

# SCHIRN KUNSTHALLE FRANKFURT

## THE SCHIRN CELEBRATES 40 YEARS – ONE WEEKEND TOGETHER

WITH SCHIRN AT NIGHT, FREE WEEKEND PROGRAM, AND A  
JUBILEE BOOK BY THE ARTIST LILI REYNAUD-DEWAR  
FRIDAY, MAY 8–SUNDAY, MAY 10, 2026

This year, the Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt celebrates its 40th anniversary. Since its opening in 1986, it has become one of the most renowned venues for modern and contemporary art in Europe. The Schirn's iconic postmodern building in the center of Frankfurt am Main is currently undergoing an extensive energy-efficient renovation. During this time, the Schirn is temporarily presenting its program in the former Dondorf printing factory in the Bockenheim district of Frankfurt. To mark its milestone birthday, the Schirn invites to an extensive anniversary weekend from May 8 to 10, with events for all ages as well as free entry to the final weekend of the exhibition "Thomas Bayrle. Be Happy!" The program includes SCHIRN AT NIGHT, performances by Lili Reynaud-Dewar and Rosemary Mayer, workshops for children and adults, DJ sets, drinks, and small surprises. The jubilee will also be commemorated with the publication of the book *Perfect Lives* by Lili Reynaud-Dewar, a literary work that intertwines the history of the Schirn with her own path as an artist.

**SEBASTIAN BADEN, DIRECTOR OF THE SCHIRN:** "Forty years of the Schirn means forty years full of art and encounters. We are celebrating this anniversary in the spirit of the connections and dialogue between places and people that we aim to instigate. *Perfect Lives* is the title that the artist Lili Reynaud-Dewar has given to the jubilee book in which she links the biography of the Schirn with her own artistic career in an illuminating manner. Significantly, because of the renovations, we are not celebrating at our headquarters at the Römer in the city center of Frankfurt, but in our temporary location, in a new and inspiring neighborhood. Here, we plan to use our interdisciplinary work to show great art and to create moments that bring people together and facilitate exchange; to make art tangible and to discuss current topics that move society and are relevant for each and every one of us. And we want to spend the weekend celebrating with the big, beautiful, diverse community that has provided the Schirn with enthusiastic public support for the past forty years."

The anniversary weekend and publication *Perfect Lives* by Lili Reynaud-Dewar are supported by the SCHIRN FRIENDS.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

### SCHIRN AT NIGHT. BIRTHDAY EDITION FRIDAY, MAY 8, 8 P.M.–MIDNIGHT

The legendary party series comes to Bockenheim: to mark the 40th anniversary of the Schirn, SCHIRN AT NIGHT will take place at its temporary home for the first time. Spread across two floors, the evening will offer a varied program of DJ sets. JAMILA will open the evening in the foyer from 8 p.m. The Frankfurt DJ combines her roots in dance with a fine sense of rhythm and moves playfully between hip-hop, house, and salsa, always guided by the question of what would inspire her to dance herself. She is followed by ALYZAH, a rapper and singer who fuses hip-hop, R&B, funk, and house with influences from the 1990s and 2000s to create an original sound that crosses genre boundaries, remaining faithful to their musical roots while also pointing towards the future. BECKSHAM then takes over with energetic sets full of groove and heart. Her sound is reminiscent of many aspects of house, at times minimal and percussive and at other times

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pulsating and funky. She is also part of the collective Disco Volante, where she works as an event manager. ALBA will start at 8:30 p.m. in Hall 2 on the second floor. A DJ and music journalist, ALBA frequently appears throughout Germany. With her party series GOODIES (hip hop and beyond), she campaigns for increased visibility for women in the club scene. Her music hovers between baile, bass, breakbeats, Afro, house, and disco, held together through their strong anchoring in hip-hop and R&B. Later, JOSI MILLER will be standing at the decks. Her career began with spinning vinyl before the era of USB sticks, and she has long been a fixture in the club landscape. In addition to her work as producer, podcaster, and presenter for the ARTE program *Chat with a DJ*, she has played as Trettmann's tour DJ in famous halls and festival stages. With an eclectic approach that fluidly moves between genres, she combines rap, house, and electronic bass music to create dynamic sets that defy classification—sure to end the evening with a powerful finale. The dress code for the night is polka dots.

Entrance: 7:30 p.m., tickets €25 only in advance via [Schirn.de/shop](https://www.schirn.de/shop), no sales at the door.

## ONE WEEKEND. TOGETHER. SATURDAY, MAY 9 + SUNDAY, MAY 10, FROM 10 AM

The anniversary weekend combines exhibition, performances, and creative play to form a varied program for all age groups. Visitors can look forward to free entry during the last weekend of the exhibition "Thomas Bayrle. Be Happy!", along with a full program of art and entertainment.

