

**M KLEIST
MUSEUM**



Press

Information



Dear journalists,

Dive (deeper) into the life and work of one of the most important German-language poets at the only museum in the world dedicated to Kleist. The purpose of this press kit is to provide you with all basic information and to extend to you our invitation:

Come and discover our exhibitions, talk to our guests, give your curiosity free rein, ask us questions, and make your own impression. Besides talking to you in depth about our work, we will also be glad to be your points of contact on everything to do with Heinrich von Kleist and his literary environment.

Kind regards

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Spokesperson

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Content

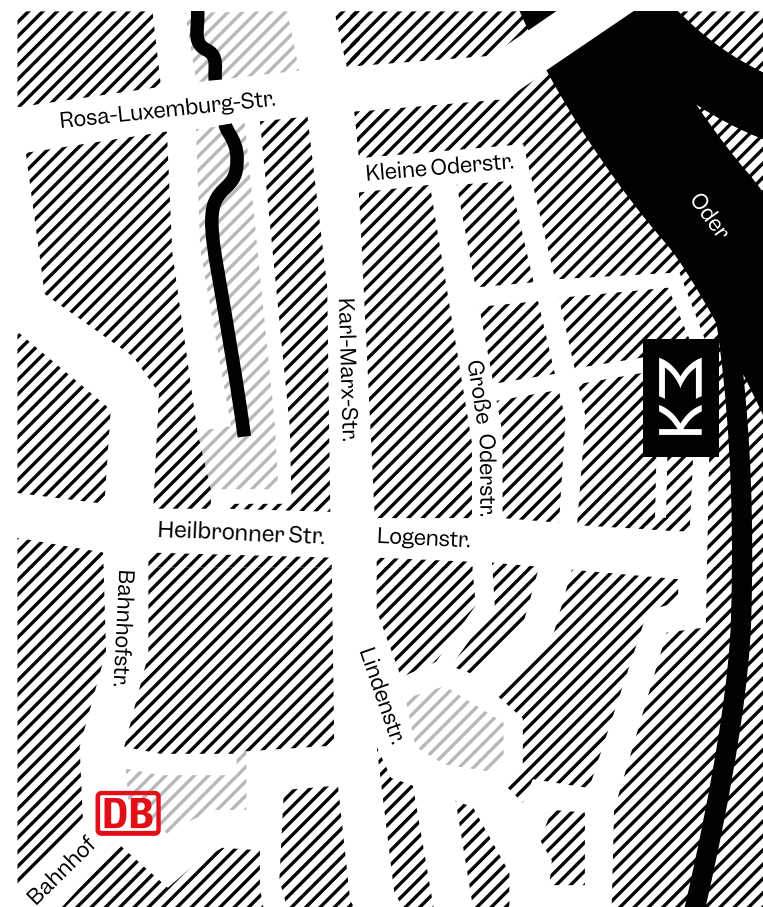
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Address

Stiftung Kleist-Museum
Faberstr. 6–7
15230 Frankfurt (Oder)

located directly on the Oder-Neisse cycle path

Open Tuesday to Sunday from 10am to 6pm,
incl. the museum shop; also open on bank holiday
Mondays; closed on 1 January and on 24, 25 and
31 December.



The Kleist-Museum is located in the city centre of Frankfurt (Oder), about 15 minutes' walk from the railway station. Public car parking is available.

About us

The Kleist-Museum presents the life, work, and influence of Heinrich von Kleist (1777–1811) in a unique building complex comprising the late Baroque Garrison School (1777) and a light-flooded new building (2013). As a literary museum of international importance, the interactive permanent exhibition not only presents Kleist's life in a historical context, but also provides personal access to his unique language and turbulent biography. The museum regularly offers something new for people of all ages in special exhibitions and a varied programme of events.

Press materials

Images and texts

You can download printable press photos of the Kleist-Museum from our website:
kleist-museum.de/presse

When reporting on the Kleist-Museum, the use of the texts and images (with the respective copyright) is free. Please send us a copy of the report in either analogue and/or digital format.

