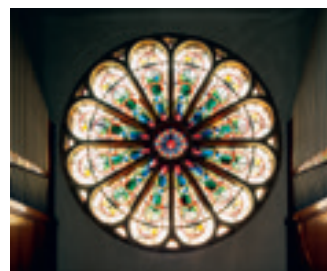
Christ-König in Bochum is a reconstruction of a church originally built for a Franciscan monastery. Built in 1932 by Franz Schneider, its simple design reflects the Franciscan ideal of poverty. After its closure in 1998, the church building was repurposed as an exhibition and cultural space during the European Capital of Culture celebrations in 2010. As part of the Diocese of Essen's restructuring, its role as an art space is now intended to inspire the parish's future transformation. After Manifesta 16 Ruhr is over, current plans envision converting the building into a puppet production house.

Curated by Anda Rottenberg and Krzysztof Kościuczuk, in Christ-König, fifteen participants respond to the church's monumental proportions and to the histories embedded in the surrounding region, approaching questions of memory, complicity and erasure.

Creative Mediators: Anda Rottenberg & Krzysztof Kościuczuk

Architect: Franz Schneider

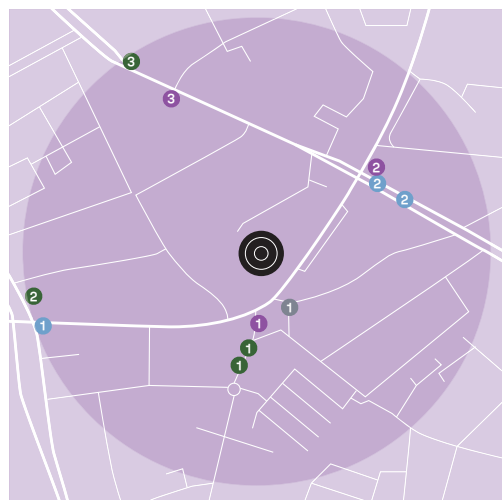
Year Built: 1932



Participants

Mirośław Bałka, Mehtap Baydu, Mabe Bethônico, Aline Bouvy, Cudelice Brazelton IV, Bérénice Gaça Courtin, Niklas Goldbach, Nicolas Grossier, Albe Hamiti, Eva Koťátková, Katarzyna Kozyra, Małgorzata Mirga-Tas, Anka Sasnal, Wilhelm Sasnal, Luc Tuymans

Note: You can find a description of each participant's work on page 76-81.



How to get there

Christ-König is centrally located, just a 15-minute walk from Bochum Hauptbahnhof.

⊙ Christ-König ⊙

🚆 U-Bahn

- 1 Oskar-Hoffmann-Str.
- 2 Lohring

🚌 Bus

- 1 Alter Eistreff
- 2 Oskar-Hoffmann-Str.
- 3 Bochum BP Aralhaus

🚲 Bike Sharing

- 1 Glockengarten
- 2 Lohring / 302/310
- 3 Stadtarchiv Bochum

🅑 Parking

- 1 Oskar-Hoffmann-Str. 154

Gethsemane- Kirche

Practical Information

Address: Amtsstraße 4a,
44809 Bochum

Opening Hours:

Monday: closed
Tuesday: 11.00–18.00
Wednesday: 11.00–18.00
Thursday: 11.00–18.00
Friday: 11.00–19.00
Saturday: 11.00–19.00
Sunday: 11.00–18.00

Wheelchair accessible

**No wheelchair-accessible
toilets**

Please note:

You can not see this church
from the outside, please follow
the Manifesta 16 signage
to enter the venue from the
garden.

 **Bike Rental Point**

Bochum's Gethsemane Church (1947–1950 by Otto Bartning) is a notable example of a Protestant *Notkirche* (emergency church). Developed after the Second World War, these prefabricated churches were built quickly to provide communities with a place to gather and worship during a time of reconstruction. The parish received a church kit from the Relief Organization of the Protestant Churches in Germany, which supplied the essential wooden and iron structural elements. Members of the congregation would then build the church themselves, filling the walls with cleaned bricks salvaged from the rubble of the former community centre. Unlike most Manifesta 16 Ruhr venues, Gethsemane-Kirche remains in active use by its local Protestant congregation, which still gathers in the adjoining *Gemeindesaal*. Curated by Anda Rottenberg and Krzysztof Kościuczuk, the presentations unfold alongside this ongoing community life – including Marina Naprushkina's bouncy castle in the churchyard, which recalls the former church bell.

Creative Mediators: Anda Rottenberg & Krzysztof Kościuczuk
Architect: Otto Bartning
Year Built: 1947–1950



Participants

Mirosław Bałka, Mehtap Baydu, Zuza Golińska, Grupa Mauczka, Miedya Mahmod, Marina Naprushkina, Julia Nitschke, Mikołaj Sobczak, Cassidy Toner

Miedya Mahmod and Julia Nitschke are presented as part of *Schule, Nachbarschaft und Wir* (School, Neighbourhood and Us) from the Manifesta 16 Ruhr Education programme.

Grupa Mauczka is presented as part of the Manifesta 16+ programme.

Note: You can find a description of each participant's work on page 76–81.

How to get there

📍 Gethsemane-Kirche

🚆 Bahn

1 Bochum Hamme

🚇 U-Bahn

1 Hamme Kirche

2 Amtsstraße

3 Robertstraße

🚌 Bus

1 Hamme Kirche

2 Amtsstraße

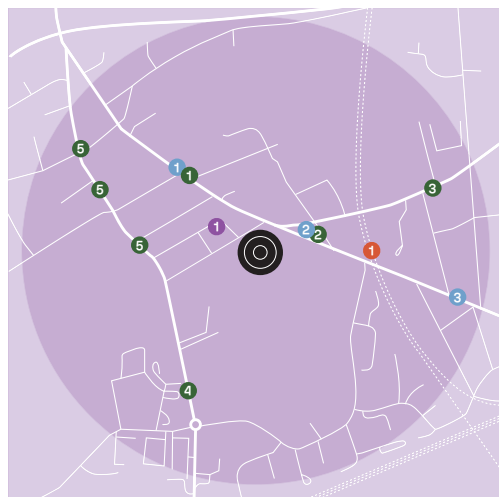
3 Hildegardstraße

4 AutoArena

5 Gahlensche Straße

🚲 Bike Sharing

1 Amtsplatz



St. Anna

Practical Information

Address: Normannenstraße 8,
44793 Bochum

Opening Hours:

Monday: closed
Tuesday: 11.00–18.00
Wednesday: 11.00–18.00
Thursday: 11.00–18.00
Friday: 11.00–19.00
Saturday: 11.00–19.00
Sunday: 11.00–18.00

Wheelchair accessible

**No wheelchair-accessible
toilets**

 **Bike Rental Point**



Designed by Wilhelm Peter in 1929, this church stands in Bochum's Goldhamme district, west of the city centre, an area historically shaped by the steel industry and its workers. Built as a sign of the neighbourhood's strong community life, the church reflects the simple Expressionist style that was common in less affluent parts of the city in the 1920s. Its emphasis on horizontal and vertical lines and the visible use of structural elements are characteristic of regional architecture. In the 1970s, Nikolaus Bette, born in 1934 in nearby Bottrop and one of Germany's leading glass painters, designed a series of windows within St. Anna featuring vivid organic forms in red, blue and green.

The bells fell silent in 2022, when the pews were removed and St. Anna was deconsecrated. Presented by Anda Rottenberg and Krzysztof Kościuczuk, the building now opens as a space for dialogue with works that engage with histories of the region and beyond – among them Wilhelm Sasnal's films and paintings on industry, mining and labour.

Participants

Pedro Cabrita Reis,
Kateryna Lysovenko,
Pınar Öğrenci, Mykola
Ridnyi, Wilhelm Sasnal,
Marion Stokes

Note: You can find a description of each participant's work on page 76–81.

