



DEUTSCHES HISTORISCHES MUSEUM

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PRESS RELEASE ON 13 FEBRUARY, 2013

## The 30th Council of Europe Art Exhibition, 'The Desire for Freedom. Art in Europe since 1945' now moves on to Milan

Last Sunday, 10 February 2013, the Berlin showing of the 30th Council of Europe Art Exhibition, 'The Desire for Freedom. Art in Europe since 1945' came to an end.

Over 45,000 visitors came to the much discussed exhibition. 113 works of art from 28 European countries provided an insight into the different ways in which artists have addressed the theme of Freedom since 1945. The thematic presentation and the conscious avoidance of the customary East-West divisions generated controversy among audiences and in the media, which were taken up by the German Historical Museum, in events such as the panel discussion on 'Art, History and the Museum – Do they go together?'

The exhibition, which was realised in co-operation with various partners, and with the support of the European Commission, was contextualised in a comprehensive accompanying programme and used as a subject for discussion in a variety of different formats. For example, in the course of a workshop organised in collaboration with the Körber Stiftung (Körber Foundation), there were some moments of fundamental relevance to anyone interested in considering the prospects for harmonious co-existence in Europe, such as when Marianne Birthler discussed the issue of how the concept of Freedom was understood in Europe today.

Especially successful was the format for public debates, developed jointly for the exhibition in collaboration with the Einstein Forum, in Potsdam and the Collegium Hungaricum Berlin, under the heading of 'Café Liberté'. The Sunday meetings at the Café Liberté brought together prominent speakers from the fields of science, culture and the media, to discuss individual aspects of the exhibition with the public.

Thematic tours and history workshops for groups of schoolchildren from Kindergarten up to school leaving age, as well as a number of workshops with theatre directors, lasting several days, were organised jointly with the Foundation Sozialpädagogisches Institut Walter May Berlin and the Department of Theory and History Teaching at the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt. In parallel to all this, the Leibniz Knowledge Media Research Center in Tübingen has been evaluating the different forms of publicity used by the Museum, and it will be interesting to learn the outcome of this!

At the closing event last Sunday, the public put some questions to the team around the curator, Monika Flacke. Irène Weidmann, the person responsible for exhibitions at the Council of Europe and Barbara Gessler, representing the European Commission, were also present – as was the young Ukrainian artist, Nikita Kadan.

The exhibition will already open at the next venue, the Palazzo Reale in Milan, on 13 March 2013 and remain on view there throughout the summer, before moving on to Tallinn.

**[www.verfuehrung-freiheit.de](http://www.verfuehrung-freiheit.de)**



Culture Programme

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Täglich 10.00 – 18.00 Uhr  
Eintritt bis 18 Jahre frei  
Tageskarte 8 € | ermäßigt 4 €

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