

# Deutscher Pavillon La Biennale di Venezia 2015

Essen Foundations in support of the German Pavilion at the Venice Biennale 2015.  
Strong tradition of funding photography in Essen to continue.

4 February 2015, Essen/Berlin – The German Pavilion at the 56th International Art Exhibition, Venice Biennale 2015, is to receive significant support from the Ruhr area. Three foundations – the Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach-Stiftung, the RWE Stiftung für Energie und Gesellschaft, and the Stiftung Mercator – are providing joint funding amounting to a total of € 150,000 to help finance the German entry to the Venice Biennale. The curator of the German Pavilion is Florian Ebner, head of the Photographic Collection at the Museum Folkwang in Essen.

The three foundations' initiative is designed not only to support the concept of the Pavilion but also to increase public awareness of the grand tradition that exists in Essen of promoting photography and the creative genius of the Ruhr area. Against this background, the foundations made the following comment on their commitment to the project: "Essen and the Museum Folkwang have been respected on the international scene for decades as a venue for contemporary photography. Florian Ebner has taken up this tradition and is carrying it forward. This represents a fitting line of continuity both for Essen and for us. We are delighted to support this project."

Florian Ebner responded to news of the funding by saying: "This is a remarkable initiative – it is good for the art and artists involved in the Pavilion. It is only with the additional help of this generous funding that the artistic works by Olaf Nicolai, Hito Steyerl, Tobias Zielony, and Philip Rizk and Jasmina Metwaly can be realized for the German Pavilion in Venice. It is all the more satisfying when this support comes from one's home base, from sponsors with whom there already exist strong and dependable links."

In October 2014, the ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen / Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations) was able, as coordinator of the German contribution to the Venice Biennale and on behalf of the Federal Foreign Office, to secure the Sparkassen-Kulturfonds of the German Savings Banks Association (DSGV) as the main sponsor for the German Pavilion for the second time. The exhibition in the German Pavilion will open in Venice at the beginning of May.

The Photographic Collection at the Museum Folkwang is one of the most important photography collections to be found in a public museum. The Krupp Foundation helped establish the collection in 1978 by acquiring the photographic estate of Otto Steinert.

All three Essen-based foundations have a long tradition of supporting the Museum Folkwang and its Photographic Collection and are significantly involved in realizing and facilitating exhibitions, outreach programmes, and new acquisitions and in providing training and grants for artists and researchers. In addition to this, the Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach-Stiftung was entirely responsible for financing the Museum Folkwang's new building, which was opened in 2010.

From May 2015, the German Pavilion at the 56th International Art Exhibition, Venice Biennale 2015, will focus on the presence of images in contemporary life. The exhibition encourages its visitors to reflect on the material and political nature of images in the digital age in the context of a globalized world. The artists that were invited to take part in the exhibition by curator Florian Ebner – Olaf Nicolai, Hito Steyerl, Tobias Zielony, and the Cairo-based artist duo Jasmina Metwaly and Philip Rizk – will show new works that have been specially created for the German Pavilion and will be presented there for the first time.

[www.deutscher-pavillon.org](http://www.deutscher-pavillon.org)  
[www.ifa.de/kunst/biennalen.html](http://www.ifa.de/kunst/biennalen.html)

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The German contribution to the 56th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia is produced on behalf of the Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany and is realized in conjunction with the ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen / Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations).



Sponsors / Partners

The Sparkassen-Kulturfonds of the German Savings Banks Association (DSGV) is the main sponsor for the German Pavilion.  
[www.dsgv.de](http://www.dsgv.de)



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[www.krupp-stiftung.de](http://www.krupp-stiftung.de), [www.rwe.com](http://www.rwe.com), [www.stiftung-mercator.de](http://www.stiftung-mercator.de)



The ifa Friends of the German Pavilion / Venice Biennale e.V. 2015 has been supporting the German Pavilion since 2013.

The Museum Folkwang, Essen, is a partner of the German Pavilion in 2015.  
[www.museum-folkwang.de](http://www.museum-folkwang.de)

Museum Folkwang