



„Von Kohle zu Kunst“:

The Story of Kunstkraftwerk Leipzig

New exhibition at Kunstkraftwerk Leipzig celebrating its 10th anniversary

Where today digital art, light installations and immersive environments captivate audiences, energy was once generated through coal, water and hard physical work. To celebrate the 10th anniversary of Kunstkraftwerk as a Digital Art Center, Kunstkraftwerk Leipzig will launch its new exhibition “From Coal to Art” on July 1, 2026. The exhibition trail brings the building’s industrial past to life while highlighting the remarkable transformation of the former heating plant into an internationally renowned venue for digital art and culture.

“From Coal to Art” has been designed as an additional bookable experience alongside the main exhibitions, currently accompanying the multimedia exhibition “Viva Frida Kahlo.” The trail leads visitors through key areas of the building and tells the story of a place whose industrial traces remain visible to this day. Information panels mark the individual stations and allow visitors to follow the journey of coal through the former heating plant step by step. The stations are located across different levels of the building and extend through both indoor and outdoor areas.

The exhibition focuses not only on the technical processes of the power plant but also on the stories of the people who worked there. Visitors follow the path of coal from the former coal yard through conveyor systems, bunkers and boilers to filtration systems, control rooms and the ash cellar. Additional content, historical background information and video material can be accessed digitally via QR codes.

The memories of former shift supervisor Wolfgang Knospe play a particularly important role. He worked at the plant from 1982 until its closure in 1992. His personal memories bring everyday life at the former heating plant back to life and offer an authentic insight into the building’s history.

“The story of Kunstkraftwerk does not begin with immersive exhibitions. With ‘From Coal to Art,’ we want to make visible the people and processes that shaped this place over decades. The trail connects industrial history with today’s artistic experience and makes the building’s extraordinary transformation tangible,” says Marie Kuss, curator of the exhibition.

Since opening as Kunstkraftwerk in 2016, the former heating plant has developed into one of Germany’s leading centers for digital and immersive art. Today, visitors experience large-scale 360-degree projections, multimedia exhibitions, interactive installations, concerts, workshops, conferences and cultural events within its protected industrial halls. International productions meet specially developed exhibition concepts that incorporate the building’s unique industrial architecture into the artistic experience.

With “From Coal to Art,” Kunstkraftwerk Leipzig expands its educational and cultural offering by adding a new perspective on its own history and inviting visitors to connect the building’s past and present in a unique way.

From Coal to Art

From July 1, 2026, Press tour: July 1, 11:00 a.m., meeting point: Shop at Kunstkraftwerk Leipzig

Duration of the tour: approx. 60 minutes

Opening hours:

Thursday, Sunday and public holidays: 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Friday and Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Booking exclusively on-site at the ticket desk of Kunstkraftwerk Leipzig

Kunstkraftwerk Leipzig

Saalfelder Straße 8b

04179 Leipzig

www.kunstkraftwerk-leipzig.com

Exhibition Highlights

- Discovery trail featuring 13 stations across indoor and outdoor areas, offering authentic insights into the technical processes of the former heating plant
- Digital additional content, historical materials and videos accessible via QR codes for a deeper visitor experience
- A unique combination of industrial history and contemporary digital art

