

## Press release

# Museum Folkwang 100

## In 2022 Museum Folkwang in Essen will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of its foundation – with international exhibitions and an extensive special programme

Essen, 27 Oct. 2021 – In 2022, Museum Folkwang will be celebrating its centenary at its site in Essen. The jubilee programme is defined by the history, present, and future of the museum and its role in the city. Celebrations will take the form of exhibitions and events that focus on the main areas of the collection such as Impressionism, Expressionism, photography, and posters, and the urban society. Founded in 1902 in Hagen by Karl Ernst Osthaus and subsequently opened in 1922 as Museum Folkwang in Essen the museum is one of the most important art museums in Germany with an international reputation. To this day, the museum's objectives are influenced by the Osthaus' commitment to art, cultural inclusion, and dialogue between the cultures.

The centenary year will kick off with a veritable exhibition highlight, namely ***Renoir, Monet, Gauguin – Images of a Floating World. The Collections of Kojiro Matsukata and Karl Ernst Osthaus*** under the patronage of Federal German President Franz-Walter Steinmeier, (6 February – 15 May 2022). The major collection of Late Impressionist works from Museum Folkwang enter into dialogue with the collection from the National Museum of Western Art in Tokyo. Through some 120 works including pieces by Cézanne, Gauguin, Manet, Monet, Renoir, Rodin, and Van Gogh the exhibition highlights how Impressionism evolved from an art movement initially viewed with critical reception into a style that is today considered the beginning of Modernism. This story is told here by means of two fascinating and outstanding early 20<sup>th</sup> century collectors and museum founders, namely Kojiro Matsukata and Karl Ernst Osthaus. For the first time since the 1950s a significant part of the Matsukata Collection from the National Museum of Western Art in Tokyo will be on display in Europe. For example, the famous composition *On the Boat* by Claude Monet or the painting *The Port of Saint-Tropez* by Paul Signac that was once part of the original Museum Folkwang collection will be on show alongside Pierre-Auguste Renoir's *Lise with a Parasol* or *The Girl with a Fan* by Paul Gauguin. In addition to Impressionist masterpieces contemporary installations by Japanese artists Chiharu Shiota and Tabaimo will also be on display. Following the show in Essen the National Museum of Western Art will present a second part of the exhibition in Tokyo entitled *People and Nature*.

In spring the poster exhibition ***We Want You! From the Beginning of the Poster until Today*** (6 April – 28 August 2022) opens and addresses the presentation, use and perception of the poster from its beginnings until the present day: Starting with the "wild flyposting" in the mid- 19<sup>th</sup> century advertising came to be channelled through ad stelae; from the 1920s onwards,

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advertising campaigns were produced and up until the introduction of the television in the mid-1950s the poster remained the main advertising medium. From then on technical innovations drove a change to new forms and a permanent presence. Digitization and networking, interactive elements that address the viewer directly and target-group based calibration all serve to expand posters' public image. From the first types of posters through to our digital present and future the exhibition displays important exhibits from the history of the poster including works by Lucian Bernhard, Isolde Baumgart, Hans Hillmann, Alfons Maria Mucha, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec and Charles Paul Wilp, and exploring the world of advertising from a cultural historical perspective and the history of media.

In the summer, the **Folkwang and the City** project (21 May – 7 August 2022) sees Museum Folkwang venturing out into urban space – wholly in the spirit of the Folkwang idea of a merging of art, city and society. The museum will in collaboration with initiatives, associations, communities, and decision-makers devote itself to important future topics and the role of art and culture in current transformation processes: Focal topics range from integration, cultural diversity, urban development and urban life through to sustainability, globalisation and digitization. The exhibition will be presented in downtown Essen around Berliner Platz and accompanied by a wide-ranging programme of events – site-specific art projects by international artists who want people to experience a new cooperation between art and society and open up the museum to the city. Participating artists include Neil Beloufa, Alexandra Bircken, Phil Collins, Eva Kot'átková, Fari Shams and Simon Starling amongst others.