Photo and film requests

We can quickly and easily arrange photo, film, and interview requests:

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How Kleist has been remembered in Frankfurt (Oder)

22 November 1922:

The first memorial room in Heinrich von Kleist's place of birth opens with period furniture and decorations.



Postcard "The house of Kleist's birth"
Franz Köhler, 1921
©Stiftung Kleist-Museum

4 April 1923:

A second room is set up in the house of his birth

1937:

Relocation to the Oderland-Museum (Lienau House).
Additional rooms on Ewald Christian von Kleist are set up.

April 1945:

The house of Kleist's birth and the Oderland-Museum are destroyed during World War II.

12 Juli 1953:

The Kleist memorial centre opens in the building of today's city library to mark the 700th anniversary of Frankfurt (Oder).

20 September 1969:

The Kleist Memorial and Research Centre is opened in the former garrison school with five exhibition rooms



Kleist Memorial and Research Centre,
1982 ©Stiftung Kleist-Museum

21 Oktober 1995:

With financial support from the federal government, the state, and the city, the Kleist Memorial and Research Centre is transformed into an association-owned institution

4 March 2011:

To mark the 200th anniversary of Heinrich von Kleist's death, the first ground-breaking ceremony is held for the modern new building with spacious rooms for the archive and the special and research library.

17 Oktober 2013:

With the support of the European Union, the federal government, the state, and Kleist-Stadt Frankfurt (Oder), the "New House for Kleist" is inaugurated; the "Puzzles. Conflicts. Fractures." permanent exhibition opens.

1 Januar 2019:

With the participation of the federal government and the city of Frankfurt (Oder), the museum is converted into a state foundation under public law.

2021 – 2024:

Extensive renovation work is carried out on and in the old building and 26 photovoltaic modules are fitted onto the new building



Renovation work on the old building of the Kleist-Museum, 2023
©Stiftung Kleist-Museum

8 September 2024

Ceremony celebrating the completion of renovation work on the former garrison school



f. l. t. r.: Anke Pätsch, René Wilke, Claudia Roth, Tobias Dünnow
©Dong-Ha Choe

Puzzles. Conflicts. Fractures. The Kleist Exhibition

Heinrich von Kleist's biography takes visitors back to the time around 1800. His works, on the other hand, are timeless and still belong to the most important literary and journalistic texts in the German language. The interactive exhibition therefore presents his life and his work separately.

Kleist's unique feature is his virtuous, exciting approach to the German language. Eight different stations with various examples reveal the specific characteristics of his writing in a playful and illustrative way.

Audio quotations present the textual worlds created by this language according to the thematic perspectives of coincidence, justice, violence, and identity. Without offering any prefabricated images, the exhibition thus enables visitors to personally access Kleist's work. In the new building's light-flooded atrium, guests will find various editions of Kleist's works and are invited to browse through and read them on site.

Heinrich von Kleist's life is presented in a historical context in the late Baroque building of the former garrison school. Pictures, written testimonies, and reproductions as well as impressive room installations show the various phases of Kleist's biography in characteristic images. Each room is dedicated to one phase: His origins and career as an officer, his studies and engagement, his travels and attempt as a civil servant, his life as a writer, his suicide.

An interactive tablet guide provides in-depth information as well as all exhibition texts in English and Polish.

Every year, the permanent exhibition is supplemented by two or three special and travelling exhibitions, e. g.

- "Broken Harmonies. Kleist and Music" (October 2025–July 2026),
- "One letter, three works – a lasting impact" (March–June 2025),
- "Experiments. 'Michael Kohlhaas' in the museum" (October 2024–February 2025),
- "Ulrike von Kleist. Altogether original?" (April–July 2024).

