

**CHILDREN PLAYFULLY EXPLORE COLOR, FORM, AND STRUCTURE IN THE MINISCHIRN, WHILE THEIR PARENTS ENJOY THE EXHIBITIONS ON SHOW**

## **THE MINISCHIRN: A PERMANENT GAMES AND LEARNING CIRCUIT FOR CHILDREN AT THE SCHIRN**

**A SPACE OF CREATIVE EXPERIENCE FOR CHILDREN FROM THE AGE OF THREE TO PRIMARY SCHOOL AGE**

Since December 2014, the Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt offers a space of creative experience for children from the age of three to primary school age: the MINISCHIRN. This innovative permanent installation pivoted on the topics of color, form, and structure offers the institution's youngest visitors an extraordinary games and learning circuit. On the one hand, the circuit is strongly frequented by day care center and primary school groups from Frankfurt and the Rhein-Main area; on the other, individual children embark on a voyage of discovery on their own, while their parents visit the Schirn's current exhibitions with concentration and at ease. There is no admission fee for these children. The MINISCHIRN offers a stimulating environment in which the young visitors may move around independently and consciously without their parents or adult guardians under supervision by the art education department's didactically trained staff. With its MINISCHIRN concept, the Schirn Kunsthalle underscores its pioneering role in the art education of children and young visitors and presents itself as a vibrant cultural institution for a diversified public.

Extending across an area of more than 100 square meters, the MINISCHIRN's various multidimensional presentations and experimental stations provide the context for a playful expedition through the topical fields of aesthetic perception. Together with Atelier Markgraph, Frankfurter Agentur für Kommunikation im Raum, the Schirn's art education department has developed a dynamic architectural solution that recalls tree-houses and breaks up the rigid lines of the former Schirn bookshop's rooms, yet in its clarity reflects the building's language of forms. The MINISCHIRN already received numerous renowned awards, the ADC Award for Germany 2015, the Red Dot Award 2015, the FAMAB Award 2015 (Silver), the Comm Award 2015 (Gold) and recently the distinction Special Mention of the German Design Award 2016.

The construction of the MINISCHIRN has been decisively supported by the Dr. Marschner Stiftung, with additional support from the City of Frankfurt. The program of the MINISCHIRN is 2018 supported by the Willy Robert Pitzer Stiftung and the Doris-Haag-Stiftung.

The open architecture of the MINISCHIRN encourages children to experiment and explore: observing, climbing, or building things, they engage in the principles of order prevailing in the realm of art and the everyday world, get to the bottom of color phenomena, or become enthralled by physical laws. The pedagogical concept of the MINISCHIRN considers the young visitors' specific developmental differences and offers manifold sensory, motor and cognitive challenges and stimuli on different levels of reception. Various stations help to train the children's self-effectiveness and problem-solving competence as well as their perceptual capacities based on an interplay between fantasy and creativity. This approach supports children in the development of their personality and their psychomotor progress—an important contribution at a time in which the formation of these skills is frequently missed out on in everyday life.

While adults pay a visit to the Schirn's current exhibitions, their children may set off on a tour of discovery in the MINISCHIRN on the ground floor of the Kunsthalle. They are charged no admission

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fee and may stay up to one and a half hours. The differentiated learning circuit of the MINISCHIRN may also be booked by day care centers and schools in combination with an exhibition visit or a special workshop in other rooms of the Schirn. This special offer can also be made use of by private parent-child groups, daycare workers, or as part of a birthday event. Wednesday is Family Day: in the afternoon children and parents may explore the MINISCHIRN together from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

By establishing a specific permanent space of experience for children in the context of an exhibition institution, the Schirn provides a low-threshold offer particularly addressing young families that have not found their way to the Schirn with their children to date.

## **VENUE** SCHIRN KUNSTHALLE FRANKFURT, 60311 Frankfurt **OPENING HOURS**

for individual visitors from Tuesday to Sunday and on holidays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., opening hours for groups by appointment from Tuesday to Friday during the Schirn's regular opening hours; children's birthday parties: from Tuesday to Friday from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.; Family Day on Wednesdays from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. **ADMISSION** Free admission to the MINISCHIRN for individual visitors with a valid exhibition ticket, members of the Schirn's societies of friends as well as the Children's Art Club of the Schirn, the Städel Museum, and the Liebieghaus. Groups by appointment: +49.69.29 98 82-112, [fuehrungen@schirn.de](mailto:fuehrungen@schirn.de) **ARCHITECTURE AND SCENOGRAPHY** Atelier Markgraph, Frankfurter Agentur für Kommunikation im Raum **CONSTRUCTION SUPPORTED BY** Dr. Marschner Foundation and the City of Frankfurt **PROGRAM 2018 SUPPORTED BY** Willy Robert Pitzer Stiftung and the Doris-Haag-Stiftung **INFORMATION** [www.schirn.de/en](http://www.schirn.de/en), +49.69.29 98 82-112, [fuehrungen@schirn.de](mailto:fuehrungen@schirn.de)

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