

No. 2 / June 2026, Cologne

ADKV-ART COLOGNE Prize for Kunstvereine 2026

19 Kunstvereine nominated ++ 12 self-applications received

The Arbeitsgemeinschaft Deutscher Kunstvereine (ADKV) and ART COLOGNE are already jointly awarding the prize for Kunstvereine for the twentieth time in 2026. The ADKV-ART COLOGNE Prize is unique in the German cultural landscape: it has set a clear signal for voluntary, democratic engagement in the realm of civil society since 2006 and reinforces the work of Kunstvereine.

Distinguished are art associations (Kunstvereine) that convince not only through innovative exhibition programmes and dedicated educational work, but that are also active in the field of cultural policy and create spaces for open discourse on location. The prize is addressed to all 308 Kunstvereine organised in the ADKV - irrespective of size, geographical location or media visibility.

Jury, nominations and applications

The application for the prize is open to all Kunstvereine of the ADKV. In 2026, twelve Kunstvereine made use of the opportunity to apply on their own behalf.

In addition, nineteen Kunstvereine were nominated for the prize. The nominators are artists, curators and critics who are also familiar with the regional Kunstverein scene. Kunstvereine represented in the board of the ADKV are excluded from jurying.

The diversity and heterogeneity of the Kunstverein landscape are assured through this dual accessibility.

The prize winner is selected by an independent jury of five.

Nominated Kunstvereine in 2026

D21 Kunstraum Leipzig
GAK Gesellschaft für Aktuelle Kunst
Kunst + Kulturverein Alte Schule
Kunst + Kulturverein Alte Schule Baruth
Kunstraum München
Kunstverein Augsburg
Kunstverein Bamberg
Kunstverein Freiburg
Kunstverein Hannover
Kunstverein Hildesheim
Kunstverein Ludwigshafen
Kunstverein Siegen
Kunstverein Tiergarten



ART COLOGNE
05.11. - 08.11.2026
www.artcologne.com

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Executive Board:
Gerald Böse (President and Chief
Executive Officer)
Oliver Frese

Chairman of the Supervisory
Board:
Mayor of the City of Cologne
Torsten Burmester

Headquarters and place of
jurisdiction:
Cologne
District Court Cologne, HRB 952



Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden
Neuer Essener Kunstverein
nGbK - New Society for Visual Art
Overbeck-Gesellschaft
Riesa efau.
Württembergischer Kunstverein Stuttgart

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Prize money and announcement

The prize winners will be announced publicly in September 2026. ART COLOGNE endows the prize money to the amount of 8,000 Euro in recognition of the dedicated mediation of contemporary art by the Kunstvereine.

Award criteria

The prize honours Kunstvereine that distinguish themselves in the following aspects:

1. The promotion of contemporary art in regional and international contexts, especially through the continual presentation of contemporary art in permanent exhibition spaces and through temporary projects outside of established institutions.
2. Testing and promotion of experimental artistic approaches
3. Active participation in current artistic, societal and cultural policy discourses
4. Development and sustainable anchoring of innovative art education, both as project-related practice and as an integral component of the programme
5. Institutional self-inquiry as continual reflection upon and further development of one's own practice
6. Taking into account diversity, participation and accessibility in the programme, mediation and institutional orientation
7. Development of new forms of involvement and participation
8. Conception and realisation of public events revolving around current artistic and societal questions
9. Establishing and maintaining interdisciplinary networks in solidarity at the regional and national levels
10. Participation in local cultural policy discourses and working to strengthen cultural infrastructure

Prize winners of the ADKV-ART COLOGNE Prize for Kunstvereine to-date

Kunstverein Dresden (2025), Kunstverein Global Forest (2024), Dortmunder Kunstverein (2023), Bonner Kunstverein (2022), Halle für Kunst Lüneburg (2020), KV - Verein für zeitgenössische Kunst Leipzig (2019), Temporary Gallery Köln (2018), HartWare MedienKunstVerein Dortmund (2017), Kunstverein Arnsberg und Kunstverein Harburger Bahnhof Hamburg (2016), Kunstverein für die Rheinlande und Westfalen Düsseldorf (2015), Bielefelder Kunstverein (2014), n.b.k. - Neuer Berliner Kunstverein (2013), Badischer Kunstverein Karlsruhe (2012), Kunstverein Nürnberg - Albrecht Dürer Gesellschaft (2011), Kölnischer Kunstverein (2010), Heidelberger Kunstverein (2009), Salzburger Kunstverein & Westfälischer Kunstverein Münster (2008), Kunstverein Wolfsburg (2007), ACC Galerie Weimar (2006).

Note for editorial offices:

ART COLOGNE photos are available in our image database on the Internet at <https://www.artcologne.com/press/image-database/> in the "Press" section.

Press information is available at: <https://www.artcologne.com/press/press-releases-of-art-cologne/>.

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