

# WEST:BERLIN

14.11.2014  
28.06.2015

## EINE INSEL AUF DER SUCHE NACH FESTLAND

[www.west.berlin](http://www.west.berlin)

### PRESS RELEASE

Berlin 06/11/14

To mark the anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall 25 years ago, the Stadtmuseum Berlin will be diving into a particularly fascinating chapter of the city's history from 14 November 2014, in the Ephraim-Palais: West Berlin. An island of liberty, the frontline city of the Cold War, a centre for outsourcing, a meeting point for the world, the capital of alternative living, a creative melting pot with no closing times – West Berlin was all of these things, and many more besides. West Berlin was a unique phenomenon, kept alive by the presence of the Western allies and by the energy of its inhabitants.

The exhibition “WEST:BERLIN | An Island in Search of its Mainland” is the first retrospective of its kind. It traces the political, economic and cultural developments, and above all the unique atmosphere of the “half-city”, over the time frame from 1945 to 1990. The spectrum of the city's historically unique free spaces provides a leitmotiv for the exhibition. Over 500 exhibits and media productions will take viewers on an emotional “journey through time”, with unexpected associations and encounters, rediscoveries and surprises.

*“The Stadtmuseum Berlin is not making any claims to encyclopaedic comprehensiveness with this exhibition. Our intention is rather to open up the wide range of issues that arise out of an investigation of the historical phenomenon that is West Berlin. And we want to tell people about the possibilities and impossibilities that defined the lives of West Berliners for over 40 years.”*

[Dr Franziska Nentwig, General Director, Stadtmuseum Berlin]

#### Press and Public Relations

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**Press Conference** Wed | 12/11/2014 | 11:00

**Opening** Thurs | 13/11/2014 | 19:00

**Location** Ephraim-Palais  
Poststraße 16 | 10178 Berlin

**Opening Hours**  
Tues, Thurs-Sun 10:00-18:00  
Wed 12:00-20:00

#### Entry (including booklet)

7.00 / reduced price 5.00 euros  
Free entry for visitors up to 18 years old,  
free entry the first Wednesday of every  
month

#### Special Ticket

9.00 / reduced price 6.00 euros  
Entitles the visitor to visit the Ephraim-Palais and the Märkisches Museum throughout the period from 14/11/2014 to 28/06/2015.

GEFÖRDERT DURCH



PARTNER



MEDIENPARTNER



The exhibition will be divided into four sections: politics, economics, society and culture. Individual topics are connected to each of these – starting with the role of the allied protecting powers and the connection to the West, through division and transit, the economy and daily life, culture and lifestyle, urbanity and neighbourhoods, to the smart set, migrants, alternative scenes and guests from the whole world.

*“We don’t want to retrospectively romanticise the situation. The exhibition WEST:BERLIN focuses on the productive juxtaposition of different spheres and the polycentric, contradictory and Janus-headed character of the “Island in the Red Sea”. Overall, with this “tour d’horizon” from multiple perspectives, we want to invite visitors from near and far, long-time residents and incomers, West Germans and East Germans to create a picture for themselves and to set off on a search for the traces of the “spirit” of WEST:BERLIN.”*

[Dr Thomas Beutelschmidt and Julia Novak, Curators of the Exhibition]

The exhibition will display striking objects from daily life and cultural history, complemented by images that have left their mark in collective memory. Photographs from major photographers, posters and pamphlets will communicate both the zeitgeist and factual information. Special chapters will be devoted to the visual arts and to theatre history. The exhibition will present artistic approaches from those of Fred Thieler or Rainer Fetting through to the “Geniale Dilligentanten” and Stephen Willats alongside photographic works by Will Mc Bride, Nan Goldin, F.C. Gundlach, Gisèle Freund, Nelly Rau, Herbert Maschke, Michael Schmidt and Gerhard Ullmann. But visitors will also have the opportunity to discover the West Berlin-produced Amphicar, Knautschke the hippopotamus, one of the stars of the Berlin Zoo, and – in an audio lounge – the “Sound of West Berlin”. In addition, a devoted Storytelling Station will present all the photos submitted as part of our highly successful call for photographs, “Private West Berlin”. Here, visitors will be able to rummage around in the most personal memories of West Berliners, or leave behind a personal story of their own.

The environment created in this cosmopolitan city will be examined scientifically and tested for its poetic content through literature and music, in our exciting programme of events to accompany the exhibition. The city will be shown in films, and visitors will be able to listen to old and new stories about notable West Berlin figures, often told in a provocative manner. The exhibition will also be accompanied by a comprehensive educational programme, with guided tours and workshops as well as special offers for schools.

*This project has received significant support from the Stiftung Deutsche Klassenlotterie Berlin.*

#### Exhibition Booklet

Edited by Franziska Nentwig and  
Dominik Bartmann  
128 pages, 93 images  
ISBN 978-3-910029-61-3  
Price: 3 euros

#### Stadtmuseum Berlin Edition

The West Berlin Stage  
Four decades of photographs by Harry Croner  
288 pages, 282 images, publisher: Verlag M  
ISBN 978-3-939254-21-8  
Price: 29.90 euros

#### Public Guided Tours

Every Sunday | 15:00  
WEST:BERLIN – Island of the Blessed?  
An Hour-long Foray into the Exhibition.  
Entry 10.00 / 7.00 incl. museum visit and  
booklet

#### Bookable Guided Tours

WEST-BERLIN – Island of the Blessed?  
An Hour-long Foray into the Exhibition.  
40.00 euros (up to 10 people, 4.00 euros for  
every additional person), plus 5.00 euros incl.  
museum visit and booklet

#### Guided Tours for Schools

West:Berlin from A to Z – from the  
Amphicar to Zapf  
30.00 euros (duration: 1 hour),  
Booking and information from our  
Infoline: +49 (0)30 24 002 162

#### Event Programme

[www.west.berlin/veranstaltungen](http://www.west.berlin/veranstaltungen)