In the second half of the year the exhibition **Expressionists at Folkwang. Discovered – Defamed – Celebrated** (20 August 2022 – 8 January 2023) will bring one of the most important chapters in the history of Museum Folkwang to life: Founding director Karl Ernst Osthaus as well as his successor Ernst Gosebruch were in close contact with the most important Expressionists. Early on they exhibited works of artists such as Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, Franz Marc, Paula Modersohn-Becker or Emil Nolde and acquired major works by theirs. Moreover, the artists themselves derived both inspiration and ideas from the museum's own collection. The exhibition is devoted to this intense and fruitful interaction – outlining it by means of masterpieces from the Paintings, Sculpture, and Prints sections. Over 120 artworks will relate the chequered history of 20<sup>th</sup> century Expressionism, whose works remained controversial in the art world up until the 1920s, indeed, were defamed and confiscated in the 1930s, but quickly came to be held in high esteem after the end of the Second World War. The opening will be celebrated with a large round-the-clock summer party.

With the **IMAGE CAPITAL** interdisciplinary research project of photography historian Estelle Blaschke and artist Armin Linke Museum Folkwang addresses the concept of photography as a

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currency (9 September – 11 December 2022). While the history of digital picture practices is still emerging what is striking today is the relentless accumulation of images in search engines, social media or in the memories of our smart phones. Historical and contemporary photographs, documents, found footage as well as virtual animations from science explore the various photographic infrastructures.

At the end of the jubilee year Museum Folkwang is for the first time in over 20 years once again showcasing the powerful oeuvre of Helen Frankenthaler (1928–2011) in Germany: **Helen Frankenthaler. Painterly Constellations** (2 December 2022 – 5 March 2023). The American artist is known for her pioneering role at the transition from Abstract Expressionism to colour field painting. Starting with her material experiments on paper in the early 1950s she revolutionized abstract art with the soak-stain technique she invented that involved soaking the grounding in paint. “Paper is painting” – is how Frankenthaler describes the importance of the medium that at times completely replaces the canvas. In juxtaposition to a selection of paintings Museum Folkwang is presenting 75 large-format works on paper from the period between 1949 and 2002. They vividly demonstrate how Frankenthaler has consistently advanced her oeuvre beyond all previous painterly and social conventions.

**Thomas Kufen, Mayor of the City of Essen:** “The Museum Folkwang is to this day the cultural heart of Essen. Here, tradition and modernity as well as the past, present and future of art and society meet. In the coming year we will look back together on 100 years of tradition and at the same time look forward to a time of innovation and modernity.”

**Peter Gorschlüter, Director of Museum Folkwang:** “We look forward to a centenary year in which we not only focus our attention on the 100-year history in Essen but also forge a link from the ideas of our museum founder Karl Ernst Osthaus to the present day, from the museum to the city, from Essen to the world.”

**Ulrich Blank, Chairman of the Folkwang-Museumsverein e.V.:** “Folkwang is a tremendously strong, unifying brand. It has written cultural history with the idea of making art the intellectual property of all people. The Folkwang-Museumsverein will continue to stand by this mandate and its co-responsibility in the city and the museum.”

## Exhibitions 2022

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### **RENOIR, MONET, GAUGUIN**

#### **Images of a Floating World**

The Collections of Kojiro Matsukata and Karl Ernst Osthaus  
6 February 2022 – 15 May 2022

### **CANDICE BREITZ**

New Commission

11 March 2022 – 29 Mai 2022

### **DOKUMENTARFOTOGRAFIE FÖRDERPREISE 13 DER WÜSTENROT STIFTUNG**

Sabrina Asche, Luise Marchand, Heiko Schäfer, Wenzel Stählin

11 March 2022 – 29 May 2022

### **WE WANT YOU!**

From the Beginning of Posters until Today

6 April 2022 – 28 August 2022

### **FOLKWANG AND THE CITY**

Around the City of Essen

21 May 2022 – 7 August 2022

### **EXPRESSIONISTS AT FOLKWANG**

Discovered – Defamed – Celebrated

20 August 2022 – 8 Januar 2023

### **IMAGE CAPITAL**

Estelle Blaschke & Armin Linke

9 September 2022 – 11 December 2022

### **HELEN FRANKENTHALER**

Painterly Constellations

2 December 2022 – 5 March 2023

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## **RENOIR, MONET, GAUGUIN**

### **Images of a Floating World**

The Collections of Kojiro Matuskata and Karl Ernst Osthaus

6 February 2022 – 15 May 2022

Press Conference: 3 February 2022, 11 a.m.