Creative Mediators: Anda Rottenberg &

Krzysztof Kościuczuk

Architect: Wilhelm Peter

Year Built: 1929

How to get there

📍 St. Anna

🚊 U-Bahn

- 1 Erzstraße
- 2 Wattenscheider Str.
- 3 Westpark
- 4 Goldhammer Straße

🚌 Bus

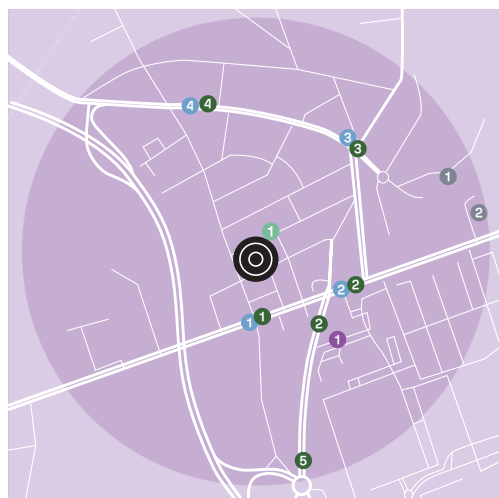
- 1 Erzstraße
- 2 Wattenscheider Str.
- 3 Westpark
- 4 Goldhammer Straße
- 5 Heusnerstraße

🚲 Bike Sharing

- 1 Thyssenkrupp Hochhaus

🅑 Parking

- 1 JAG-Platz
- 2 Parkhaus Jahrhunderthalle



St. Ludgerus

Practical Information

Address: Kaltehardtstraße 98,
44892 Bochum

Opening Hours:

Monday: closed

Tuesday: 11.00–18.00

Wednesday: 11.00–18.00

Thursday: 11.00–18.00

Friday: 11.00–19.00

Saturday: 11.00–19.00

Sunday: 11.00–18.00

Wheelchair accessible

**No wheelchair-accessible
toilets**

 **Bike Rental Point**

Nestled in the residential heart of Bochum-Langendreer, St. Ludgerus Church, built in 1966 by architect Hans Joachim Lohmeyer, stands as a testament to post-war resilience and architectural innovation. With its striking triangular form, clean lines and bold geometric proportions, the church captures the essence of modernist design while remaining rooted in its sacred purpose. Now, the church remains consecrated but no longer in use as a religious building.

Curated by Josep Bohigas, the church is transformed into a counterintuitive stadium developed with Cabosanroque, where play replaces ritual: a communal basketball court in which missed shots activate the organ and turn failure into a collective soundscape.

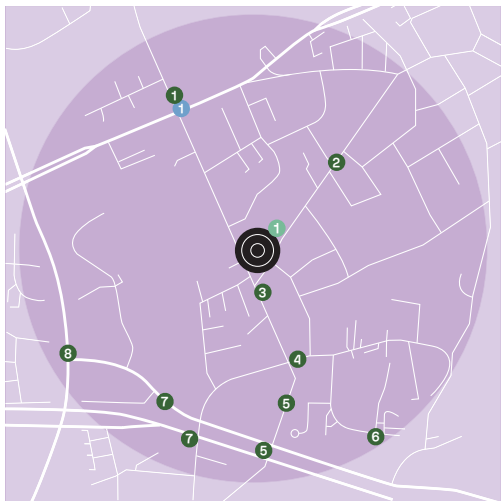
Creative Mediator: Josep Bohigas
Architect: Hans Joachim Lohmeyer
Year Built: 1966



Participants

Cabosanroque with
Flexo Arquitectura,
Curro Claret

Note: You can find a description of each participant's work on page 76-81.



How to get there

📍 St. Ludgerus

🚲 Bike Sharing

1 Bike Rental Point

🚊 U-Bahn

1 Am Neggenborn

🚌 Bus

1 Am Neggenborn

2 Eichhornweg

3 Kaltehardtstraße

4 Rebhuhnweg

5 Urbanusstraße

6 Luchsweg

7 Kaltehardt

8 Im Ümminger Feld

Getting Around by Bike



Three of Manifesta 16 Ruhr's four venues in Bochum – Gethsemane, Christ-König and St. Anna – are clustered near the city centre and linked by a cycle route, with Bochum Hauptbahnhof as a convenient starting point.

The route passes landmarks such as the Jahrhunderthalle, Schauspielhaus and Deutsches Bergbau-Museum before continuing through residential districts. The route connects you to Erzbahntrasse – a former freight railway line, now one of the Ruhr Area's most striking cycle paths. Following it westward leads directly to the three connected venues in Gelsenkirchen, turning a day of art into a ride through the region's industrial afterlife.

Navigation

Interactive route maps are available on our website for free and also on the Komoot app (paid access).

Bike stations and pop-up rental points are available near all venues.

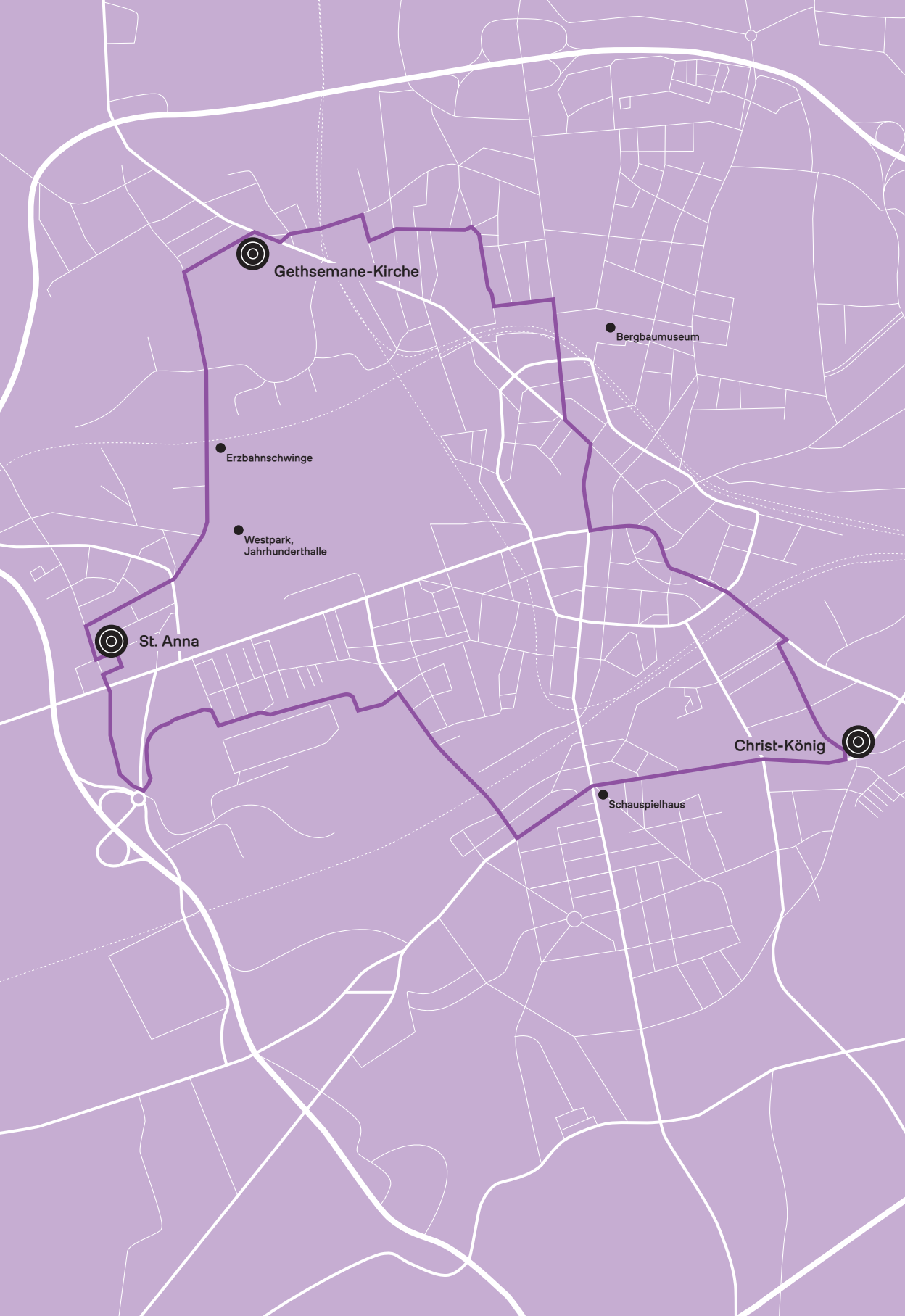
These bike routes were developed in cooperation with the Regionalverband Ruhr and Ruhr Tourismus GmbH.



Manifesta 16 Ruhr
website bike routes



Komoot routes
Manifesta 16 Ruhr



Gethsemane-Kirche



Bergbaumuseum



Erzbahnschwinge



Westpark,
Jahrhunderthalle



St. Anna



Christ-König



Schauspielhaus

Parcours

Manifesta 16 Ruhr stretches across four core cities – Duisburg, Essen, Gelsenkirchen and Bochum. Whether you have a single day or several, the following parcours help you make the most of your visit. Each route is a suggestion: feel free to adjust the order or add stops in between.

Central Parcours

1-Day Experience

If you only have one day, this trip takes in our Central Venues – all close to central transport hubs and easy to combine. Adjust the order to suit your starting point.



