

Press release

Bucerius Kunst Forum in new premises next to the town hall from 7 June 2019

In June 2019 the Bucerius Kunst Forum will move to new rooms on Alter Wall – just a few metres from the current location. The four storeys behind the historical façade have been reconceived expressly for the arts. The exhibition gallery extends across a single level, which can be used in its entirety or divided into several more intimate spaces. A separate storey with auditorium and atrium is available for events such as concerts, readings, discussions, lectures or poetry slams. The service areas are more spacious, and the Bucerius Book Shop has more room for content ranging from art to music. A glazed studio at canal height offers space for creative work.

The new Bucerius Art Forum opens on 7 June 2019 with the exhibition *Here We Are Today. A View of the World in Photography & Video Art*. It will move into premises only a few metres away from the current location, within the same building complex directly opposite the town hall courtyard. “In the new rooms extending across four storeys we can better fulfil our guiding principles of ‘One building for all visitors’, ‘One building for all generations’ and ‘One building for all the arts’,” explains Prof. Dr. Andreas Hoffmann, Managing Director of the Bucerius Kunst Forum.

A separate storey will now be devoted to the wide-ranging programme of events, which includes readings, concerts, discussions and lectures. An auditorium and adjoining atrium provide double the event space. As the concept of focused exhibitions has found such broad acceptance among visitors, the new exhibition gallery is only slightly larger than the old one. “Our new location has the great advantage of allowing us to present the art on one level. Depending on the exhibition, the gallery can be used as a large space or divided into several more intimate rooms,” says Dr. Kathrin Baumstark, artistic director at the Bucerius Kunst Forum. The ground floor and lower level accommodate significantly more spacious service areas to better meet the needs of the public. Also on the ground floor is the new Bucerius Book Shop, with both more space and more content. With a glazed studio on the lower level, at canal height, the educational programme for young and old will become more transparent and have more room for new formats.

Behind the historical façade of the building complex on Alter Wall, an ultra-modern exhibition space has been created that incorporates the latest developments in lighting and climate control. This technology ensures that the Forum will continue to be able to secure loans from museums such as the MoMA, the Louvre and the Prado.

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The building can be accessed in three ways: via Alter Wall, via the new Fleetbrücke pedestrian bridge connecting Neuer Wall with the Bucerius Passage, or via the car park underneath the building with direct access to the Bucerius Passage.

A 30-year lease has been signed for the new premises, giving the Bucerius Kunst Forum a long-term perspective. "With this move, the ZEIT-Stiftung will be able to present another 30 years of top-class exhibitions right next to Hamburg City Hall," noted Prof. Dr. Michael Göring, Chairman of the Board of the ZEIT-Stiftung.

Opening festival

Art lovers and architecture fans from Hamburg, the surrounding area and the whole world are cordially invited to discover the new location this June. For the first two weeks after the opening, admission to the new Bucerius Kunst Forum and the exhibition *Here We Are Today* will be free of charge. The opening weeks will conclude with a big three-day festival from 21 to 23 June featuring a varied and interdisciplinary programme of events. Admission to these events is likewise free of charge.

Background

Ever since the Bucerius Kunst Forum opened its doors to the public in the autumn of 2002, it has been delighting art lovers with exhibitions notable for high-quality artworks, international loans and a diversity of themes. With the large number of visitors, which has risen sharply over the years to around 200,000 annually, and with three to four events a week, the former space's capacity had reached its limits. With the renovation of the building on Alter Wall, the Bucerius Kunst Forum had the unique opportunity to move into new premises within the same building complex.

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