Curator: Nadine Engel

Admission: 14 € / 8 €

Museum Folkwang's major holdings of Post-Impressionist works enter into dialogue with the collection from the National Museum of Western Art in Tokyo. Taking some 120 works, from e.g. Cézanne, Gauguin, Manet, Monet, Renoir, Rodin and Van Gogh, the exhibition highlights how Impressionism evolved from an art movement initially viewed with critical scepticism into a style that is today considered the beginning of Modernism – the story is told here by means of two fascinating and outstanding early 20th century collectors, namely Kojiro Matsukata and Karl Ernst Osthaus. Both patrons built up their significant holdings of modern French art within a few years; and both conceived of their own museums from the beginning of their collecting activities in order to enable the societies in which they lived to enjoy art and to stimulate contemporary art production.

For the first time since the 1950s, a significant part of the Matsukata Collection from the National Museum of Western Art in Tokyo will be on view in Europe again. Thus, the famous composition *On the Boat* by Claude Monet or Paul Signac's *The Port of Saint-Tropez*, which was part of the original Museum Folkwang collection, will be on view alongside Pierre-Auguste Renoir's *Lise with a Parasol* or Paul Gauguin's *The Girl with a Fan*. Alongside Impressionist masterpieces, contemporary installations by Japanese artists Chiharu Shiota and Tabaimo will also be on display.

Following the exhibition in Essen, the National Museum of Western Art will present a second part of the show in Tokyo on the relations between people and nature.

Under the Patronage of Frank-Walter Steinmeier, President of the Federal Republic of Germany  
In Cooperation with The National Museum of Western Art in Tokyo

Main supporter: RAG-Stiftung

Main sponsor: RWE, Evonik

Mobility partner: Ruhrbahn

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## **CANDICE BREITZ**

New Commission

11 March 2022 – 29 May 2022

Press Talk: 10 March 2022, 11 a.m.

Curator: Anna Fricke

Admission: free

The Museum Folkwang will be presenting the third and final part of the video trilogy that Candice Breitz has been working on since 2015. Beginning with *Love Story* and continuing to *TLDR* that was made in collaboration with a community of sex work activists in Cape Town, the trilogy has focused on the conditions under which empathy is produced, reflecting on a media-saturated global culture in which strong identification with fictional characters and celebrity figures runs parallel to widespread indifference to the plight of those facing real world adversity. The third part of the trilogy, as yet untitled, will receive its international debut in Essen. The work will remain in the collection of the Museum Folkwang.

Funded by the Ministry of Culture and Science of North Rhine-Westfalia

## **DOKUMENTARFOTOGRAFIE FÖRDERPREISE 13 DER WÜSTENROT STIFTUNG**

Sabrina Asche, Luise Marchand, Heiko Schäfer, Wenzel Stählin

11 March 2022 – 29 May 2022

Press Talk: 10 March 2022, 11 a.m.

Curator: Thomas Seelig

Admission: free

Museum Folkwang is showing new works by young artists that were produced in connection with the 13th Documentary Photography Prize awarded by the Wüstenrot Stiftung. The exhibition brings together a diverse range of works in which they address the political and social structures of our world.

In collaboration with Wüstenrot Stiftung

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## **WE WANT YOU!**

From the Beginning of Posters until Today  
8 April 2022 – 28 August 2022  
Press Conference: 7 April 2022, 11 a.m.  
Curator: René Grohnert  
Admission: 8 € / 5 €

Quite apart from the stylistic history of the poster, the way in which posters are presented in public space has played a decisive part in their public perception and impact. Beginning “wild flyposting”, in the mid-19th century advertising started to be channelled through ad stelaes. From the 1920s onwards, campaigns started to be crafted. Until the introduction of television in the mid-1950s, posters remained the leading advertising medium. With the introduction of large-format billboards, posters gained a new, emphatic presence. From then on, technological innovations drove the change to new formats and a permanent presence. Digitization and networking, interactive elements that address the viewer directly and target-group-based calibration all serve to expand posters’ public image. From the first types of posters through to our digital present and future the exhibition displays important exhibits from the history of the poster including works by Lucian Bernhard, Isolde Baumgart, Hans Hillmann, Alfons Maria Mucha, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec and Charles Paul Wilp, and exploring the world of advertising from a cultural historical perspective and the history of media.

