



**ART AT  
ZOLLVEREIN**



ZOLLVEREIN UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE

# CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS AND THEIR WORKS

[www.zollverein.de](http://www.zollverein.de)



# INTRO

The unique industrial architecture and living history of the Zollverein UNESCO World Heritage Site fascinates artists from all over the world. When taking a walk on the grounds, visitors come across sculptures and installations by artists, for whom the Zollverein World Heritage Site with its industrial past serves as a varied source of inspiration. Some of the artworks cannot be missed due to their massive presence, like Ulrich Rückriem's granite sculptures. Others are discovered rather incidentally, for example Alf Lechner's "Konstellation D4", the sculptures by steel sculptor Ansgar Nierhoff or the "Palace of Projects" by Ilya and Emilia Kabakov in the former Salt Store.

The diverse artistic works which increasingly characterise Zollverein as an art venue have one thing in common: they are engaged in an aesthetic dialogue with the terrain and the architecture of the disused coal mine and coking plant. For example, they broach the theme of the effect of spaces or deal with the change of the location from a heavy industry site towards a centre for art, culture, history, and the creative industry.

Today, visitors to Zollverein discover more than just artworks in the public spaces. Several times a year, the former coal mine and coking plant is a venue for innovative art productions. In 2012, for example, Scottish video artist Douglas Gordon opened the Ruhrtriennale with an impressive installation in the Mixing Plant. On the occasion of the annual international art festival in 2014, "Urbane Künste Ruhr" installed the monumental sculpture "Tower", a huge structure made of water in the proximity of the pit-head frame, which attracted visitors from near and far.

Additionally, contemporary art exhibitions take place on the site at regular intervals. The art fair "contemporary art ruhr" (C.A.R.) has presented young talents and international galleries at the World Heritage Site twice a year since 2006. Several artists have opened their own studio or workshop at Zollverein. This compact overview invites you to an inspiring discovery tour at the Zollverein World Heritage Site.



Since 2006, the art fair "contemporary art ruhr" (C.A.R.) has regularly presented current positions of contemporary (media) art at the Zollverein World Heritage Site.



## ALF LECHNER (\*1925)

### Konstellation D4

Extremely heavily and inconspicuously, Alf Lechner's sculpture "Konstellation D4" rests on the grass in front of Hall 4 in immediate proximity to the famous pit-head frame.

The sculpture from the group of works entitled "Konstellation D1–D8" is positioned at an angle of 45 degrees to the rectangular ground plan of the colliery building. It interrupts the two axes along which the facilities are aligned, thus almost automatically directing the viewer's attention towards the pit-head frame.

The focus of the 16-ton artwork is on steel and its physical properties. Despite the sculpture's massive shape and unshakeable appearance, the curvature on the underside conveys the impression as if the artwork could gently rock. That way Lechner plays with the quality of his preferred material in a captivating way. Although the sculpture was originally not created for Zollverein, the used material relates that steel played an important role for the construction of the coal mine, while the industrial production of the artwork refers to the industrial monument of Zollverein and its history.

**Location:** meadow in front of Hall 4 [A4]

**Opening hours:** daily

**Admission:** free



## ANSGAR NIERHOFF (1941-2010)

### Von einem Block / Zweiteilige Standskulptur / Das Paar

On the "Art Meadow" opposite Hall 6, three works by sculptor Ansgar Nierhoff are in dialogue with the architecture and outdoor area of the Zollverein World Heritage Site: a two-piece floor sculpture, a block sculpture and the sculpture "Das Paar", which was inaugurated in spring 2016.

