

Museum of the Future - Your Third Home

What is the museum of the future?

Digitization, accessibility, sustainability - all over the world, museums today are dealing with social developments such as these, experimenting with new exhibition and mediation formats and looking for an answer to the question: What does the museum of the future look like?

In 2022, the International Council of Museums (ICOM) responded to this with a new trend-setting definition of a museum: exploring, collecting, preserving, interpreting and exhibiting form the core of museum work. In doing so, it should also promote inclusion and sustainability and offer a diverse range of experiences for education, enjoyment, and knowledge exchange. For museums, that means it's time to get creative!

Tonight, we have transformed the University House into an experimental field for the museum of the future. Together, we want to explore here what actually constitutes a museum, how its tasks will change in the future, and what is particularly important to visitors on a trip to the museum.

What is the Third Home?

You've probably noticed the big banner above the entrance. Behind the name of our project is the term Third Place, which sociologist Ray Oldenburg defined back in 1989. He uses it to describe places that offer a balance to family life (First Place) and professional life (Second Place) - through an inclusive, communicative and relaxed atmosphere. A Third Place, then, is a home apart from your actual home. The Museum of the Future also wants to be a Third Home. A place of exchange and recreation. A museum where you feel at home. Discover the House of the University now - five exciting topics are waiting for you!

Lounge: The Museum of the Future - Feel at Home!

Walking silently through huge halls was yesterday - the Museum of the Future invites you to active social exchange and offers space for discussions, making new contacts or simply switching off from everyday life in a relaxed feel-good atmosphere. All visitors are cordially invited to linger over a cool drink for a while and experience the Night of Museums together. Make yourself at home!

Provenance research - the home of objects

Introduction text:

Our museums are full of works of art. However, these do not all originate from our cultural sphere. Provenance research is an important part of the museum of the future. It investigates the exact origin of cultural objects. Provenance research examines the historical circumstances of the origin, change of ownership and use of objects. This makes it possible to determine whether the provenance was unquestionable and whether the objects were acquired legally. Indeed, over time, some works came into the possession of museums and private collections from dubious sources. This happened, for example, during colonialism, Nazi persecution or other contexts of injustice.

In the main hall today you will have the opportunity to explore the home of different objects yourself. You can puzzle along with our world map and prove your "detective" skills at the research boxes. Help to clarify provenances!

Where is my home?

At this station, you will have the opportunity to explore the homes of art objects. Look at the artworks and attach photos to the place you think the works are at home. Is home where you have displayed the artwork for years or where it was created? Does it belong where it is in the collection today and more likely where it originally served a special function? The answer is rarely clear.

Provenance research - now it's up to you!

At this station you can become provenance researchers yourself! Investigate the origin of the respective object at one of our research boxes. There are various clues available to you. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. Throw yourself into the research and have fun discovering! (Since we do not consider serious backgrounds as mere games, these are fictitious facts!)

Sustainability - starts at home

Protecting our environment is a challenge for society as a whole. In the arts and culture sector, too, the issue of ecological sustainability is becoming increasingly important. Depending on how visitors arrive and depart, how works are transported, stored and exhibited, and how cultural institutions are lit and heated, the arts and culture sector also produces CO2 emissions that contribute to climate change.

The cultural sector is increasingly confronted with this challenge. For this reason, the video shown here features people from Düsseldorf's cultural scene who describe current developments, opportunities and difficulties with regard to sustainability from their personal point of view.

The Museum of the Future is a place of learning and inspiration, where sustainable and climate-friendly actions are to be culturally communicated. Visitors are provided with new perspectives that grow at home and have a positive impact on society. In line with this, tonight Seedbombs can be made from wildflower seeds, which, similar to the new impressions gained, can be taken home and distributed in nature. The flowers that grow from the Seedbombs serve as a habitat for various native insect species, helping to maintain biodiversity.

The museum of the future - a home without barriers

Barriers in museums are more than just a missing elevator or small print texts in only one language. The Museum of the Future wants to make the contents of an exhibition understandable and accessible to everyone, regardless of language or physical barriers. Because it is not only a museum, but also a home and this should be open and barrier-free for everyone. That's why the Museum of the Future has large signage at different eye levels, plenty of seating, and an elevator. Here in the Language Café, it is also possible to

communicate with language experts and other visitors in more than ten languages. The language experts give a short introduction to their language and culture; afterwards, the first sentences in this language can be learned together. A museum for everyone!