Curator, Permanent Exhibition:

Dr. Barbara Gribnitz, Stiftung Kleist-Museum

Design, Permanent Exhibition:

Arge Panatom and Scenography Valentine Koppenhöfer

Funding, Permanent Exhibition:

European Union; European Regional Development Fund: Investing in your future!; the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and Media Ministry of Science, Research and Culture of the State of Brandenburg; Kleist-Stadt Frankfurt (Oder)

Sponsors, Permanent Exhibition:

Sparkasse Oder-Spree; Kulturland Brandenburg; Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach-Stiftung; Stadtwerke Frankfurt (Oder)



Puzzles.

Conflicts.

Fractures.

DIE KLEIST-AUSSTELLUNG

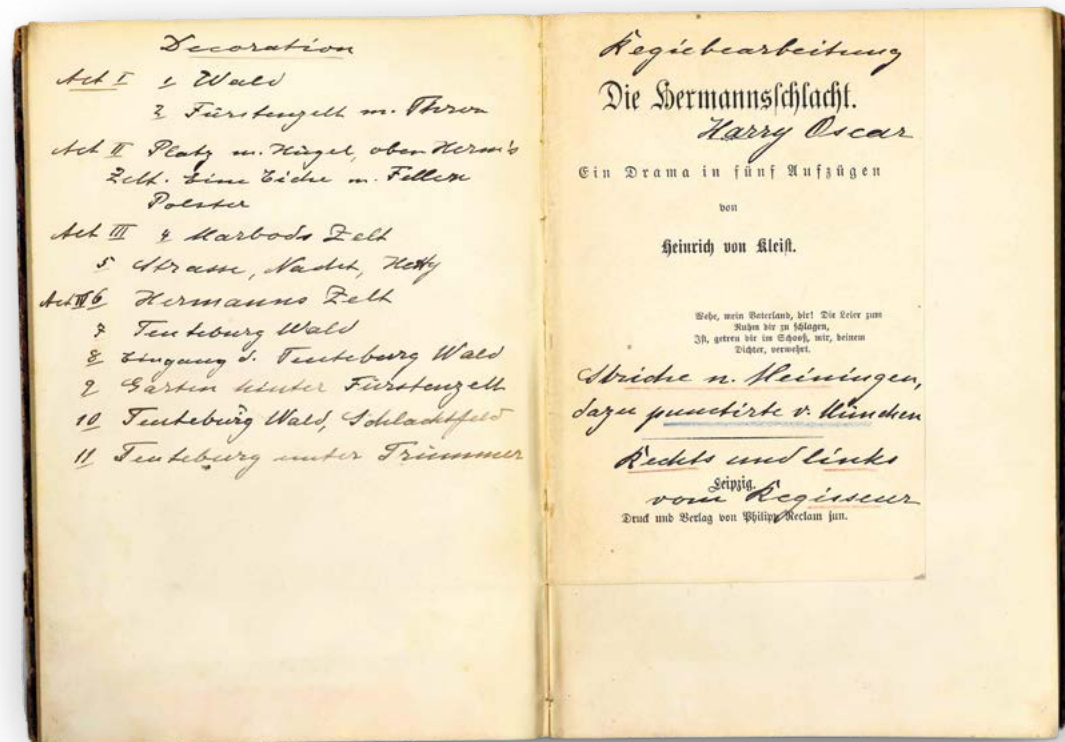
Die Ausstellung präsentiert Leben und Werk des Schriftstellers Heinrich von Kleist (1777–1811) räumlich getrennt. Seine Dichtungen und Schriften werden unabhängig von ihren Entstehungs- und Wirkungskontexten betrachtet, um sie als eigenständige Kunstwerke zu würdigen. Die Ausstellung lädt zur Erkundung der einzigartigen Sprache Kleists und seiner Textwelten ein. Ohne vorgefertigte Bilder anzubieten, ermöglicht sie persönliche Zugänge zu seinem Werk, die den individuellen Akt des Lesens spiegeln. Kleists Leben wird in seinem historischen Umfeld präsentiert. Jeder Raum widmet sich einem biographischen Abschnitt. Zäsuren setzen dabei die verschiedenen, Kleist vorgegebenen oder von ihm selbst gewählten Lebensmodelle. Die wenigen erhaltenen Dokumente ergeben jedoch keine vollständige Chronik, und auch manche Motive seines Handelns bleiben im Dunkeln. Die Ausstellung basiert ausschließlich auf gesicherten Kenntnissen, Lücken sowie Fragliches der Überlieferung werden gekennzeichnet.