## ROSEMARY MAYER: *CONNECTIONS (FRANKFURT)* SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2–4 PM

The participatory temporary work *Connections (Frankfurt)* (1978/2026) by Rosemary Mayer (1943–2014) is an ephemeral sculpture consisting of ten individually designed helium balloons. The work forms connections to time, place, and history, while also celebrating individuals and communities. Within the framework of the art action and on the occasion of its 40th anniversary, the Schirn invites local communities and associations to pay tribute to people with whom they are linked by history and collaboration. Each balloon is dedicated to a person or a group and assigned a date. Then, following the artist's concept a link is established with a local native flower and a star, in collaboration with two nearby institutions, the Palmengarten and the Physikalischer Verein. Rosemary Mayer's series *Temporary Monuments* stages transient public installations with ephemeral materials. Mayer viewed these works as sculptures, not as performances or happenings. *Connections (Frankfurt)* embodies Mayer's own concept of a social and moving sculpture and at the same time transforms the outdoor area of the Schirn Bockenheim into an exhibition space.

Marie Warsh, the co-director of the Estate of Rosemary Mayer, will present a talk in English on the work on Sunday, May 10, at 4 p.m.

## LILI REYNAUD-DEWAR: *PERFECT LIVES* LECTURE-PERFORMANCE SATURDAY, MAY 9, 7:30–8:30 PM

To commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Schirn, the artist Lili Reynaud-Dewar (b. 1975) was commissioned to examine the history of the institution, which she put in connection with her own artistic career. The result is the book *Perfekte Leben / Perfect Lives*, which the artist, accompanied by the German voice of Anna Böger, will present to the public in a performative reading. On the basis of research into the Schirn's location and archival materials, this unusual anniversary publication combines an intimate double portrait with critical reflections on the societal, institutional, and artistic transformations in Germany and France over the last forty years. A large number of voices offer their thoughts throughout the work. *Perfect Lives* also serves as a catalog

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and literary sketch for the artist's exhibition, which will take place in the Schirn after it returns to the Römer following its energy-efficient renovations.

**JUBILEE BOOK** *Perfect Lives. Lili Reynaud-Dewar and Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt*, published by SCHIRN KUNSTHALLE FRANKFURT, author: Lili Reynaud-Dewar, German–English edition, 560 pages, c. 180 illustrations, brochure with cover, DISTANZ Verlag, ISBN 978-3-95476-853-0 (German edition), ISBN 978-3-95476-854-7 (English edition), 35 € (SCHIRN), 38 € (Bookstores)

## THE ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND: AN OVERVIEW

FRIDAY, MAY 8

8 p.m.

SCHIRN AT NIGHT. Birthday Edition

SATURDAY, MAY 9

10 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Free entry to the exhibition "Thomas Bayrle. Be Happy!"

12 noon – 9 p.m.

Talk to Us: Guides in the exhibition

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Playtime in the MINISCHIRN

12 noon – 4 p.m.

Rolling with Us. Kids skating

1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Light. Care. Air. Family workshop

2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

*Connections (Frankfurt)*. Art action by Rosemary Mayer

4 p.m.

Sunny Sounds with Chris (Frankfurt Funk)

5 p.m.

Let's Connect with Tyrown Vincent

7.30 – 8.30 p.m.

"Perfect Lives." Lecture-Performance by Lili Reynaud-Dewar

until 10 p.m.

Stay a Little Longer with DJ Nidas

SUNDAY, MAY 10

10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Free entry to the exhibition "Thomas Bayrle. Be Happy!"

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Playtime in the MINISCHIRN

12 noon – 6 p.m.

Talk to Us: Guides in the exhibition

12 noon – 6 p.m.

Print. Play. Celebrate. Open printing workshop

12 noon – 6 p.m.

Rolling with Us. Kids skating

2 p.m.

The International Ensemble Modern Academy in the exhibition

2 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Sunday Flow with DJ MWAH and Halva

3 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Bring Your Own Shirt. Print your jubilee T-shirt

4 p.m.

*Connections (Frankfurt)*. Talk with Marie Warsh, the Estate of Rosemary Mayer

## THE EXHIBITION "THOMAS BAYRLE. BE HAPPY!"

UNTIL MAY 10

Until May 10, the Schirn presents the major solo exhibition of the artist Thomas Bayrle (b. 1937), who lives in Frankfurt. "Be Happy!" presents over fifty works from the past twenty years, including paintings and prints, sculptures, sound installations, and a video work. In his art, Bayrle examines fundamental aspects of modern society. The structures of consumption, urban life and technology, and locomotion, as well as pop and mass culture and (pseudo-) religion, all play a leading role. During the 1960s and '70s, he laid the innovative foundations for his characteristic "superforms." Entry to the exhibition will be free of charge on May 9 and 10 as part of the anniversary weekend.