Funded by Stiftung Kunst, Kultur und Soziales der Sparda-Bank West  
Supported by Ströer

## **FOLKWANG AND THE CITY**

City of Essen  
21 May 2022 – 7 August 2022  
Press Conference: 20 May 2022, 11 a.m.  
Curator: Peter Gorschlüter, Markus Ambach  
Admission: free

Where do we stand – almost 100 years after the founding of the Museum Folkwang in Essen – with regard to the participation of society in art? And how does art address central social issues of integration, cultural diversity, sustainability, globalisation, digitality, urban life and development? Do people come to the museum to find answers, or does the museum have to approach people and meet them where the questions arise in their immediate living environment? Together with initiatives, associations, communities and decision-makers, the

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*Folkwang and the City* project is dedicated to important future issues and the role of art and culture in current transformation processes. Accompanied by an extensive programme of events, the exhibition in Essen's urban space around Berliner Platz presents site-specific art projects by international artists that bring a new cooperation between art and society to life and open up the museum to the city.

In collaboration with MAP Markus Ambach Projekte.

Funded by E.ON Stiftung, Kunststiftung NRW and Stiftung Mercator  
Supported by Stadtwerke Essen and Allbau

## **EXPRESSIONISTS AT FOLKWANG**

Discovered – Defamed – Celebrated

20 August 2022 – 8 January 2023

Press Conference: 18 August 2022, 11 a.m.

Curator: Tobias Burg

Admission: 14 € / 8 €

The history of Museum Folkwang is inseparably bound up with Expressionism. From the beginning of the 20th century onwards the founding director Karl Ernst Osthaus, not to mention his successor Ernst Gosebruch, nurtured close links to the most important representatives of this revolutionary current in art. In early exhibitions they showcased new pieces amongst others by Emil Nolde, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, Paula Modersohn-Becker and Franz Marc – and acquired central works by these artists. Conversely, the artists found a source of inspiration and role model in the Museum Folkwang collection. The exhibition *Expressionists at Folkwang. Discovered – Defamed – Celebrated* is devoted to this intense and fruitful interaction – outlining it by means of masterpieces from the Paintings, Sculpture, and Prints sections. The show also tells the chequered history of Expressionism in the 20th century – until well into the 1920s Expressionism was a subject of great controversy in the art world, in the 1930s the works were defamed and confiscated, and yet after the end of the Second World War swiftly came to be held in high esteem. Over 120 artworks (including masterpieces from the collection and major works on loan) bring one of the most important chapters in the history of Museum Folkwang to life.

Main sponsor: E.ON



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## **IMAGE CAPITAL**

Estelle Blaschke & Armin Linke

9. September 2022 – 11 December 2022

Press Conference: 8 September 2022, 11 a.m.

Curator: Thomas Seelig

Admission: free

Photographs are edited, swapped, stored and sold; sometimes it is even the case that they are discarded and forgotten about. All these activities shape our approach to the photos we deal with. Whereas the history of digital pictorial practices is still in its infancy, nowadays we are struck by the constant amassments of photographs in search engines, the social media and the memories of our smartphones. *IMAGE CAPITAL*, an interdisciplinary research project by photography historian Estelle Blaschke and artist Armin Linke, shows historical and contemporary photographs, documents, found footage and virtual animations from the world of science, with recourse to various photography-related infrastructures. How are different photo archives' value systems created and how are the ever-growing quantities of pictorial material in digital and analogue concepts managed and used?

*IMAGE CAPITAL* is already in circulation as a lecture, workshop and blog and will be on show as an exhibition in three different formats at MAST (Bologna), Centre Pompidou (Paris) and Museum Folkwang.

## **HELEN FRANKENTHALER**

Painterly Constellations

2 December 2022 – 5 March 2023

Press Conference: 1 December 2022, 11 a.m.