RÄTSEL. KÄMPFE. BRÜCHE.

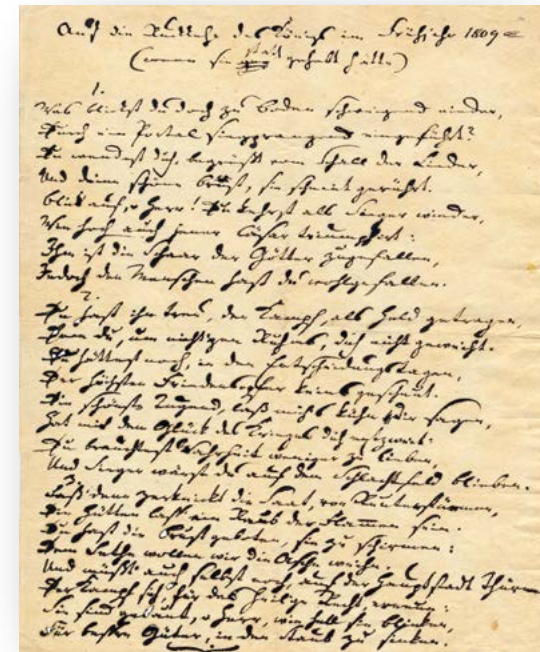


Collections

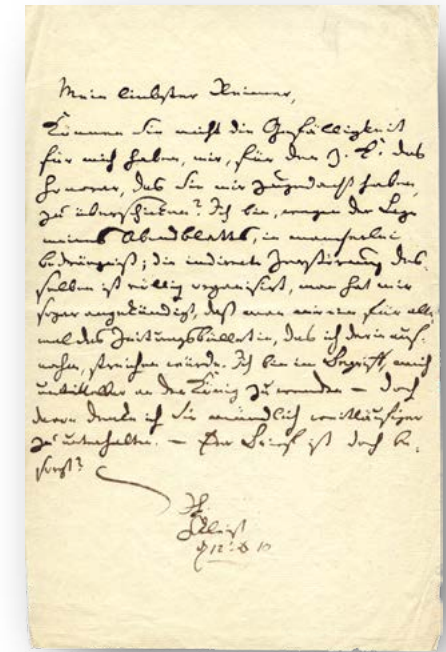
With 40,000 objects, the Kleist-Museum houses the world's largest collection on Heinrich von Kleist, which forms the basis for our own in-house research. **Heinrich von Kleist's autographs**, which include letters and poems, are some of the most valuable objects. The museum also possesses manuscripts by Ewald Christian von Kleist and Franz Alexander von Kleist, as well as by Friedrich and Caroline de la Motte-Fouqué. In addition, it preserves letters and manuscripts from Kleist's contemporaries such as Ludwig Tieck and Achim von Arnim, or from artists and writers connected to Kleist.



Heinrich von Kleist: Die Hermannsschlacht (The Battle of Hermann), a copy shot through with handwritten notes by the director Harry Oscar, around 1910
©Stiftung Kleist-Museum



Heinrich von Kleist: Auf die Rückkehr des Königs im Frühjahr 1809 (On the return of the king in spring 1809), 1809
©Stiftung Kleist-Museum



Letter from Heinrich von Kleist to his publisher Georg Andreas Reimer, 12 December 1810
©Stiftung Kleist-Museum

The **art collection** is the largest collection and especially includes references to Kleist's artistic confrontation with himself and his works. One particular focus is on art from the GDR. It also contains works by Oskar Kokoschka, Alfred Hrdlicka and Hans Bellmer.