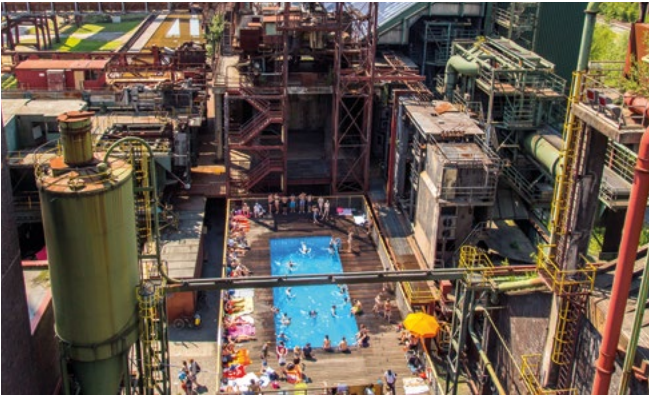
The almost 50 cm flat floor sculpture entitled "Von einem Block" and the 3.40-metre tall, two-piece sculpture were created independently of one another. By positioning them together on the "Art Meadow", both steel artworks are given a new context: they correspond with the visual axes of the coal mine which were a central design element for the industrial architects Fritz Schupp and Martin Kremmer.

The sculpture "Das Paar" stands slightly away from the two other artworks. The two four-metre tall steles are each hand-forged from one block. The contrast between the round and the angular stele points to an important element in Nierhoff's work: by forging uniform blocks he transforms them into different shapes. Together, these three artworks on the "Art Meadow" additionally testify to the strength which is necessary to process steel, while cuts and traces of the forging hammer on the surface make the sculptor's work process comprehensible.

**Location:** open area opposite Hall 6 [A6]

**Opening hours:** daily

**Admission:** free



### DIRK PASCHKE UND DANIEL MILOHNIC (\*1965 / \*1969)

#### Werksschwimmbad

Where coal was once refined into coke, a glistening blue swimming pool is now a summertime meeting point in the North of Essen. The "Werksschwimmbad" (Works Swimming Pool), consisting of two welded overseas containers, invites to relax and take a swim in the middle of the impressive facilities of the former coking plant.

Frankfurt-based artists Dirk Paschke and Daniel Milohnic constructed the "Werksschwimmbad" in 2001 in the scope of the "Zeitgenössische Kunst und Kritik" art project. Ever since, the pool has allegorically represented the structural change in the Ruhr area. With their "social sculpture" the artists gave this place, which was until the 1990s only characterised by work amid loud noise and heat, a completely new function: Today, residents and visitors go there to spend their leisure time and enjoy the welcome cooling down on hot days in summer.

**Location:** Works Swimming Pool [C75]

**Opening hours:** during summer holidays in North Rhine-Westphalia in good weather, daily 12 a.m. – 8 p.m.

**Admission:** free



### ILYA UND EMILIA KABAKOV (\*1933 / \*1945)

#### The Palace of Projects

The "Palace of Projects", immersed in warm yellow light, is a place full of ideas. Since 2001, the accessible installation in the Salt Store at the Zollverein Coking Plant presents 61 fictitious projects which all aim at improving people's life in an unusual way.

With the "Palace of Projects" the Russian-American artist couple Ilya and Emilia Kabakov created a "total installation": when walking through the seven-metre high pavilion reminiscent of a snail's shell, the visitor moves along very different objects, showcases and sketches. One can examine the individual models in several rooms, touch some of them and read the model description, while time seems to be standing still for a short moment.

The projects presented in the "Palace of Projects" play with the notion of utopia in various ways: they are full of fantasy and remarkable ideas, regardless of how naive or infeasible they might seem at first glance. They turn the installation into a museum of dreams, which invites to embark on a journey to foreign worlds of thought and inspires personal creativity.

"The Palace of Projects" is a permanent loan from Stiftung Industriedenkmalpflege und Geschichtskultur.

**Location:** Salt Store [C88]

**Opening hours:** Fri–Sun and on public holidays 11 a.m.–5 p.m. / information on deviating opening hours at [www.zollverein.de](http://www.zollverein.de)

**Admission:** 4 € [reduced 3 €], free for children under the age of 12



### JONATHAN SPEIRS UND MARK MAJOR (\*1958 / \*1961)

#### Monochromatic Red and Blue

Every night since 1999, the Zollverein Coking Plant has turned into a huge artwork when at the beginning of dusk the light installation “Monochromatic Red and Blue” immerses parts of the decommissioned facilities in red and blue light.

