

Special exhibition “Josef Albers: Homage to the Square” opens at the Josef Albers Museum Quadrat Bottrop

PRESS RELEASE

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The Josef Albers Museum Quadrat in Bottrop is embarking on a new future with the major special exhibition “Josef Albers: Homage to the Square”. This special exhibition is the first to held in the Josef Albers Gallery, the new rooms of the wing designed by Gigon/Guyer Architects.

Admission is free on Wednesday through Friday of opening week: 19–21 October.

The Josef Albers Museum Quadrat Bottrop is opening its new wing to the public with a major special exhibition entitled “Josef Albers: Homage to the Square” which will run from 19 October 2022 to 26 February 2023. Featuring numerous first-rate loans from museums abroad, the exhibition honours Josef Albers, who was born in Bottrop in 1888, as one of the most important artists of the 20th century.

Dr. Heinz Liesbrock, curator of the exhibition and director of the Josef Albers Museum Quadrat through September 2022, and **Dr. Jeannette Redensek**, research curator of the Josef and Anni Albers Foundation and Josef Albers catalogue raisonné director, are presenting the exhibition in its new rooms today. Their presentation is preceded by welcoming addresses from **Dr. Linda Walther**, the new director of the museum as of 1 October 2022, and **Jochen Brunnhofer**, director of cultural affairs for the city of Bottrop.

A **formal ceremony** with Bottrop senior mayor **Bernd Tischler**, sponsors, partners and friends of the museum will mark the official opening of the exhibition and new wing on **18 October** at 2 pm.

Opening day for the public will be on Wednesday **19 October 2022. Admission is free of charge on the first three days of the exhibition** (Wed + Fri 11 am – 5 pm, Thu until 7 pm). Senior mayor Bernd Tischler and the museum team will greet visitors when the doors open at 11 am.

The “Josef Albers: Homage to the Square” special exhibition is dedicated to the extraordinary cycle of works that Albers (b. 1888 in Bottrop – d. 1976 in New Haven, Connecticut) began in 1950 and continued until his death. Around 100 outstanding examples are shown in eight chapters, including loans from the the Metropolitan Museum and the Whitney Museum in New York or the Kunstmuseum Bern. They are complemented by notable pieces by Giorgio Morandi, Ad Reinhardt and Donald Judd – artists whose work is closely connected with that of Josef Albers. Paul Cézanne’s *Quarry at Bibémus*, a major work from Museum Folkwang, is also on loan for the duration of the exhibition.

For **Dr. Heinz Liesbrock**, this marks the climax of his years at the Bottrop museum and a farewell before entering retirement. *“This collection of first-rate works confirms Albers as one of the great*

painters of the 20th century. The attribute long ascribed to him as an instructor who also painted or who placed his works in the service of educational goals now recedes definitively into the background. In the superbly designed wing by Gigon/Guyer, the exhibition and new outreach facilities promise a bright future for the Josef Albers Museum Quadrat.”

The catalogue for the special exhibition, which contains around 220 illustrations, highlights Albers' many sources of inspiration first in Europe and later in the Americas, and underscores the enduring influence of his art. Edited by Heinz Liesbrock, it includes essays by Gottfried Boehm, Vincent Broqua, Fritz Horstman, Rainer Jochims, Donald Judd, Heinz Liesbrock, Amy Jean Porter, Jeannette Redensek, Margit Rowell and Nicholas Fox Weber. Designed by Professor Ingo Offermanns, the catalogue will be published by Hatje Cantz on 9 November (356 pages, 220 illustrations, German/English editions, € 64). It will be available at the museum and from bookshops.

The **newly designed permanent exhibition** with works by Josef Albers can be viewed in the section of the museum that opened in 1983. Today's new wing enables this permanent collection to be shown for the first time in parallel to a special exhibition. It focuses on Albers' work at the Bauhaus, his encounter with pre-Columbian art of Mexico and the famous course of colour he developed as an instructor in the USA. The Museum Quadrat owns the world's largest collection of works by Josef Albers, with more than 300 items including around 100 paintings and an entire set of printed graphics as well as vinylite engravings, oil studies on paper, glass works and photographs.

The **new wing** of the Josef Albers Museum was designed by the acclaimed Zurich-based Gigon/Guyer architects, and created in collaboration with pbr Architects Engineers in Osnabrück. Annette Gigon and Mike Guyer's conception of a two-storey wing represents a harmonious extension to the complex in Bottrop's historical Stadtgarten park. The new structure extends this ensemble consisting of the 1913 judge's villa and Bernhard Küppers' museum buildings from the 1970s and 1980s to the northeast, providing an area of 1,400 square metres on two floors. Its eight exhibition rooms are discreet in design in order to give space and precedence to the art itself.

Information on the **education and outreach programme, including free offerings during opening week funded by RAG foundation**, is found in the press kit and on the museum website: <https://quadrat.bottrop.de/>

Opening times for the special and permanent exhibitions:

Tue–Sat, 11 am – 5 pm, Sundays and holidays 10 am – 5 pm, closed Mondays

On Thursday 20 October the exhibitions are open until 7 pm.

Admission is free on 19-21 October for opening week then starting 22 October:

Special exhibition: € 10, reduced: € 6

Permanent exhibition: free of charge

Exhibition sponsors: the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, NRW Art Foundation, Landschaftsverband Westfalen-Lippe Culture Foundation, Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach Foundation, Egon Bremer Foundation, Josef and Anni Albers Foundation, Josef Albers Foundation Bottrop, Sparkassen Finance Group and RAG Foundation.

Ministerium für
Kultur und Wissenschaft
des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen



Kunststiftung
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and the Josef Albers Foundation Bottrop.

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Alfried Krupp von Bohlen
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The STEAG power company in Essen is paying the new wing's heating costs for 5 years.

Vonovia is funding the outreach programme "Josef Albers: The Artist and His Museum" for five years.

Download press kit and photos:

<https://quadrat.bottrop.de/sonstiges/presse.php>

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