Ernst Barlach: Drawing from the sketchbook for 'Michael Kohlhaas', March 1910 (facsimile 1940)
©Stiftung Kleist-Museum

The museum collects **theatricalities** from productions of Kleist's works on German and foreign-language theatre stages, such as programme booklets, posters, adaptations, stage models, and still shots. Figurines, stage design sketches, and scene studies of well-known stage designers are also part of this collection.

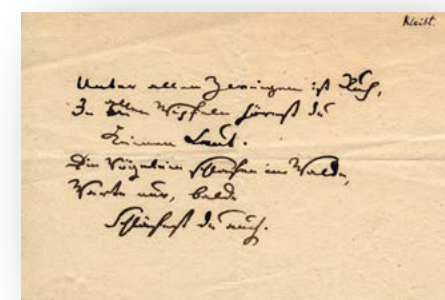


Hans-Joachim Vogler: Stage model for the production "Die Hermannsschlacht" (The Battle of Hermann) at the Kleist-Theater Frankfurt (Oder), premiere: 11 December 1987
©Stiftung Kleist-Museum

The collections also include **Musealia** – objects related to Kleist, such as stamps, coins, postcards, card games – and **audiovisual media**, such as sound recordings and cinematic Kleist adaptations and documentaries.

The Kleist-Museum also preserves the **bequeathed and inherited objects** of well-known Kleist researchers. The **historical archive** contains documents on the museum's work since 1969.

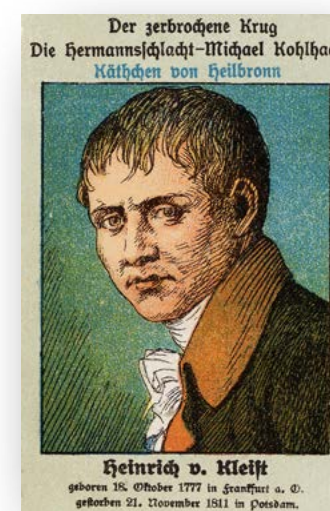
Upon prior registration, the collections are available to researchers and other institutions for research and exhibition purposes.



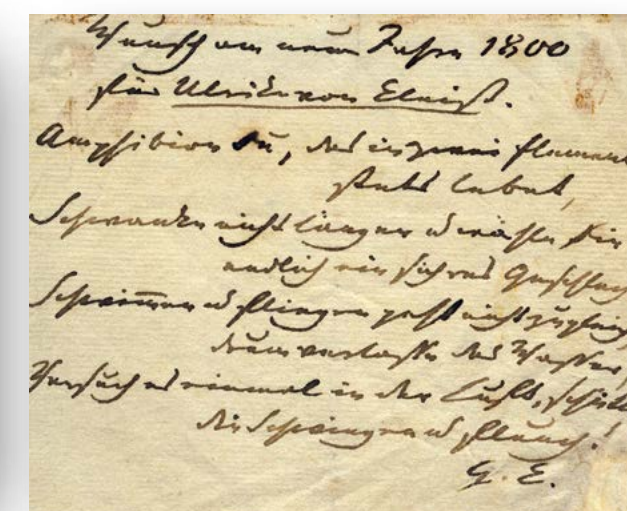
Heinrich von Kleist: Unter allen Zweigen (Under all branches), 1806
©Stiftung Kleist-Museum



First-day cover dated 1 December 1961
©Stiftung Kleist-Museum



Quartet of German Poets with pictures by Karl Bauer, Ravensburg 1914
©Stiftung Kleist-Museum



Heinrich von Kleist: Wunsch am Neuen Jahr (Wish at the New Year), 1799
©Stiftung Kleist-Museum

Library

With an inventory of about 60,000 collected objects, the building's special and research library is dedicated to Heinrich von Kleist and his contemporary environment, which includes Franz Alexander and Ewald Christian von Kleist as well as Caroline and Friedrich de la Motte Fouqué.

The historical inventory includes valuable first and early editions from Kleist's lifetime. In addition to primary literature – also in various translations – the library offers selected publications on the building's main collection areas, on the literary and cultural history of Kleist's lifetime, music scores, and fiction with references to Kleist, yearbooks, bibliographies, and reference works.