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## ENGAGEMENT FOR ART

The SCHIRN FREUNDE make a significant contribution to the realization of the Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt's program. For more than 35 years, art enthusiasts from Frankfurt and beyond, as well as companies and representatives from the business, cultural, and media sectors, have supported the institution's work. As part of its 40th anniversary celebrations, the Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt is hosting a fundraising dinner on May 11, which is being supported by the SCHIRN FREUNDE through their generous donations. The evening features a benefit auction conducted by the Grisebach auction house, with the proceeds going to the Schirn's exhibition program and art education initiatives, as well as the artists. Information on online bidding via: [irene.sieberger@grisebach.com](mailto:irene.sieberger@grisebach.com)

## PREVIEW: THE SCHIRN PROGRAM DURING ITS JUBILEE YEAR

In its major summer exhibition "THE WORLD THROUGH AI," opening June 11, 2026, the Schirn presents artworks that examine the cognitive, psychological, political, and ecological dimensions of artificial intelligence (AI). The thematic show occupies both exhibition spaces with some 40 works by 25 international artists, including Nora Al-Badri, Nouf Aljowaysir, Julian Charrière, Grégory Chatonsky, Kate Crawford & Vladan Joler, Holly Herndon & Mat Dryhurst, Agnieszka Kurant, Trevor Paglen, Hito Steyerl, Sasha Stiles, and Taller Estampa. A series of time capsules—little curiosity cabinets—links the present to the past in the show, and thus embeds current changes through new technologies in a historical context.

Alongside this exhibition, an episodic group exhibition will run outdoors on the Schirn's grounds in Bockenheim, beginning on June 25. The theme of the show will focus on the transience and fragility of environmental phenomena, presenting works that transform them into the basis of aesthetic experiences. In this way, artworks enter into a relationship with their surroundings and the powers of nature: the sun, rain, wind, and the rhythms of day and night. The first episode features works by Katja Mater, Margaret Raspé, and Bernhard Schreiner.

Beginning on October 1, the Schirn will show a solo exhibition by ANNA HULAČOVÁ (b. 1984), in connection with the Czech Republic being Guest of Honour at the Frankfurt Book Fair. Her figurative sculptures create a personal cosmology informed by Surrealism, Soviet brutalism, and Czech folk art. In partnership with her own colonies of bees, she develops hybrid creatures and faceless science-fiction figures, in which concrete and honeycomb, organic and technoid, and nature and machine are fused. Hulačová explores the relationship between man and nature from an eco-feminist perspective.

One of the fall's highlights is the first major retrospective in Germany of LEONOR FINI (1907–96), opening at the Schirn on October 23. MAGICALLY SURREAL will show around 100 works that provide a comprehensive overview of the artist's oeuvre. Despite her proximity to Surrealism, Fini always maintained her independence, developing a distinctive pictorial language that hovers between dream, myth, and stagelike presentations. One of the principal themes of her work is the study of her role as a woman and an artist. The exhibition will show paintings, drawings, photographs, and objects from the seven decades of Fini's long and fascinating artistic career.

## THE SCHIRN KUNSTHALLE FRANKFURT

As one of the most important art establishments in Europe, the Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt has been a fixture of Frankfurt's cultural scene for the past 40 years. In the institution's exhibitions, art from modernism to the contemporary is viewed through the lens of socially pressing questions and illuminated from new perspectives. The varied program includes major exhibitions, interdisciplinary events, discursive programming, and digital offerings. The Schirn presents artistic positions from the nineteenth century to the present day, annually attracting both local and international audiences.. Over 290 exhibitions have been staged and viewed by more than 10 million visitors. The Schirn promotes new perspectives on artistic and cultural-historical topics as well as current

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phenomena, and societal debates. Its aim is to provide a unique experience that actively involves visitors in viewing art. Its extensive and innovative education and outreach program for all age groups brings people together, facilitates a contemporary approach to art, invites active participation in current discourse, and connects art to the everyday lives of those who visit.

## ENERGY-EFFICIENT RENOVATION OF THE SCHIRN AT THE RÖMER AND THE TEMPORARY LOCATION

The energy-efficient renovation of the historic postmodern building complex that houses the Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt at the Römer will continue until 2028. It is a flagship project that includes the energy-efficient optimization of the entire building facade in accordance with its landmark status. The eroded sandstone surface will be completely replaced with a similar looking natural stone whose higher durability will better withstand environmental impact. The entire building will be completely insulated, and even the windows will become energy efficient. Solar panels installed on the roof will contribute to the energy supply for the entire building. The greening concept applied to some roofs and parts of the facade will help cool the building's interiors and exterior, improving the overall air quality. One of the main renovations will be upgrading the fire-protection system and the building technology, as well as installing an intelligent building management system. The renovation will also see the refurbishment of the foyer and sanitary facilities, with a special focus on improving accessibility. Since the renovation has begun in September 2025, the Schirn has presented a high-quality international exhibition program of modern and contemporary art in the former Dondorf printing factory. The building complex was completely renovated and the spaces were adapted and modernized for use by the Schirn.

**VENUE** SCHIRN KUNSTHALLE FRANKFURT, GABRIEL-RIESSER-WEG 3, 60325 FRANKFURT **DURATION** MAY 8–10, 2026  
**TICKETS SCHIRN AT NIGHT** 25 EURO, AVANCE SALES ONLY, AT [SCHIRN.DE/SHOP](https://www.schirn.de/shop), NO BOX OFFICE **JUBILEE WEEKEND** FREE ENTRY **INFORMATION** [SCHIRN.DE/EN](https://www.schirn.de/en) **E-MAIL** [WELCOME@SCHIRN.DE](mailto:welcome@schirn.de) **TELEPHONE** +49.69.29 98 82-0  
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