

Presenting the new wing of the Josef Albers Museum Quadrat Bottrop

PRESS RELEASE

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A win for art, the city and the state: Now finished, the new wing of the Josef Albers Museum Quadrat Bottrop opens new horizons.

Official public opening on 19 October 2022 with the special international exhibition “Josef Albers: Homage to the Square”.

Dr. Heinz Liesbrock, director of the Josef Albers Museum Quadrat, architect **Annette Gigon**, and the senior mayor of the city of Bottrop **Bernd Tischler** are presenting the new building today. This extension to the Josef Albers Museum was designed by the acclaimed Zurich-based Gigon/Guyer architects. Their proposal came out ahead of 24 other candidates in a Europe-wide non-open competition. The Gigon/Guyer architectural office created the building in collaboration with pbr Rohling based in Osnabrück.

The new space will enable the museum in Bottrop, which opened in 1976, to present special exhibitions alongside its worldwide unique collection of works by Josef Albers. 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 Amtsrichtervilla and Bernhard Küppers’ museum buildings from the 1970s and 80s 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 precedence and space to the art itself.

Visitors to the museum enter the new wing via a connecting bridge from the permanent collection, with views onto the park. The path through the eight differently sized exhibition rooms is partly meandering and partly straight. Four large windows, one on each side, look out onto the park while also granting passers-by a look into the museum. Consistent natural lighting is provided primarily by the sawtooth rooflights. The proportions of the rooms, doors and windows are chosen to foster perception of the art.

In addition to space for special exhibitions, the new wing has rooms for education and outreach, an art depot and offices.

Annette Gigon / Mike Guyer Architects

Annette Gigon and Mike Guyer earned degrees from the ETH Zurich in architecture and co-founded the Gigon/Guyer architectural office in Zurich in 1989. They soon gained recognition for museum projects with the Kirchner Museum Davos, the extension to the Kunst Museum Winterthur, the Kunstmuseum Appenzell and the museum and park in Kalkriese in Germany. Gigon/Guyer Architects

have received awards for work both in Switzerland and abroad, including the Fritz Schumacher Prize in Germany, the RIBA Fellowship in Great Britain, and the Tageslicht Award (known as the Daylight Award since 2014), one of the highest endowed prizes in Switzerland.

Opening on 19 October 2022

The Josef Albers Museum Quadrat Bottrop will open its new wing on 19 October 2022 in conjunction with an exhibition entitled “Josef Albers: Homage to the Square” (to run until 26 February 2023). Including numerous top-level loans from museums in other countries, the exhibition will honour Josef Albers, who was born in Bottrop in 1888, as one of the most important artists of the 20th century.

The exhibition focusses on the extraordinary series that Albers (b. 1888 in Bottrop – d. 1976 in New Haven, Connecticut) worked on from 1950 until his death. Around 100 outstanding examples will be shown in eight chapters. They include loans from the Museum of Modern Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Whitney Museum in New York. They are complemented by notable works by Paul Cézanne (*Quarry at Bibémus* from Museum Folkwang), Giorgio Morandi, Ad Reinhardt and Donald Judd – artists whose work is closely connected with that of Josef Albers.

The new permanent exhibition

The new permanent exhibition of works by Josef Albers, which is housed in the 1983 part of the museum, will also open on 22 October and can therefore be viewed for the first time alongside a special exhibition. It features Albers’ work at the Bauhaus, his encounters with pre-Columbian art in Mexico, and the famous course on colour he developed as a teacher in the USA.

Important date: The **press conference for the opening will be held on 13 October at 12 noon.** An invitation will follow.

Funding for the new wing has come from the German federal government, state of North Rhine-Westphalia, RAG Foundation, RAG corporation, Evonik Foundation, Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach Foundation, Brost Foundation, Landschaftsverband Westfalen-Lippe and Josef and Anni Albers Foundation.

Download press information and photos:

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

Press contact

commissioned by the Josef Albers Museum Quadrat Bottrop

Hendrik von Boxberg

+49 177 7379207

presse@von-boxberg.de

Franziska Schönberner

+49 175 1635251

post@franziska-schoenberner.de

For questions regarding architecture:

Gigon/Guyer Architekten

Carmenstrasse 28

CH-8044 Zürich

+41 44 2571141

k.mencke@gigon-guyer.ch

Josef Albers Museum Quadrat Bottrop

Anni-Albers-Platz 1

46236 Bottrop

Tel.: 02041/372030

Fax: 02041/3720344

E-Mail: quadrat@bottrop.de

<https://quadrat.bottrop.de/>