In the dark, the 600-metre long coke oven battery on the so-called “black” side of the coking plant shines in red light. The colour reminds of the great heat in the ovens, in which coke was produced from coal at more than 1000 degrees Celsius when the plant was still in operation. The “Kokereiallee” separates this side from the “white” side, where chemical by-products, a result of carbonization, were processed. Lanterns line the street and bathe it in blue light, which takes reference from the water that was used to quench the coke.

With their installation the two British lighting designers, Jonathan Speirs and Mark Major, impressively stage the imposing architecture of the Zollverein Coking Plant. At the same time, they visualise the change of the facility towards a location for art, culture and leisure. The former pusher machine railway line, which is now filled with water, is integrated as a reflective design element.

**Location:** Kokereiallee

**Opening hours:** daily, when darkness falls

**Admission:** free



### MARIA NORDMAN (\*1943)

#### LA PRIMAVERA

It is the light which awakens nature from hibernation in spring and plays an important part in Maria Nordman’s art. Her work entitled “LA PRIMAVERA” (“spring”) in the tower passageway of the former Boiler Ash Bunker is an art location providing an intensive self-experience.

Only a narrow slit allows daylight to enter the accessible artwork, which each visitor enters individually. On one’s own in space and time, people find themselves, depending on the weather and altitude of the sun, in a place which is exceptional in a different way each time: in a room, which only turns into an artwork the moment the visitor enters it and lets himself in for the silence and seclusion. The open space around the Boiler Ash Bunker is part of the artwork: ginkgo and sequoia, which ages and ages ago turned into coal, are planted behind the bunker. Maria Nordman, who participated in “documenta” three times, is interested in cycles, rituals and gardens. In a small vestibule of the installation, visitors therefore find utensils such as blankets, chairs and a table, which they can use for a joint picnic in the garden of “LA PRIMAVERA”.

**Location:** Boiler Ash Bunker [A13]

**Opening hours:** May–September, Fri–Sun and on public holidays  
11 a.m.–6 p.m.

**Admission:** free



## ULRICH RÜCKRIEM (\*1938)

### Forest of Sculptures

The birch-covered slag heap located between Zollverein Shaft XII and the Zollverein Coking Plant is an almost magical place. Five stone sculptures by sculptor Ulrich Rückriem come upon the unique industrial nature, branching off footpaths and the past of the steel and coal industry.

The main work of the so-called Forest of Sculptures is the "Castell", an about two metres tall and 10 x 10 metres wide split stone block standing on a clearing. Four openings between the massive stone blocks grant the visitors access to the centre of the artwork. Once the visitor has arrived there, an unusual perspective opens up: one finds oneself in an interior which is due to the unobstructed view to the horizon simultaneously an outdoor space.

When subsequently taking a walk around the slag heap, the visitor comes across other sculptures by Rückriem: one at the stairs to the upper part of the slag heap, two sculptures with the title "Granit Bleu de Vire, gespalten und geschnitten" on the way towards the highest point of the slag heap and a square granite block at the end of the footpath. Although Rückriem's works are geometrical, a slight movement can be discerned in the powerful sculptures. They thus remind of the Zollverein location in several ways: as a contrast to unspoilt nature, as symbol for the change and as expression of the hard physical work which once took centre stage at Zollverein.



**Location:** Forest of Sculptures

**Opening hours:** daily

**Admission:** free

## ATELIERS UND WERKSTÄTTEN



### ARKA KULTURWERKSTATT E.V.

#### ARKA Kulturwerkstatt

Derived from the Latin term for “ark”, the “ARKA Kulturwerkstatt” in Hall 12 has been an atelier for people interested in art for many years. In the arts and crafts rooms, several fine artists offer courses, workshops as well as holiday academies on a voluntary basis.

At the “Kulturwerkstatt”, participants can try out and practice almost all artistic techniques: from sketching, etching, bookbinding or sculptural design, painting in watercolours and oil to photography. Furthermore, artists, most of them coming from the region, regularly exhibit their artworks at the ARKA premises.

[www.arka-kulturwerkstatt.de](http://www.arka-kulturwerkstatt.de)



### THOMAS MACK (\*1953)

#### Atelier Thomas Mack

Thomas Mack’s Atelier in the former Picking Belt Hall is both a workshop and a showroom. Since 2001, the freelance artist has been creating etchings, drawings and prints there. He also exhibits paintings in his atelier.