**Kulturkirche Liebfrauen,
Duisburg**

Partly deconsecrated: a small chapel on the ground floor still hosts religious services while the main nave on the first floor has become an art and cultural centre, showing how to transform a former church. Participants shown here include: Julian Irlinger, Athina Koumparouli, Elizabeth Price, Emil Walde and Abbas Zahedi.

your time in the main nave, the two aisles, the sacristy and the staircase, with works by Cudeline Brazelton IV, Bérénice Gaça Courtin, Nicolas Grosspierre, Albe Hamiti, Wilhelm Sasnal, Katarzyna Kozyra and Luc Tuymans, among others.



**St. Gertrud,
Essen**

Now home to the School of Fine Arts (HBK), with studios, seminar rooms, a bar and an event space across two floors. Manifesta 16 Ruhr participants share the main nave with HBK students, who have also contributed to several projects. Among the presented works, you'll find projects by: Halil Altindere, Pravdoliub Ivanov, Šejla Kamberić, Jarosław Kozłowski and Navid Nuur.



**St. Bonifatius,
Gelsenkirchen – Ferdane
Satır Tea Garden**

Stop for a cup of tea in Bureau Baubotanik's teagarden, surrounded by sculptures by Justin Lieberman and Judith Hopf in a striking architectural setting.



**Christ-König,
Bochum**

Built in 1932 and modelled after a Franciscan monastery church. Take



**St. Josef,
Gelsenkirchen**

Built between 1894 and 1896, this is our venue with neo-Gothic and classicist elements. Inside, you'll find interventions that transform the space by: Havîn Al-Sîndy, Curro Clar-et, Dúo Barber-Palacios and Penique Productions.

Community Parcours

2-Day Experience

This thematic route follows Manifesta 16 Ruhr's title *This is not a church* and the wider transformation of churches into spaces for participation and community. It highlights a selection – by no means comprehensive – of works that invite visitors to take part.

Day 1

Gelsenkirchen



**St. Josef,
Gelsenkirchen-Ückendorf**

Curro Claret's repurposed church pews become tribunes, seating for talks and screenings, or picnic tables. Havin Al-Sindy's opening-weekend performance involved almost 220 pupils from local schools; the resulting video is shown alongside an installation of thousands of handcrafted locusts made by the pupils themselves.



**St. Bonifatius –
Ferdane Satir Tea Garden,
Gelsenkirchen**

In Bureau Baubotanik's tea garden, visitors take part in harvesting, preparing and finishing the plants used in collective tea rituals.



**Thomaskirche –
Hava Güleç Living Room,
Gelsenkirchen-Erle**

Weberei Kai offers free weaving workshops throughout the biennial from their studio in the former parish house. In cooperation with the neighbouring kindergarten, a flax garden grows the weaving material on site.



**St. Anna –
Hatay Engin Music Hall,
Schalke-North**

Mesut-Sabuha Salaam organises gatherings around music, dance and ceremonies rooted in transcultural contexts – afternoons and evenings to engage with and learn from one another.

Day 2

Essen & Bochum



**Markuskirche,
Essen-Frohnhausen**

One of two Manifesta 16 venues still in use, drawing strength from its tight-knit community – kindergarten, elementary school, senior centre and community café. Manifesta 16 Ruhr was invited to help rethink the building's purpose collectively, and Pele Collective has transformed the outside into a space for gatherings, informed by community workshops ahead of the opening.



**St. Ludgerus,
Bochum-Langendreer**

Cabosanroque transforms the church nave into a communal basketball court. Rather than playing against each other, visitors play together: missed baskets become part of a soundscape captured inside the church itself.



**St. Gertrud,
Essen**

Now the Creative Cathedral *Trudi*, with the main nave shared between HBK students and Manifesta 16 Ruhr participants. Nasan Tur worked with the students through a collective workshop that became part of his presented project.

Grand Parcours

3-Day Experience

Three days, four cities, twelve venues. The fullest picture of Manifesta 16 Ruhr – from modernist landmarks to neighbourhood churches still in use and from individual commissions to community-built environments.

Day 1

Duisburg & Essen



**Kulturkirche Liebfrauen,
Duisburg**

A partially deconsecrated modernist landmark, near to Duisburg main station. Composed by Creative Mediators Henry Meyric Hughes and Michael Kurtz, with works by Elizabeth Price, Abbas Zahedi, Emil Walde, Julian Irlinger and Athina Koumparouli. Don't miss Price's newly commissioned film about one of our venues, and step into Zahedi's nave-filling installation, which incorporates organ pipes from churches across Europe and the Ruhr Area.



**St. Gertrud,
Essen**

The former church in Kreativquartier Essen City Nord is now the campus of the School of Fine Arts (HBK). Curated by the intergenerational tandem René Block and Leonie Herweg, with Halil Altındere, Ayşe Erkmen, Mona Hatoum, Pravdoliub Ivanov, Šejla Kamerić, Jarosław Kozłowski, Donja Nasser, Navid Nuur, Coumba Samba and Nasan Tur, among others. Tur's work, made from church pews, was developed with HBK students and other participants; Samba's urban intervention at the nearby Rheinischer Platz subway station leads you straight to the next stop.



**Markuskirche,
Essen-Frohnhausen**

Markuskirche is deeply embedded in its neighbourhood (with a nearby kindergarten, elementary school, community and senior centre). Pele Collective has created an outdoor area for shared activities; inside, climb Augustas Serapinas' tower for a view onto Sara Bichão's sculpture in the nave, and listen to Lilli Lake's sound installation.



St. Marien, Essen-Karnap

After standing unused for years, St. Marien casts a dramatic silhouette over its surroundings. William Engelen invites you to interact with his sound curtain; Jason Dodge fills the nave with a floor installation; Mira M. Yang, Annika Kahrs and Alicja Kwade present further works in the side chapels. End the day in one of the many beer gardens in Essen or head south to Essen-Rüttenscheid.



Yves Klein at Musiktheater im Revier

A hidden treasure: large-scale reliefs by Yves Klein, who would have celebrated his 100th birthday next year. In cooperation with Robert Fleck, Art Historian and Curator, visitors can view the site-specific 1960s works and learn about how they came into being via a video installation.

Day 2 Gelsenkirchen



St. Josef, Gelsenkirchen-Ückendorf

Presented by our first Creative Mediator, urban planner Josep Bohigas, Penique Productions covers the nave with a large-scale installation that lifts the architecture out of its original purpose; Curro Claret reworks the church pews into furniture for many uses; Havîn Al-Sîndy's installation was developed with pupils from schools in Gelsenkirchen and Duisburg as part of the Education and Mediation programme. Works by Dúo Barber-Palacios are also on view.



St. Anna – Hatay Engin Music Hall, Schalke-North

Curated by Gürsoy Doğtaş, the exhibition opens a curatorial thread centred on the region's complex history of migration. Works by Emre Abut, Ming Wong and Mesut-Sabuha Salaam highlight music and dance as cultural practice. Every Wednesday afternoon, families can join Constructlab's activation.



St. Bonifatius – Ferdane Satır Tea Garden, Gelsenkirchen

A teagarden by Bureau Baubotanik welcomes you with sculptures by Özlem Altın, Justin Lieberman and Judith Hopf. Inside the postmodern architecture from 1963, works from across Europe are arranged in newly designed displays by Bureau LADA.



**Thomaskirche –
Hava Güleç Living Room,
Gelsenkirchen-Erle**

Deconsecrated in May this year, Gülbin Ünlü's installation covers the church windows; Weberei Kai works in the parish house, creating woven textile structures and offering weaving workshops throughout the biennial.



**St. Anna,
Bochum-Goldhamme**

Pedro Cabrita Reis greets you from the heritage-protected façade with his installation. Inside, Kateryna Lysovenko and Eva Kořátková open up sensitive spheres, while Pinar Öğrenci draws on the district's ties to the steel industry and its workers.

Day 3 Bochum



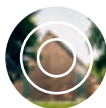
**Christ-König,
Bochum**

Built in 1932, Christ-König, is still consecrated, and during Manifesta 16 Ruhr is curated by the Polish intergenerational tandem Anda Rottenberg and Krzysztof Kořciuczuk. Mirosław Bałka's monumental coal sculpture greets you at the entrance, drawing references to the mining histories of the Ruhr Area and Poland. Inside the nave and the sacristy, you will discover works by Mehtap Baydu, Mabe Bethonico, Aline Bouvy, Cudelize Brazelton IV, Bérénice Gaça Courtin, Niklas Goldbach, Nicolas Groszpiere, Albe Hamiti and Luc Tuymans, among others.



**Gethsemane-Kirche,
Bochum-Hamme**

Hidden behind the parish house, Gethsemane-Kirche is a so-called *Notkirche*, an emergency church from architect Otto Bartning's post-war programme of temporary places of worship. In playful contrast, Marina Naprushkina installs a bouncy castle in the church yard, recalling the former church bell, while Cassidy Toner invites visitors to tempt fate with a transformed pinball machine.