Selected publications by authors connected to the city of Frankfurt (Oder) and the local region, such as Franz von Gaudy, Gottfried Benn, Günter de Bruyn, Klabund and Paul Gurk complement the collection.

With its extensive collection of newspapers and magazines, the "Kleistiana", the library provides articles and essays on Kleist's life and work and the performances of his pieces from the first half of the 19th century to this day.

Furthermore, the "Kleist in Classic editions" collection by Dr Doris Fouquet-Plümacher belongs to the library. The "Minde-Pouet Estate/Kleist Collection" has been housed in the Kleist-Museum since 1996.

Research

In the Kleist-Museum's work, research, collection, and mediation go hand-in-hand. The collections' scientific indexing and processing lies at the core of the research work. The results are presented in exhibitions, publications, and events, where they can be accessed by the public.

The thematic focus is on Heinrich von Kleist, but Ewald Christian and Franz Alexander von Kleist as well as Friedrich and Caroline de la Motte Fouqué are also part of the research area. In addition, theoretical and practical problems of exhibiting literature are discussed.

The Kleist-Museum cooperates with universities and other research institutions as a way to promote research networks. The museum works in close collaboration with the Heinrich von Kleist Society, especially in the joint publication of the Kleist-Jahrbuch (Kleist Yearbook).



Captivity portrait of
Heinrich von Kleist, 1807
©Stiftung Kleist-Museum

Cultural Education

Heinrich von Kleist is one of the most important German-language poets. His unique language and incomplete biography offer exciting, varied teaching content for all ages.

The Kleist-Museum's educational offer includes theatre projects and reading days for preschool children, age-appropriate guided tours, and museum lessons on how children lived in Frankfurt (Oder) around the year 1800, as well as secondary school level exam preparation classes, the exact reading of the texts, and seminar mentoring for older secondary school children.

In cooperation with partner schools, special project weeks and days are regularly held at the Kleist-Museum, e.g. the Kleist Cosmos for particularly gifted schoolchildren, the annual rhetoric competition in cooperation with the Europa-Universität Viadrina, the nationwide reading day or some modules of the "PraxisBO – Practical Career Orientation" programme (funded by the European Union and the State of Brandenburg). From the school year 2025/26 onwards, Kleist's most performed play, the comedy "The Broken Jug", will be admitted to the to Germany's secondary school-leavers' examination. To prepare for this, appropriate modules for extracurricular teaching are currently in development.

Images:

Nationwide Reading Aloud Day

School project "Reading Kleist"

School tour of the Kleist-Museum

School project "Click Kleist"

School project "From autograph to pop-up exhibition"

all images ©Stiftung Kleist-Museum



Guided tours and intermediation

The Kleist-Museum organises individual thematic tours for groups and school classes upon request. Visitors can also book tours of the permanent and special exhibitions in German, English, French, Polish, Ukrainian, and Russian as well as tours of Kleist's birthplace Frankfurt (Oder).

With the "Kleist borderless" working area, the Kleist-Museum also wants to provide as many people as possible with access to Heinrich von Kleist's literary and cultural heritage. For this reason, the Kleist-Museum seeks the exchange with various stakeholders, clubs, and institutions of the dual city of Frankfurt (Oder) – Słubice and the local region. Together, we are exploring new forms and ways of dealing with language and literature in depth. It focuses on encouraging people in our society – with so much cultural and linguistic diversity – to participate even more in cultural life, both inside and outside of the museum.

Images:

Guided tour in Ukrainian at the Kleist-Museum ©Roman Boichuk

Comic in the special exhibition "Kleist – what's he got to do with us?"
©Gordon Welters

Comic workshop ©Roman Boichuk

Guided tour of the special exhibition "Between Ink and Fact"
©Gordon Welters



Publications of the Kleist-Museum

In addition to books that accompany our exhibitions, the Kleist-Museum regularly publishes writings in cooperation with other research institutions, artists, authors, and projects.

