

Skulptur Projekte 2027

The history of Skulptur Projekte

Since 1977, Skulptur Projekte Münster has been facilitating encounters with artistic works in public spaces. The international exhibition was founded by Klaus Bußmann, former director of the Westphalian State Museum of Art and Cultural History, and Kasper König, long-standing artistic director of the exhibition, as a reaction to the indignation of the people of Münster about George Rickey's kinetic sculpture "Three Rotating Squares", among other things, and has since been jointly supported and hosted every ten years by the Regional Association of Westphalia-Lippe and the City of Münster. The LWL-Museum of Art and Culture in Münster is the starting point for the exhibition and is commissioned by the hosts to organize it. The Skulptur Projekte extend across the entire city, with works such as Claes Oldenburg's "Giant Pool Balls" becoming landmarks and being taken to heart by the population.

The rhythm of the event makes it possible to trace the expansion of the traditional concept of sculpture over a longer period of time, in the sense of a long-term study. Kasper König always saw the exhibition as a "cut in time", which interrupts the continuous hustle and bustle of a city and provides a model view of its development as well as of contemporary art. His work and the associated discussions are visible in the Skulptur Projekte Archiv of the LWL-Museum für Kunst und Kultur. Since the last exhibition, this has been available to academics and the public.

So far, over 220 artists have accepted the invitation to Münster, including Richard Serra, Bruce Nauman, Isa Genzken and Ayşe Erkmen. Around 40 works of art were transferred from the temporary exhibitions to the public collection, so that today you can sit on benches by Jenny Holzer, look out over Jorge Pardo's "Pier" onto the water or visit Nicole Eisenman's "Sketch for a Fountain" in the Promenade, which the citizens themselves campaigned to preserve.

With the planned sixth edition in 2027, Skulptur Projekte Münster is writing 50 years of art and cultural history. With its free and open access, the exhibition will continue to promote the examination of contemporary social issues in 2027. With the term "project" in its title, Skulptur Projekte reflects an openness towards diverse content, ideas and creative approaches and is an opportunity for critical dialogue. How the exhibition will open the dialogue in 2027 will evolve with the concept over the coming months.