**St. Ludgerus,
Bochum-Langendreer**

The final stop: Cabosanroque activates the church nave with a playful musical intervention in the form of a communal basketball court. Visitors are invited to miss on purpose, turning every failed shot into a participatory soundscape.



What not to miss in the Ruhr Area

Hedwig Fijen

Director of Manifesta 16 Ruhr

Emscherkunstweg – Art along the river

One of the most unexpected ways to spend more time in the Ruhr Area is a visit to the Emscherkunstweg, a collaboration with *Urbane Künste Ruhr* that weaves 24 permanent artworks into the landscape along the Emscher river. Pieces by former Manifesta participants such as Tobias Rehberger, Massimo Bartolini and raumlaborberlin turn a ride along the restored waterway into a reconnaissance of the region's ecological transformation. A special tip: Piet Oudolf's *Theater der Pflanzen* in Bottrop, planted in 2010.

Hohenhof in Hagen – A Gesamtkunstwerk

The *Hohenhof in Hagen* is one of the few surviving *Gesamtkunstwerke* of European Art Nouveau and was the home of the collector, educator and cultural innovator Karl Ernst Osthaus, founder of what would become the Museum Folkwang. Designed by the Belgian architect Henry van de Velde, it belongs to the Osthaus Museum Hagen and offers a vivid sense of how the region, at the turn of the 20th century, became a laboratory for cultural experimentation and artistic production. Not far away, in Hagen-Delstern, stands a striking crematorium by architect Peter Behrens.

Museum Folkwang in Essen

No visit to the Ruhr Area is complete without the Museum Folkwang in Essen, whose extraordinary avant-garde collection of 19th- and 20th-century painting – with works by Vincent van Gogh,

Paul Cézanne, Paul Gauguin and the German Expressionists – was acquired in 1922 from the estate of Karl Ernst Osthaus by the city of Essen. In March 2026, three months before the opening of Manifesta 16 Ruhr, Katharina Fritsch's monumental and permanent work *Hahn und Podest* (Cock and Pedestal) enters the collection – a new acquisition from the Essen-born artist whose grandfather helped rebuild St. Gertrud and who is also showing a work at St. Marien in Essen as part of Manifesta 16 Ruhr.

Cycling to the Baldeneysee

For an afternoon outside the bustle of the cities, rent a bike and cycle to the Baldeneysee, the reservoir lake in Essen's green south. A few steps from the historic Villa Hügel you will find the Parkhaus Hügel, built in 1870 as a casino and today a restaurant with a generous view across the water. Among the many places to eat, our Manifesta 16 favourite is the Südtiroler Stuben.



Trinkhallen – An Institution

Few things capture the Ruhr Area's everyday life better than the Trinkhalle, a neighbourhood kiosk for cold drinks, sweets and newspapers – you will find one on almost every corner. They are social hubs as much as shops, and every city has its favourites. A short list of our team's top recommendations:

Rü-Kiosk, Essen-Rüttenscheid – a popular stop for a quick beer between bars (Rüttenscheider Straße 172, 45131 Essen)

Trinkhalle Bochum, Bochum-Mitte – great selection of beers, plus ping-pong tables (Herner Straße 8, 44787 Bochum)

Das Alsenbüdchen, Bochum-Mitte – a neighbourhood favourite, close to Christ-König (Alsenstraße 30 / Ecke Düppelstraße, 44789 Bochum)

Trinkhalle Ückendorfer Straße, Gelsenkirchen-Ückendorf – right next to the Manifesta 16 Ruhr office at St. Josef (Ückendorfer Straße 122, 45886 Gelsenkirchen)

Blaues Büdchen, Duisburg-Ruhrort – the Ruhr's most photographed kiosk, in operation since 1911 and a listed building (Amtsgerichtsstraße 38, 47119 Duisburg)

Tram 302 – The Culture Tram

Tram Line 302 runs from Essen to Gelsenkirchen and has earned its nickname as the culture tram for a reason: it connects many of our Manifesta 16 Ruhr venues with one simple hop-on, hop-off ride. Make sure to stop in Gelsenkirchen at the Musiktheater im Revier, designed by Werner Ruhnau and home to one of the best-kept secrets of the region – three monumental works by Yves Klein, created shortly after the Second World War as the first artistic collaboration between Germany and France. The reliefs are currently undergoing restoration, but they are mind-blowing to see; the building itself, a modernist glass pavilion, is one of the great theatres of the Ruhr Area. While travelling around for Manifesta 16 Ruhr, do not miss the Schauspielhaus Bochum either – another renowned avant-garde theatre, currently led by Johan Simons.

Bar Restaurant Badalona, Bochum

This recommendation is, above all, a homage: Bar Restaurant Badalona on the Südring in Bochum carries the name of one of the sixteen municipalities that hosted Manifesta 15 in the Barcelona metropolitan area. Right in the centre of Bochum, it is a welcome stop between venue visits – and a small reminder that Manifesta's journey is always cumulative. After dinner, of course, there is always the option to discover the Ruhr Area's dance and clubbing scene. Some recommendations:

Tresor.West, Dortmund – the sibling of one of Berlin's most legendary clubs

Schlegel Kultur Club, Bochum – hidden in the centre, a passion project devoted to musical subculture

Goethebunker, Essen – a respected institution that has been running for almost two decades

Stapeltor, Duisburg – cultural hub that occasionally hosts club nights

OpenGround, Wuppertal – just outside the Ruhr Area, internationally recognised for having one of the world's finest acoustic spaces and sound systems.

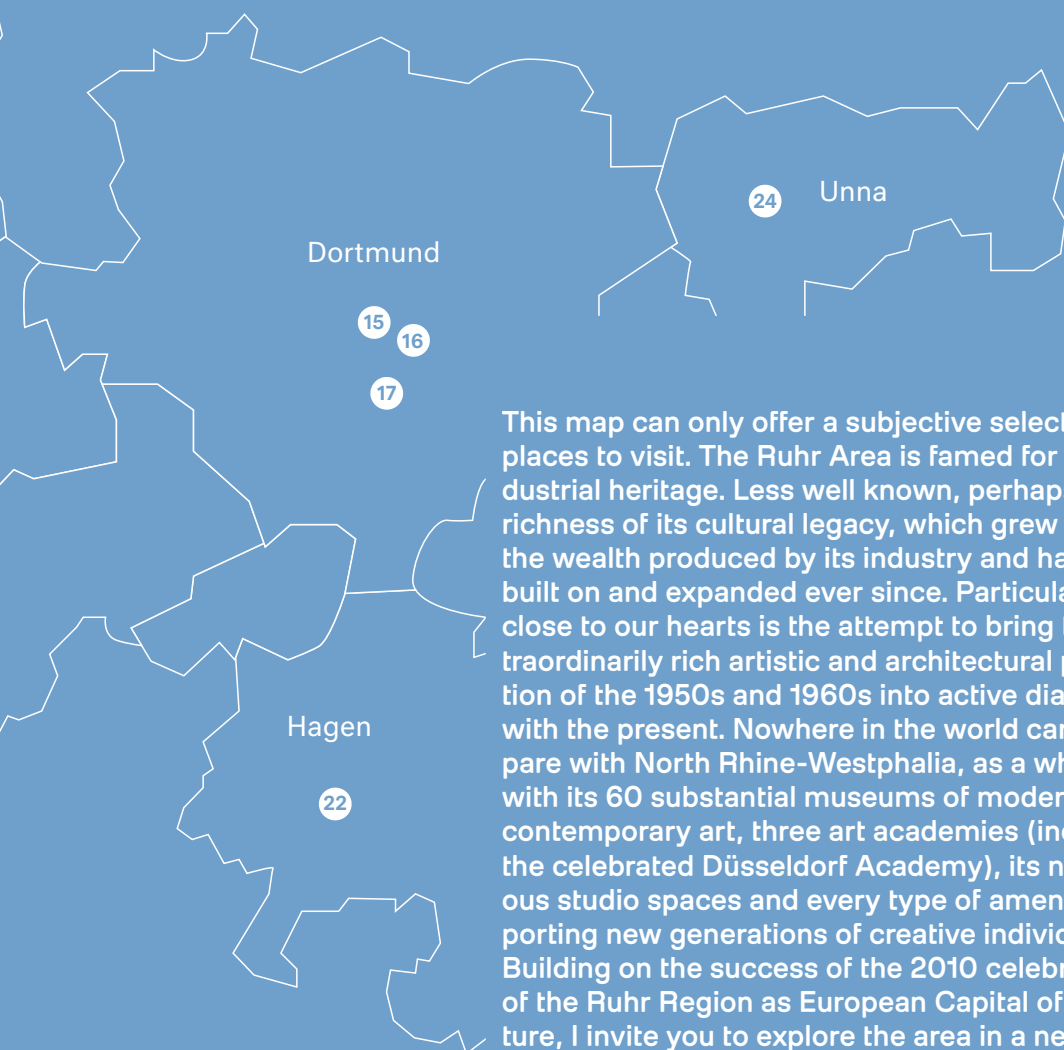
Gottfried Böhm – Kunstraum Heilig Geist

Pritzker Prize winner Gottfried Böhm is known for his sculptural church designs in post-war Germany. His Heilig-Geist-Kirche in Essen-Katernberg, built between 1955 and 1957, is a striking example: the sculptural shape evokes a tent. Following the dissolution of its parish, the building reopened in April 2025 as Kunstraum Heilig Geist, a venue for contemporary art and interdisciplinary practice. The church sits 100 metres from UNESCO-Welterbe Zollverein and directly opposite PACT Zollverein; Tram Line 107 stops at the door.