Curator: Nadine Engel

Admission: 8 € / 5 €

For the first time in more than 20 years in Germany, the Museum Folkwang is showcasing with this exhibition the powerful oeuvre of Helen Frankenthaler (1928–2011), known as a trailblazer for her role in the transition from Abstract Expressionism to Colour Field Painting, in Germany. Starting with her material experiments on paper, in the early 1950s, and, her soak-stain technique of soaking canvas in thinned paint, Frankenthaler revolutionised abstract art. "Paper is painting" is how Frankenthaler describes the importance of the medium that, at times, completely replaces her use of canvas. In juxtaposition with an selection of paintings, Museum Folkwang is presenting 75 expansive Frankenthaler works on paper created between 1949 and

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2002. These works vividly demonstrate how Frankenthaler has consistently advanced her oeuvre beyond all previous painterly and social conventions.

In cooperation with Kunsthalle Krems and The Helen Frankenthaler Foundation

## **6 ½ WEEKS**

Several times during the year

Admission: free

With its short turn-around times and quick planning, the exhibition format *6 ½ Weeks* introduces young artists in a spontaneous and dynamic fashion. Prior every presentation the event *6:30 p.m.* takes place where audiences have the chance to get to know the artists and their works. The exhibition space is centrally located in the foyer of Museum Folkwang and entry is free. The dates and participating artists will be announced shortly before time. Past artists feature: Eliza Douglas, Ecker Riemer Ruff, Susanna Inglada, Jorieke Tenbergen, Jianping He, Walentynowicz Lauritsen, Julius Bockelt, Dragana Bulut, Kristina Berning, ektor garcia, Anastasia Mityukova, Tobias Spichtig, Martina Vacheva, Pablo Arrázola, B A Briggs, Selma Köran, Bahar Noorizadeh.

Funded by Stiftung Kunst, Kultur und Soziales der Sparda-Bank West

## History of Museum Folkwang

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### Folkwang Museum Hagen – 1901–1921

1897 Karl Ernst Osthaus (1874–1921) begins collecting art and artefacts.

1898 The architect Carl Gérard plans a museum building.

1899 Osthaus travels to North Africa and acquires Islamic art.

1900 The architect Henry van de Velde plans the interior design of the museum.

1901 Acquisition of the painting *Lise with a Parasol* by Auguste Renoir.

1902 Opening of Folkwang Museum in Hagen. The name *Folkwang* (*hall of the people*) is derived from the Old Norse poem *Edda*. Osthaus aims to create a "centre of artistic life in the western industrial zone."

1903 Up until 1913, Osthaus acquires works by Paul Cézanne, Paul Gauguin, Vincent van Gogh and Henri Matisse, among other artists, in rapid succession.

1909 Osthaus founds Museum für Kunst in Handel und Gewerbe (museum of art in commerce and trade) as a centre of modern design and to host the activities of Deutscher Werkbund (German work federation).

1912 For the first time, the Folkwang Museum presents West and East African objects together with Cubist artworks.

1913 Publication of the museum's first inventory catalogue compiled the previous year.

1914 Outbreak of the First World War; Osthaus sells individual works to help finance his patronage activities.

1919 Osthaus seeks state funding to ensure the museum's continued existence.

1921 Osthaus dies on 25 March in Meran. His testament states Osthaus's wish to keep the art collection intact.

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## **Städtisches Kunstmuseum Essen (municipal art museum) – 1901–1921**

1901 Founding of Essener Museumsverein (Essen museum association). Several Essen collections are brought together and housed in one building in the city centre. Paul Borchardt becomes honorary head of the art department.

1904 The collections are handed over to the city of Essen. Founding of Städtischer Kunstverein (municipal art association).

1906 Division of the collections into different departments. Ernst Gosebruch (1872–1953) is employed as an assistant.

1909 The art history department becomes independent as Städtisches Kunstmuseum (municipal art museum). Ernst Gosebruch takes over as director.

1910 Transfer of Museumsverein into Essener Kunstverein.

1912 Acquisition of *Quay with Men Unloading Sand Barges* by Vincent van Gogh.

1914 Closure of the museum for the duration of the First World War.

1917 Dr Hans Goldschmidt donates the house at Bismarckstrasse 98 as a new location for the museum; Dr Karl Goldschmidt donates his directly adjacent house in 1922.

