

Invitation to a press preview

documenta. Politics and art

18 June 2021 to 9 January 2022



Dear Sir or Madam,

we cordially invite you to the press conference
on **Wednesday, 16 June 2021 at 10 a.m.** (CET)
at the Deutsches Historisches Museum.

The preview is scheduled for **9.30 a.m. onwards** in the Pei building.

The speakers will be:

Raphael Gross, President of the Stiftung Deutsches Historisches Museum

Hortensia Völckers, board member / Artistic Director of the Kulturstiftung des Bundes

Lars Bang Larsen, curator of the exhibition

Julia Voss, curator of the exhibition

Dorothee Wierling, curator of the exhibition

The press conference will be held in German and English.

As an alternative, we also invite you to take part in a **digital press preview via livestream** on **Thursday, 17 June 2021 at 5 p.m.** (CET).

The livestream tour (60 min.) with our education officer will be given in English.

Documenta rose to become Germany's most successful art exhibition – an achievement that was due not least to its political dimension, in particular the attempt to draw a line under National Socialism, and the formation of the Eastern and Western blocs in the Cold War. Although documenta tried to distance itself from Nazi cultural policy, it avoided dealing openly with the Nazi past. At the same time, its politically motivated orientation towards 'the West' meant the decisive rejection – and deprecation – of the socialist concept of art that was propagated in 'the East'.

The Deutsches Historisches Museum (German Historical Museum) presents the first exhibition to examine Kassel's celebrated art show with the aim of exploring the multifaceted interplay between politics and art in German society after 1945. Following its debut in 1955 as a major exhibition with international ambitions, documenta became a place where West Germany's image of itself was renegotiated. Every four years (later, five years), its organisers and curators set themselves the task of illuminating current trends in art. This exhibition by the Deutsches Historisches Museum breaks new ground by placing the history of the first to the tenth documentas in the context of the political, cultural and social development of the Federal Republic of Germany between 1955 and 1997. Occupying two floors of the building, it brings together works of art, films, documents, posters, oral history interviews and other original objects of cultural

Deutsches Historisches Museum

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and historical value in order to illustrate how documenta, as an art event and a historical venue, commented on, demanded and reflected political and social change.

The exhibition has received funding from the **Kulturstiftung des Bundes** (Federal Cultural Foundation).

Please take note of the following information and the registration form

- **If you plan to travel to Berlin:** The on-site press conference will take place on **16 June 2021** exclusively within the period **from 9:30 a.m. (start of accreditation) to 2:00 p.m.**

Binding registration is required in advance. Please register with your full name (and, if applicable, your colleagues' names), using the enclosed registration form, at presse@dhm.de.

The deadline for registration is Tuesday, 15 June 2021 at 5 p.m. (CET). Entry will be denied to anyone who is unable to present accreditation.

If the press conference cannot take place in the museum owing to the pandemic rules, it will be held in a digital form instead. In this case, we will endeavour to inform you in good time.

- **Livestream tour on 17 June 2021:** Binding registration is required in advance. Please register with your full name, using the enclosed registration form, at presse@dhm.de.
The deadline for registration is Tuesday, 15 June 2021 at 5 p.m. (CET). After registering, we will send you a link in order to take part. Please take account of the time difference if you are in another time zone.
- **Interviews with the curators** can be held individually, by video or telephone. Please use the form to tell us who you would like to interview and at what time, subject to availability.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

Daniela Lange

Press and Public Relations

Personal Data / Accreditation

Please send to presse@dhm.de by **Tuesday, 15 June 2021 at 5 p.m. (CET)**

I would like to receive accreditation for:

- the digital livestream tour of *documenta. Politics and Art* on **Thursday, 17 June 2021 at 5 p.m. (CET)**
- the press conference and preview of *documenta. Politics and Art* on **Wednesday, 16 June 2021 at 10 a.m. (CET)**
Location: Deutsches Historisches Museum, Berlin (Zeughaushof)
- Please send me the English press kit by e-mail (from 15 June 2021).

I would like an **interview appointment** (in person, by video, or by phone) with:

- Raphael Gross, President of the Stiftung Deutsches Historisches Museum**
- Lars Bang Larsen, curator** (The Cultural and Political Programme of 'the West')
- Dorothee Wierling, curator** (documenta in the Federal Republic)
- Julia Voss, curator** (documenta and National Socialism)
- Alexia Pooth, research associate** (The 'East' as the 'Other' of Modern Art)

Request for an appointment (date, time): _____

- in person (16 June)
- by phone
- by video call

Surname, first name: _____

Medium / publication: _____

E-mail: _____

Telephone: _____