Moderne Ruhr

A Map
of Modern Art
in the Ruhr Area





This map can only offer a subjective selection of places to visit. The Ruhr Area is famed for its industrial heritage. Less well known, perhaps, is the richness of its cultural legacy, which grew up from the wealth produced by its industry and has been built on and expanded ever since. Particularly close to our hearts is the attempt to bring the extraordinarily rich artistic and architectural production of the 1950s and 1960s into active dialogue with the present. Nowhere in the world can compare with North Rhine-Westphalia, as a whole, with its 60 substantial museums of modern and contemporary art, three art academies (including the celebrated Düsseldorf Academy), its numerous studio spaces and every type of amenity supporting new generations of creative individuals. Building on the success of the 2010 celebrations of the Ruhr Region as European Capital of Culture, I invite you to explore the area in a new spirit of adventure during Manifesta 16 Ruhr.

— Robert Fleck

Moderne Ruhr

A Map of Modern Art in the Ruhr Area

Researched and collated by Robert Fleck,
Art Historian and Curator.

Essen

1 Aalto Theatre: Conceived by Alvar Aalto in the 1960s and inaugurated in 1988, it is one of 12 public theatre buildings in North Rhine-Westphalia built in the 1950s and 1960s. Four of them were in the Ruhr Area: Aalto Theatre in Essen, Dortmund in 1966, Musiktheater im Revier in Gelsenkirchen in 1959, Recklinghausen in 1965.



2 Folkwang Museum: The oldest collection of modern art in the world and the best photographic collection in Germany presented in a new building by David Chipperfield (2007).

3 Grugahalle: Inaugurated in 1958, it is a modernist symbol for this period.

4 UNESCO-Welterbe Zollverein: Former mining zone until 1986, the site was developed as an architectural and industrial monument, winning UNESCO World Heritage status in 2001.

Mülheim an der Ruhr

5 Kunstmuseum Mülheim an der Ruhr: Founded in 1909 and reconstructed after the Nazi period, it features three important collections of modern art of the 20th century collated during the post-war period.

Duisburg

6 Lehmbruck-Museum: Sculpture museum of international importance named after sculptor Wilhelm Lehmbruck, with buildings designed by the artist's architect son, Manfred Lehmbruck, in 1964. Lehmbruck has long been regarded as Germany's leading modernist sculptor, who later influenced Josef Beuys.

7 Museum Küppersmühle: Outstanding private museum of (mainly) modern German painting in a former mill, radically converted by Herzog & de Meuron in 1999 and extended by them between 2013–2021.

Gelsenkirchen

8 Kunstmuseum Gelsenkirchen: Important international collection of kinetic and light art, including Zero Group, from the 1960s and 1970s.

9 Musiktheater im Revier (MiR): Biggest cultural project in Western Germany since the end of the Second World War, inaugurated in 1959 as "Neue Oper Gelsenkirchen" by architect Werner Ruhnau, featuring site specific artworks by Yves Klein, Yves Tinguely, Norbert Kricke, Robert Adams and Paul Dierkes.

Bochum

10 Kunstmuseum Bochum: Remarkable architectural site and modern art collection; it is the host of Ernst-Weiss-Preis, the most important prize for artistic accomplishment in the Ruhr Area.

11 Deutsches Bergbau-Museum (German Mining Museum): A reminder that the Ruhr Area was created by mines and had the largest mining and steel industry in continental Europe.

12 Kunstsammlungen der RUB, Ruhr University Bochum: International collection of post-abstract art. Under Max Imdahl, it became the most influential institute for the theory of modern art in the German Federal Republic.

13 Galerie m, Bochum: One of the most prominent galleries for minimal art around the world, featuring a sculpture garden with work by Richard Serra.

Bottrop

14 The Josef Albers Museum: Inaugurated in 1976, is internationally important for post-minimalist art and now forms part of the Museumszentrum Quadrat. It is a remarkable architectural site near the Bottrop Municipal Gardens.

Dortmund

15 Museum Ostwall: Founded in 1952, it holds a major collection of 20th-century German modern art and the most important Fluxus collection in Germany. It is now part of University of Dortmund.

16 Das Große Haus: Built between 1958 and 1966 by architects Roszkotten, Tritthart and Clemens, it is a key example of the radical international style of the post-war period.

17 Westfalenhalle: Built in 1952 on a 1920s Bauhaus structure, it became Germany's largest convention centre and a symbol of the Ruhr Area's renewal.

Oberhausen

18 Gasometer Oberhausen: A former gas storage tank, now a natural history museum with wonderful view of the area. Home to International Short Film Days (the "Cannes Film Festival for Short Films").

19 LUDWIGGALERIE Schloss Oberhausen: International Pop Art highlights from the Peter Ludwig Collection, the first world-class contemporary art collection assembled by a post-war German industrialist.

Recklinghausen

20 Ruhrfestspielhaus Recklinghausen: Inaugurated in 1965 and an example of radical new modernism by architects Ganteführer and Hannes. It was built for the Ruhrfestspiele, the largest annual festival of the arts in post-war Germany.

21 Kunsthalle Recklinghausen: Since 1950, the visual arts component of the annual Ruhrfestspiele and a museum of modern and contemporary art. Hosts the Kunstpreis Junger Westen (Young West Art Prize), established in 1948, as a symbol of the western orientation ("Westbindung") of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Hagen

22 Karl Ernst Osthaus-Museum: The oldest museum of modern art in the world, whose initial collection is now housed at the Folkwang Museum in Essen. Outstanding collection of early 20th century and post-war art. Hagen was one of the first industrial cities in the Ruhr Area.

Marl

23 Skulpturenmuseum Marl: A collection of 20th-century sculpture assembled since the 1950s during the reconstruction of the town hall and town centre by noted architects, including Hans Scharoun, who was responsible for major cultural buildings in West Berlin during this period.

Unna

24 Centre for International Light Art: Established in 2001 in an old brewery, it is the only museum for light art in the world. It also stages the annual Light Art Award.

MANIFESTA 16 Ruhr +



The Manifesta 16+ programme extends the biennial beyond Duisburg, Essen, Gelsenkirchen and Bochum into six further municipalities across the Ruhr Area.

Following an Open Call *This is not a church*, an international jury selected 16 projects from over 200 submissions. Throughout the duration of the biennial, these projects will transform vacant church buildings into spaces for gathering, exchange and collective practice.

Developed by artists, initiatives and communities with a strong connection to the region, they explore how former places of worship can be reactivated as open meeting places – sites for neighbourhoods to come together, learn from one another and imagine shared futures.

Manifesta 16+ projects take place in Bochum, Bottrop, Dortmund, Duisburg, Essen, Gelsenkirchen, Herne, Marl, Mülheim an der Ruhr and Oberhausen.

Auf.Atmen

Künstler Kollektiv Bottrop
St. Franziskus, Bottrop

For *Auf.Atmen*, the Künstler Kollektiv Bottrop (Artist Collective Bottrop) transforms a former church into a living, breathing cultural space. The project centres around an exhibition that uses the building as a resonating body and brings together a wide range of artistic interventions.

Catch the Light – Build Bridges

Pottporus e.V.
Christuskirche, Herne-Wanne

Catch the Light – Build Bridges turns the Christuskirche in Herne-Wanne into an intercultural laboratory where art becomes a catalyst for dialogue, community and democratic participation. At the core of the project is an experimental dance theatre created with young people from the Pottporus Youth Ensemble.

Der Stoff, aus dem die Nachbarschaft besteht

Negar Foroughanfar
Melanchthonkirche,
Essen-Holsterhausen

Der Stoff, aus dem die Nachbarschaft besteht (The Fabric The Neighbourhood Is Made Of) takes inspiration from the wrapping projects of the husband-and-wife environmental installation artist duo, Christo and Jeanne-Claude. Working groups from the neighbourhood collaborate on sewing, writing, cooking and col-

lecting fabric to create a communal textile artwork that will be displayed on the church façade.