These include, for example, the "Frankfurter Buntbücher", which examine the relationship between writers and places. The literary-historical travel guides through the Mark Brandenburg region and Berlin were first published in 1991.

In cooperation with the Heinrich von Kleist Society, the "Kleist-Jahrbuch" (Kleist Yearbook) has been publishing current scientific contributions to Heinrich von Kleist and his work from all over the world since 2012.

Images:

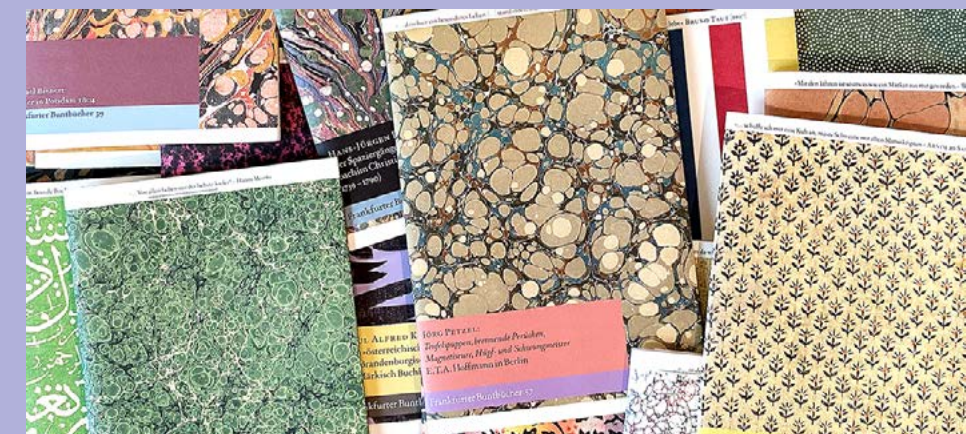
Exhibition catalogue "Günter de Bruyn – Schreibwelten" (Worlds of Writing)
©Stiftung Kleist-Museum

Graphic novel "Feuergeist" ©Stiftung Kleist-Museum

Various "Frankfurter Buntbücher" ©Stiftung Kleist-Museum

Exhibition catalogue "Bühnenwelten" (Stage Worlds)
©Stiftung Kleist-Museum

Kleist Yearbook 2025 ©J. B. Metzler-Verlag





Facts at a glance

Address and contact

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+49 335 387 221 0

Opening hours

Open Tuesday to Sunday from 10am to 6pm,
incl. museum shop;
also open on bank holiday Mondays;
closed on 1 January and on 24, 25 and 31 December

Admission

Regular: € 7 // Reduced: € 4
Free admission for children under 18
Further information on entrance fees and your visit
are available at <https://www.kleist-museum.de/en/visit>

Director and CEO:

Anke Pätsch

Deputy Director and Head of Administration:

Doreen Stumpe

Spokesperson and Public Relations:

Vanessa Jasmin Lemke

Permanent exhibition

"Puzzles. Conflicts. Fractures. The Kleist Exhibition"
with texts in German, English and Polish. Guided tours
are available in other foreign languages upon request.

Social Media

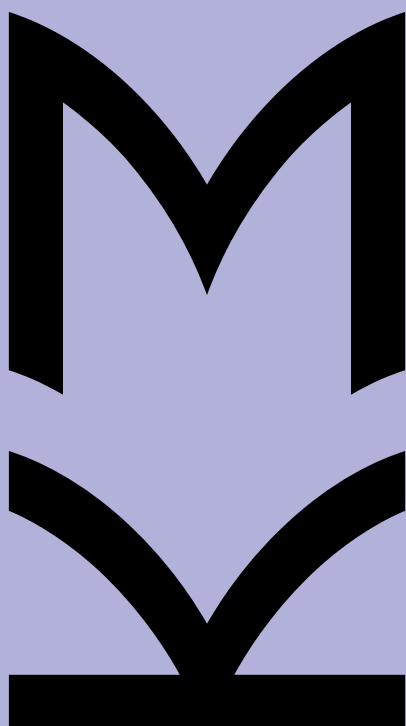
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