1920 New opening of Städtisches Kunstmuseum at Bismarckstrasse 98.

1921 Osthaus's administrator makes Ernst Gosebruch an offer to purchase the Folkwang Collection for Essen.

## **Museum Folkwang, Essen – since 1922**

1922 Acquisition of the Folkwang Collection by a consortium of companies and private individuals from Essen and the Ruhr area; founding of Folkwang-Museumsverein e.V. (Folkwang museum association).

The Folkwang-Museumsverein signs a contract, still valid today, with the City of Essen concerning the shared ownership and support of the museum.

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On 29 October the Folkwang, merged with the municipal art museum in Essen, opens as the 'Museum Folkwang Essen'.

1924 Essener Kunstverein is renamed Kunstverein Folkwang (later Kunstring Folkwang).

1925/26 Planning of an extension by the architect Edmund Körner; start of construction work.

1929 Completion of construction work; reopening of Museum Folkwang.

1933 The National Socialist city government under Theodor Reismann-Grone forces the museum management to end its commitment to modern and contemporary art. Kampfbund für deutsche Kultur (combat league for German culture) demands Gosebruch's dismissal. In late summer, Gosebruch resigns due to political pressure.

1934 The National Socialist Klaus Graf von Baudissin (1891–1961) is appointed director against resistance from the Folkwang-Museumsverein.

1936 Graf Baudissin sells the painting *Improvisation* by Wassily Kandinsky, acquired in 1912, as "work of degenerate art."

1937 More than 1,400 works are confiscated from the museum by the National Socialists as part of the campaign against *Degenerate art*.

Graf Baudissin moves to the Reich Ministry of Science, Education and Culture in Berlin; he is suspended as museum director in 1938.

1938 Heinz Köhn (1901–1962) takes over as head of the museum.

1942 The collection is moved to safety.

1944/45 Parts of the museum buildings are destroyed in air raids over Essen.

1947 Decision of the Board of Trustees to reconstruct the museum; exhibition of selected works in Schloss Hugenpoet (Essen-Kettwig). 1953 Paul Vogt (1926–2017) becomes assistant at Museum Folkwang.

1954 The architects Werner Kreuzberger, Erich Hösterey and Horst Loy plan a new building.

1956 Start of construction work.

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1960 Opening of the new museum building.

1963 Paul Vogt is appointed museum director. Vogt further expands the collection with important acquisitions of North-American art, including works by Barnett Newman, Mark Rothko, Jackson Pollock, Ad Reinhardt, and Frank Stella.

1968 Gerry Schum sets up the museum's own video studio (in operation until 1994).

1974 Founding of the German Poster Museum.

1978 Resolution by the City of Essen to construct a museum centre incorporating the museum building from 1956/60; planning of the new building by the architects Kiemle, Kreidt und Partner and Allerkamp, Niehaus, Skonia.

1978 The Photographic Collection, founded by Otto Steinert at the Folkwangschule für Gestaltung in Essen-Werden in 1958, is integrated into the Museum Folkwang as a separate department under the direction of Ute Eskildsen.

1983 Opening of the museum centre with Museum Folkwang and Ruhrlandmuseum.

1987 First major special exhibition on classic modernism showing works by Edvard Munch.

1988 Georg W. Költzsch (1938–2005) is appointed museum director.

2002 Hubertus Gassner is appointed museum director.

2006 Hartwig Fischer is appointed museum director. The Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach-Stiftung, chaired by Berthold Beitz, agrees to finance a new building for Museum Folkwang.

2007 David Chipperfield wins the first prize in an international architectural design competition. Start of construction work.

2008 The German Poster Museum is integrated into Museum Folkwang.

2010 Inauguration of the new building on 28 January; the exhibition bearing the title *The Most Beautiful Museum in the World. Museum Folkwang until 1933* is shown.

2013 Tobia Bezzola is appointed museum director.

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2015 The Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach Foundation offers all visitors free admission to the collection.

2018 Peter Gorschlüter is appointed museum director.

2020 The City of Essen and the Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach-Stiftung agree to maintain free admission to the collection on a permanent basis.

2020 The German Section of AICA awards the Museum Folkwang the title "Museum of the Year" (2019).

2022 The Museum Folkwang celebrates its 100th anniversary at the Essen location.