Holy Spits / Święta Ślina – acts towards unbinary states

Grupa Mauczka
Gethsemane-Kirche, Bochum

In *Holy Spits / Święta Ślina – acts towards unbinary states*, Grupa Mauczka and artists from Poland, the Ruhr Area and beyond invite you to an evening dedicated to the art of śląsking. Through short performances blending drag, queer nightlife and performance art, they explore non-binary identities and consider what Upper Silesia was, is and could be.

Go(o)d Kitchen: Building and Cooking Together

Oberhausener Tafel e.V. and kitev
Kirche Heilige Familie, Oberhausen

Go(o)d Kitchen transforms the church of Heilige Familie in central Oberhausen into an open space for learning and encounter. Through building, cooking and sharing meals, the project draws attention to the social realities of food banks and rethinks communal spaces for local residents.

Ludgeriplatz 2.0

WeLoveLudgeriplatz
Ludgeriplatz, Duisburg

Ludgeriplatz 2.0 transforms the square of St. Ludgerus Church in

Duisburg-Neudorf into a lively and inclusive meeting place. Urban walks, participatory workshops and a digital platform engage local residents and strengthen neighbourhood connections.

Maktaba Room

Cate Lartey and Donja Nasseri

Hairdresser Herr de Vanna, Essen

Maktaba Room is an on-going project by Donja Nasseri and Cate Lartey that creates an inclusive cultural space highlighting stories of global migration through literature and photography. Readings and talks further activate the space.

Nebenan: Quartiers- geschichten – Auf dem Weg zur Ehrenamtskirche

Dr. Bettina Heine-Hippler,
Kirchengemeinde St. Martin
St. Martin, Dortmund

Nebenan: Quartiersgeschichten – Auf dem Weg zur Ehrenamtskirche (Nextdoor: Stories of the Neighbourhood – On the Way of Becoming an Honorary Church) develops a long-standing urban vision by transforming the area around the Church of St. Martin into a neighbourhood hub. The newly created Piazzetta hosts exhibitions, workshops and cultural events and offers a welcoming public space for local communities.

Reclaiming the Space of Worship –

An Artistic Manifesto

Save Space e.V., Romano Than e.V.,
Museum Ostwall

Heilige-Familie-Kirche, Dortmund

Reclaiming the Space of Worship – An Artistic Manifesto turns Heilige Familie in Dortmund-Marten into a place of encounter for residents and for Sinti and Romani communities. An installation combines Christian iconography with elements of Sinti and Romani culture.

Sacred Kitchen

Beate Gärtner

Gemeindezentrum Fulerum, Essen

Sacred Kitchen is a participatory art project that brings together neighbourhood life and artistic practice. Three communal cooking sessions serve as both shared experience and material for a video installation shown in the church.

Shaping Tomorrow and Open House, New Communities

Die Urbanisten e.V.

Heilig-Geist-Kirche, Dortmund

Shaping Tomorrow and Open House, New Communities explore new forms of neighbourhood community through collaborative and artistic interventions. The church becomes a cool refuge in summer and a participatory space for reflecting on identity, community and ecological transformation.

Sing our Songs!

Catholic Parish Gelsenkirchen,
Musiktheater im Revier,
Kunstmuseum Gelsenkirchen
St Mariä Himmelfahrt, Gelsenkirchen

Sing our Songs! revives the tradition of workers songs in the Ruhr Area. Public rehearsals and community performances turn the deconsecrated church into a space for collective singing and shared cultural memory.

Sinsen vernetzt – Kirche neu gedacht

AWO Unterbezirk
Münsterland-Recklinghausen
Kreuzkirche, Marl-Sinsen

Sinsen vernetzt – Kirche neu gedacht (Connected – New Ideas for Churches) transforms the Kreuzkirche in Marl-Sinsen into an inclusive meeting place, counselling centre and cultural venue. Participatory methods create a democratic space for dialogue and shared activity across generations.

Baze

SÖZ! e.V., Sam Hopkins,
Daniela Berglehn
Sozial Ökologisches Zentrum,
former Markus-Kirche, Dortmund

Baze reimagines a former church as a place where young people create and exchange digital content offline. Workshops and swap sessions enable peer-to-peer sharing and build a local creative community beyond the algorithm.

This is not a Bar

Wilko Meiborg and Felix Meermann
Sozial Ökologisches Zentrum,
former Markus-Kirche, Dortmund

This is not a Bar creates a temporary pub inside a repurposed post-war church in Dortmund-Nordstadt. Furnished with discarded Gelsenkirchen Baroque pieces, the project invites visitors to rebuild furniture, share drinks and exchange memories and changing ideas of living and community.

Zuhören

Makroscope e.V. and
Theater an der Ruhr
St. Engelbert, Mülheim an der Ruhr

Zuhören transforms a deconsecrated church into a school of listening. Through recordings, conversations and guided walks, the project explores listening, speaking and silence as shared social practices and forms an evolving sound archive.



Check out the schedule for the
Manifesta 16+ programme
on our website

Get Involved!

Manifesta 16 Ruhr

Events

Manifesta 16 Ruhr presents a vast programme of events, performances, workshops and interventions, all showcasing how these former church buildings can be transformed into something new for the community. Expect cooking sessions, gardening, dance performances and much more. All events are free and open to everyone!

Discover the Programme



Head to our website to find out what events are happening near you!



About the Participants

Discover the works presented across the twelve venues of Manifesta 16 Ruhr.

Presented by Creative Mediator Gürsoy Doğtaş

Emre Abut's audio installation explores music as an aspect of migrant self-empowerment. Hip-hop, R&B and Black music of the 1990s and early 2000s, as well as Turkish music, form the musical ground of the work.

Mehmet Aksoy understands art as political practice, devoting his sculptures, reliefs and drawings to the everyday lives of “guest workers” from Türkiye – a subject that ran through much of the art of the period, often pictured in quiet, exhausted figures in subway carriages.

Begzada Alatović directs the Intercultural Garden Rosenduft in Berlin – a place of encounter where she preserves traditional plant knowledge across communities.

Bettina Allamoda's work commutes between installation, sculpture and fashion. Her artistic practice explores surface as political archive of belonging and distinction.

Özlem Altın's installation on the façade of St. Bonifatius church refers to her father's occupation in a yarn-finishing factory. The flower-like installations recall the hard labour he faced.

Atiye Altül's sensitive paintings and drawings explore feelings, memories and unresolved relationships through both close observation of nature and personal inner experiences.

Bureau Baubotanik's installation functions as a tea garden around St. Bonifatius church. Visitors are invited to harvest, try and taste the grown tea.

Akbar Behkalam's painting mingles Persian traditions and Western art history. The ‘Abendmahl’ closely connects to Leonardo Da Vinci's ‘Last Supper’ but places it in the context of social inequality.

In her film “A New Word” **Cana Bilir-Meier** takes up a West German competition from 1970 that sought a replacement for the term “guest worker”. She examines the over 30.000 submissions together with a choir of mostly former immigrants themselves.

Ayzit Bostan's silk scarf features the Nazar Boncuğu symbol as its main motif, without explaining or decorating it further. This allows viewers to think about the different meanings of the symbol for themselves.

Vlassis Caniari's installations are made from everyday materials and found objects. Migration is a central motif of his artistic practice.

Fatma Ceylan is a master of oya, a filigree Anatolian needlework passed down by hand across generations. A survivor of the 1992 racist parcel-bomb attack in Cologne, she has spoken publicly about her family's story since 2022 and campaigns for accountability through the initiative Herkesin Meydanı.

İsmail Çoban's painting refers to the Christian motif of judgment, locating it in present times. Viewers are asked to reflect on social justice.

Yıldırım Denizli does not follow a fixed programme. What matters to him is the material, the process of creating an artwork and humour. His works develop through play, movement and experimentation.

İhsan Ece works across the fields of paintings, drawings and poster designs. He came to Germany in the 1970s and has adapted to the theme of migration ever since, exploring the struggles connected to labour migration.

The photographs were taken during Turkish writer **Fürüzan's** visit to the Ruhr Area in the 1970s, where she conducted interviews with migrant workers and gained first hand insight into their working conditions.

Hava Güleç brought handmade tools – a forged dough scraper, a hand-crafted brush – with her from Turkey to the Ruhr Area in 1966. They carry a history of labour that the economic miracle never counted.

Abuzer Güler presents four paintings about the personal and emotional sides of migration, inspired by memories and experiences from his own life.

Mehmet Güler's woodcuts show personal memories and lived experiences, created through unique technique without a printing press.

Cihangir Gümüştürkmen works across painting, sculpture, photography, video and performance. His artwork reflects on memories of origin and childhood with his present life as a gay Turkish-German artist.

Nejla Gür's drawings and paintings show the everyday life of women who came to Germany as "guest workers". Her inspiration comes from magazines, photographs and daily encounters.

Philipp Gufler uses quilts as fragile archive pages of queer memory. Layering silkscreen prints, quotations and image fragments, his works draw on the tradition of the AIDS Memorial Quilts – here dedicated to the singer Zeki Müren.

Judith Hopf's LESS shows a snail carved from a block of perforated bricks – a plea for deceleration, and for the snail itself as a counter-force to monoculture.

Merve Kaplan's installation is made from various objects that all carry memory, as they were once used in daily life. Common in various cultures they evoke different recollections.

Muhlis Kenter's photographs show the everyday life of "guest workers" in western Germany during the 1970s and 1980s. He explores their burdens by highlighting physical labour under difficult conditions.

Azade Köker's installation and drawings explore vulnerability and resistance as important parts of human experience, especially for women. Her work presents the female body as carrying memories of history, control and loss.

Gaşper Kunšič's sculpture "Ornament" is exactly what it claims to be. The inscribed statement "LET'S BECOME MORE GAY" is a playful affirmation, a political posture and a sincere desire.

Justin Lieberman's sculpture references a turtle. By only showing its shell questions of protection, surface and transformation emerge.

Julia Logothetis is inspired by personal photo albums of Kurdish Turan Akar from eastern Turkey, addressing the lived reality by "guest-workers" in Austria.

Mihály Moldvay's photographs explore the life of "guest-workers" in western Germany. As a former migrant worker himself he is familiar with the daily struggles in a foreign country and uses his work to draw attention to the obstacles migrants have to face.

Asimina Paradissa's photographs, mostly of the artist herself, focus on migration as a personal experience. The people in her images are shown as individuals living their everyday lives, building relationships and keeping their dignity in their own way.

Jannis Psychopedi's paintings turn away from the tradition of still-life's. Instead of flowers or fruits he chooses objects used in daily life painting their real dimensions without glorifying or elevating them.

Judith Raum's installation focuses on the historical Anatolian Railway and Baghdad Railway. She explores the desire for expansion, based on appropriation and exploitation.

Mesut-Sabuha Salaam presents a walk-in installation for Manifesta 16 Ruhr that draws on the Gayhane archives. Since 1999, Gayhane has been a queer-oriental party series at SO36 in Berlin-Kreuzberg, creating a safer space for queer migrants from Turkish, Arab and Mediterranean diasporas.

Dennis Siering's site-specific urban intervention is part of an ongoing project called Radical Climate Action Bird, that translates melodies of protest songs and others into artificial birdsongs.

Metin Talayman's paintings depict the history of labour migration from Türkiye to Germany in an expressionist and slightly abstract way. The series Underground Notes explores the life of Turkish miners in the Ruhr Area.

Nesrin Tanç presents handicraft works created with the traditional *tiğ iş* technique. They are not only artistically appealing but also carry personal memories of her mother, who worked with this traditional technique.

Rıza Topal's paintings are inspired by everyday life in the Kurdish regions of Türkiye, where he grew up or used to work as a teacher, before coming to Germany.

Yıldız Tüzün's sculptures are made of everyday materials. The coffee filters used in her work explore not only the domestic of coffee itself, but also memories of migration, exchange and labour as it is prepared in various ways differing from region to region.

Gülbin Ünlü's larger than life installation of a pigeon is situated in the church windows of Thomaskirche – Hava Güleç Living Room. It stares at the visitors from the in- and outside exploring the different meanings pigeons carry in religious and everyday life.

Weberei Kai concern themselves with the crafts of weaving and spinning. During Manifesta visitors are invited to try it themselves.

Ming Wong creates the embodiment of a Turkish diva, named Bülent Wongsoy, emerging from his engagement with Turkish singer Bülent Ersoy's film and pop history. The works shown focus on this artistic persona.

Nil Yalter's photographs connect image and text connected to the Turkish cuisine. She explores how female bodies are also seen as objects of appetite and fantasy.

Hanefi Yeter's paintings concern themselves with migrant perspectives in Germany. He mostly shows Turkish migrant workers, their everyday lives, hopes, worries, homesickness and struggles for participation.

Serpil Yeter's paintings are a mirror of her daily experiences. She paints what she observes in her surroundings, showing sensitive insights into daily life.

Presented by First Creative Mediator Josep Bohigas

Duo Barber Palacio's film and performance explores church bells as instruments of collective memory and markers of transformation. They have conceived site specific concerts in the Ruhr Area with neighbours from the surrounding churches.

Cabosanroque, with Flexo Arquitectura, reimagines the nave of St. Ludgerus as a communal sports field where every missed basketball shot produces a tone, allowing visitors to collectively compose a sound installation.

Curro Claret's installation is made from former church pews. By transforming them into new seating arrangements, new purposes are taken into account, focusing on the reuse of the materials and the repurposing of former churches.

Penique Productions' installation envelops the main nave of St. Josef Church in a lilac membrane. By doing so, the former usage as a church fades into the background, opening the space for new ideas and purposes.

Presented by Creative Mediators Henry Meyric Hughes & Michael Kurtz

Sara Bichão's installation is the result of a month-long residency in the Ruhr Area and is composed of objects closely connected to the church. As a vessel, it carries memories of Markuskirche, reminding visitors of its prospective decommissioning.

Robert Fleck has prepared a map of sites and video installation relating to modern art history in the Ruhr Area. These sites and video installation present public artworks, collections of modern art and international collaborations of the post-war period.

Julian Irlinger presents a film and an installation concerning themselves with the architectural history of Kulturkirche Liebfrauen and its surrounding area.

Athina Koumparouli's installation explores the stained-glass windows by Georg Meistermann. She acknowledges their cracks and missing parts by creating an illuminated display from glass fragments across the Ruhr Area.

Lilli Lake's sound installation refers to the creaks of the wooden ceiling, which reminded her of a boat straining under the pressure of a wave. Microphones amplify the creaking, giving voice to the architecture itself.

Pele Collective see Markuskirche's transition as an opportunity. Together with the neighbours, they fabricated an outdoor gathering area in front of the church inspired by the idea of an ark.

Elizabeth Price's film analyses the meaning of modernist church architecture in the Ruhr Area by exploring Manifesta 16 venue Marienkirche in Essen.

Augustas Serapinas' installation is made from the church benches in Markuskirche. Arranged as a walkable tower, they allow visitors to get closer to Lilli Lake's ceiling installation while glimpsing into the inaccessible balcony above the entrance.

Emil Walde's installation is made of old window panels from the main station in Duisburg. He connects the architectural history of both the station and the church, highlighting the potential of discarded industrial and urban material.

Abbas Zahedi's nave-filling installation is inspired by the original Breil-organ of Kulturkirche Liebfrauen. Composed of organ pipes from all over Europe, visitors are invited to join group activities exploring loss, grieving and artistic performances.

Presented by Creative Mediators René Block & Leonie Herweg

Halil Altindere's sculpture transforms the familiar form of a tree into a structure made of surveillance cameras. The work refers to the growing presence of surveillance in everyday life.

Jason Dodge's installation responds to the architecture and atmosphere of St. Marien through subtle arrangements of everyday materials.

William Engelen's site-specific installation is placed in the area where the church's organ once stood. The sound curtain invites visitors to participate in its activation.

Ayşe Erkmen's installation reimagines the confession booth. Transferred to the present, visitors encounter a digital interface responding to their questions.

Katharina Fritsch's sculptures revolve around the precise staging of everyday motifs, which are translated into clear and often striking forms.

Mona Hatoum's installation originates from early experiments she undertook as a student. By using electricity, she demonstrates how natural forces can animate even the most solid objects and materials.

Pravdoliub Ivanov's site specific installation for the blue chapel in St. Gertrud refers to the stained-glass window. By extending the already existing graphic pattern he turns it into a familiar every day object.

Annika Kahrs' installation combines sound, movement and architecture. Recorded in a deconsecrated church in Lyon, it reflects on how spaces and their usage can change with time.

Šejla Kamerić's installation refers directly to the wall covering mosaic in St. Gertrud's main nave. Using light, the word 'Agape' reappears enlarged

across the mosaic, shifting from a fixed detail in stone to an obvious presence.

Jarosław Kozłowski's sculptures are made from everyday furniture and objects. Many of these elements were gathered in St. Marien itself after its profanation.

Alicja Kwade's sculpture explores time, space, gravity and humanity within the universe. A seemingly average chair becomes the carrier of a planetary dimension.

Olaf Metzel's sculptures are a reference to the area surrounding St. Gertrud. Photos taken along the way from Essen main station to the former church form the basis of his work.

Donja Nasseri's sculptural installation connects histories of migrations, trade and representation. Maps and music explore how narratives travel and how they can be reconfigured.

Navid Nuur's installation explores how the former chapel of St. Gertrud can be transformed into something new, beyond its original usage.

Coumba Samba's installation is located at the stairs of the subway Rheinischer Platz close to St. Gertrud. It explores how language can connect and divide human beings.

SUPERFLEX present an unusual image of Christ asleep. The film connects the image of Jesus engaged in one of the most universal human activities.

Nasan Tur transforms former church pews into a large-scale sculptural installation. He collected thoughts and memories from people all over the Ruhr Area and carved them into the benches, turning them into carriers of personal experience.

Evita Vasiljeva created a series of outdoor sculptures located around St. Marien. They reflect a changing urban environment shaped by vacancies and shifting usages.

Mira M. Yang's film was recorded in Freakshow, a Rock'n'Roll bar in Essen. It interprets birdsongs into human voices and connects it with local subculture.

Amanda Ziemeles's installation responds directly to its surroundings. By using painted aluminium and industrial acrylic, it corresponds to the car repair workshop close by.

Presented by Creative Mediators Anda Rottenberg & Krzysztof Kościuczuk

Mirośław Bałka's sculpture depicts a seated Madonna entirely made of coal. It refers to the region's migration history in regard to Polish people for whom coal functioned as a form of wealth.

Mirośław Bałka's light installation explores questions of history and memory. Each element spells the word homeland in a different language.

Mehtap Baydu's mixed media works explore the human body, questioning bodily self-perception and understanding.

Mehtap Baydu's performance invited eleven women from the region to a communal cooking session. After three days of preparations, strangers from all social backgrounds are invited to share a collective lunch.

Mabe Bethônico's mixed media installation explores the conditions of female workers in the largest mining areas in Brazil. While mines are usually seen as a male dominated field, women now take over responsibility.

Aline Bouvy's installation explores the backrooms of Christ-König. What is usually hidden from the eyes of the visitors now becomes visible.

Cudelice Brazelton IV's steel object is closely related to the artists former workplace in Ohio, where he concerned himself with the production of industrial machinery.

Pedro Cabrita Reis's sculptures engage with the architecture of St. Anna. The façade features a sculpture of the Crucifixion that is extend by two new sculptures referencing four biblical gospels.

Bérénice Gaça Courtin's textile works explore her family's engagement in coding during the Second World War. Her woven fabrics include encrypted messages and symbols.

Niklas Goldbach's video work explores new structures that have arisen in the aftermath of the region's industrial past.

Zuza Golinska's installation originates from the artist's exploration of a shipyard in Poland. They were made from found objects and are transformed into hybrid beings.

Nicolas Grosppierre's photographs explore the meaning of absence through the region's past. By extracting coal, underground structures have been created that are now abandoned.

Albe Hamiti's film explores how loneliness affects human beings despite the world being more connected than ever. Isolation, depression and anxiety become more present and are examined as daily conditions.

Eva Kofátková's site-specific installation asks about animals in our cities, about their living conditions and their status.

Katarzyna Kozyra's film explores how faith can intensify for some people visiting Jerusalem. A selection of interviews explore these feelings by believers in conversation with the artist.

Kateryna Lysovenko's painting attempts to represent the idea of rights for everyone, including the right of migration, privacy and dignity.

Małgorzata Mirga-Tas's sculptures refer to a war-crime committed by German and Polish soldiers against Rom*nja in 1942. In 2011, the artist created a monument which was destroyed in 2016. The new fragments of wax remember both incidents as crimes against minorities.

Marina Naprushkina's interactive sculpture references the historical bell of Gethsemane-Kirche. The bouncing castle invites visitors to actively take part while questioning the status of being in-between in regard to the region's migration history.

Pınar Öğrenci's films explore the life of migrant miners in the Ruhr Area's large industrial area. She highlights their invisibility despite being crucial for the region.

Mykola Ridnyi's film revisits children's street games that were popular in the 1990s post-Soviet area, exploring how violence still persists in seemingly playful situations.

Wilhelm and Anka Sasnal present two films in Christ-König that explore personal relationships as well as labour migration.

Wilhelm Sasnal's paintings explore the relationship between modernity and progress.

Mikołaj Sobczak's video performance refers to a historical letter by Count Portatius from Silesia. The work researches the persecution of men and their criminalisation for "intimate relationships" among each other.

Marion Stokes was deeply involved in civil rights activism and politics throughout her life. For more than 30 years, she recorded television broadcasts in the United States. Records from this archive are present in Christ-König.

Cassidy Toner's installations feature two modified flipper slot machines. They are free to play and explore questions of wealth, hard work and luck.

Luc Tuymans revisits imagery from *Triumph of the Will* to expose the fragility of authoritarian aesthetics and the performative power of fascist spectacle.

Presented as part of *Schule, Nachbarschaft und Wir* (School, Neighbourhood and Us) from the Manifesta 16 Ruhr Education programme

Havîn Al-Sindy's performance and installation reflects on histories of displacement, surveillance and resistance, using children's texts, collective processes and locusts as a symbol to confront the social and political forces behind crisis and survival.

Constructlab's installation was developed with local schoolchildren to reimagine urban space through playful, modular structures built from found materials.

Miedya Mahmud's collaborative zine explores multilingualism, migration and belonging, bringing together the voices and experiences of young people.

Julia Nitschke's installation reimagines marginalised languages through feminist, queer and poetic collaboration, transforming multilingual classroom voices into a living archive.

Manifesta 16 Ruhr Initiators & Partners

Initiating Partners

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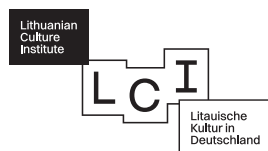
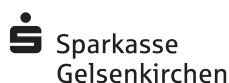


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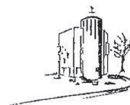
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Colophon

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Initiated by
Hedwig Fijen and
Emilia van Lynden

Coordinated by
Christoph Jehlicka, Anna
Thornton

Writing and copy editing
Paul Buckermann, Lara Müller,
Christoph Jehlicka, Anna
Thornton, Anna-Luella Zahner

Design Template
NODE, Berlin/Oslo

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Johanna Unterberg

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**Programme details were
accurate at the time of printing
in May 2026 and may be
subject to change.**

the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are under 15 years of age is expected to increase by 1.5 billion, from 1.2 billion in 1990 to 2.7 billion in 2010.

As the world's population grows, the demand for food and other resources will increase. The world's population is expected to reach 9 billion by 2050, and the demand for food will increase by 50% by 2030.

The world's population is also becoming more urban. In 1990, 54% of the world's population lived in urban areas. By 2010, this is expected to increase to 69%.

The world's population is also becoming more diverse. In 1990, 54% of the world's population was of European descent. By 2010, this is expected to decrease to 44%.

The world's population is also becoming more educated. In 1990, 54% of the world's population was illiterate. By 2010, this is expected to decrease to 44%.

The world's population is also becoming more mobile. In 1990, 54% of the world's population lived in rural areas. By 2010, this is expected to decrease to 44%.

The world's population is also becoming more affluent. In 1990, 54% of the world's population lived on less than \$2 per day. By 2010, this is expected to decrease to 44%.

The world's population is also becoming more healthy. In 1990, 54% of the world's population lived in poor health. By 2010, this is expected to decrease to 44%.

The world's population is also becoming more peaceful. In 1990, 54% of the world's population lived in a state of conflict. By 2010, this is expected to decrease to 44%.

The world's population is also becoming more democratic. In 1990, 54% of the world's population lived in a non-democratic country. By 2010, this is expected to decrease to 44%.

The world's population is also becoming more environmentally conscious. In 1990, 54% of the world's population lived in a country that was not a member of the United Nations Environment Programme. By 2010, this is expected to decrease to 44%.

The world's population is also becoming more technologically advanced. In 1990, 54% of the world's population lived in a country that did not have a telephone. By 2010, this is expected to decrease to 44%.

The world's population is also becoming more globally connected. In 1990, 54% of the world's population lived in a country that was not a member of the World Trade Organization. By 2010, this is expected to decrease to 44%.

The world's population is also becoming more environmentally sustainable. In 1990, 54% of the world's population lived in a country that was not a member of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. By 2010, this is expected to decrease to 44%.

The world's population is also becoming more socially responsible. In 1990, 54% of the world's population lived in a country that was not a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council. By 2010, this is expected to decrease to 44%.

The world's population is also becoming more environmentally friendly. In 1990, 54% of the world's population lived in a country that was not a member of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. By 2010, this is expected to decrease to 44%.

The world's population is also becoming more environmentally aware. In 1990, 54% of the world's population lived in a country that was not a member of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. By 2010, this is expected to decrease to 44%.

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