Mack preferably works with heavy handmade paper and vibrant colours. The architecture of Zollverein with its symmetric shapes has again and again served as his source of inspiration.

[www.handgedruckt.de](http://www.handgedruckt.de)

**Location:** Hall 12 [A12]

**Opening hours:** Thu, Sat and Sun 2 p.m.–4 p.m., Fri 11 a.m.–1 p.m., during school holidays in North Rhine-Westphalia only by appointment

**Admission/participation:** depending on the event

**Location:** Hall 12 [A12]

**Opening hours:** Sat and Sun 1 p.m.–6 p.m. and by previous appointment

**Admission:** free



**THOMAS ROTHER (\*1937)**  
**Kunstschacht Zollverein**

Thomas Rother is an author, sculptor, creator of objects, and spatial artist. Since 1990 he lives and works in the former carpentry workshop at Shaft 1/2/8.

Rother's workshop is a fascinating microcosm where everything revolves around the heritage of the mining era: The artist works with, amongst other things, industrial materials such as dust, ash and coal and uses tools and other mining objects as printing blocks for prints on paper and canvas.

[www.zollverein.de](http://www.zollverein.de)

**Location:** Machine Hall [B43]

**Öffnungszeiten:** Sat and Sun 11 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3 p.m.–5 p.m.  
and by appointment

**Eintritt:** 2,50 €



**YOUNG-JAE LEE (\*1951)**  
**Keramische Werkstatt Margaretenhöhe**

Shortly after the decommissioning of the Zollverein Coal Mine, ceramist Young-Jae Lee and her team were the first artists to establish a studio at the Zollverein World Heritage Site in 1987.

Back in 1933, the “Keramische Werkstatt Margaretenhöhe” (Margaretenhöhe Ceramic Workshop) already moved from the Margaretenhöhe Estate to the Zollverein Shaft Facilities 6/9. About 50 years later, this was followed by the move to the former building materials stores at Shaft 1/2/8. Lee, who was born in Korea, has directed the workshop since.

The delicate vessels, bowls or pots, which are created by hand at Zollverein, follow a clear, timeless and unmistakable design vocabulary. Individual items by the internationally acknowledged and repeatedly awarded master ceramist are coveted among collectors from all over the world.

[www.kwm-1924.de](http://www.kwm-1924.de)

**Location:** Building Materials Stores [B52]

**Opening hours:** Mon–Fri 9 a.m.–4 p.m., Sat 11 a.m.–3 p.m.  
and by appointment

**Admission:** free



## GUIDED TOURS, TRADE FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS



### Guided art tours at the Denkmalpfad ZOLLVEREIN®

During the guided art tour visitors get to know interesting details about contemporary artists and their activities at the Zollverein World Heritage Site. A public guided tour takes place every year on Ascension Day, groups can book specific dates for the guided art tour.

[www.denkmalpfad-zollverein.de](http://www.denkmalpfad-zollverein.de)



### contemporary art ruhr (C.A.R.)

Twice a year, the art fair "contemporary art ruhr" (C.A.R.) at Zollverein sets new impulses in the art landscape. Since 2006, more than 300 participants from all over the world have presented themselves annually in summer and in autumn.

[www.contemporaryartruhr.de](http://www.contemporaryartruhr.de)



### Photography exhibition in the Round Thickener

Under the roof of the Coal Washery, Zollverein Foundation uses the Round Thickener I as a venue for contemporary urban photography, including Ellen Bornkessel's "Play", Joachim Schumacher's "Von dieser Welt" and Thomas Prochnow's "Der Zweite Öffentliche Raum".

[www.zollverein.de](http://www.zollverein.de)

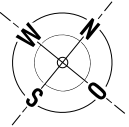


### Photography exhibition at the Ruhr Museum

The photo archive of the Ruhr Museums with an inventory of more than 4 million photographs ranks among the largest in Europe. The regional museum provides insights into everyday routines of the Ruhr area in various decades and eras.

[www.ruhrmuseum.de](http://www.ruhrmuseum.de)

# ART AT ZOLLVEREIN CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS AND THEIR WORKS

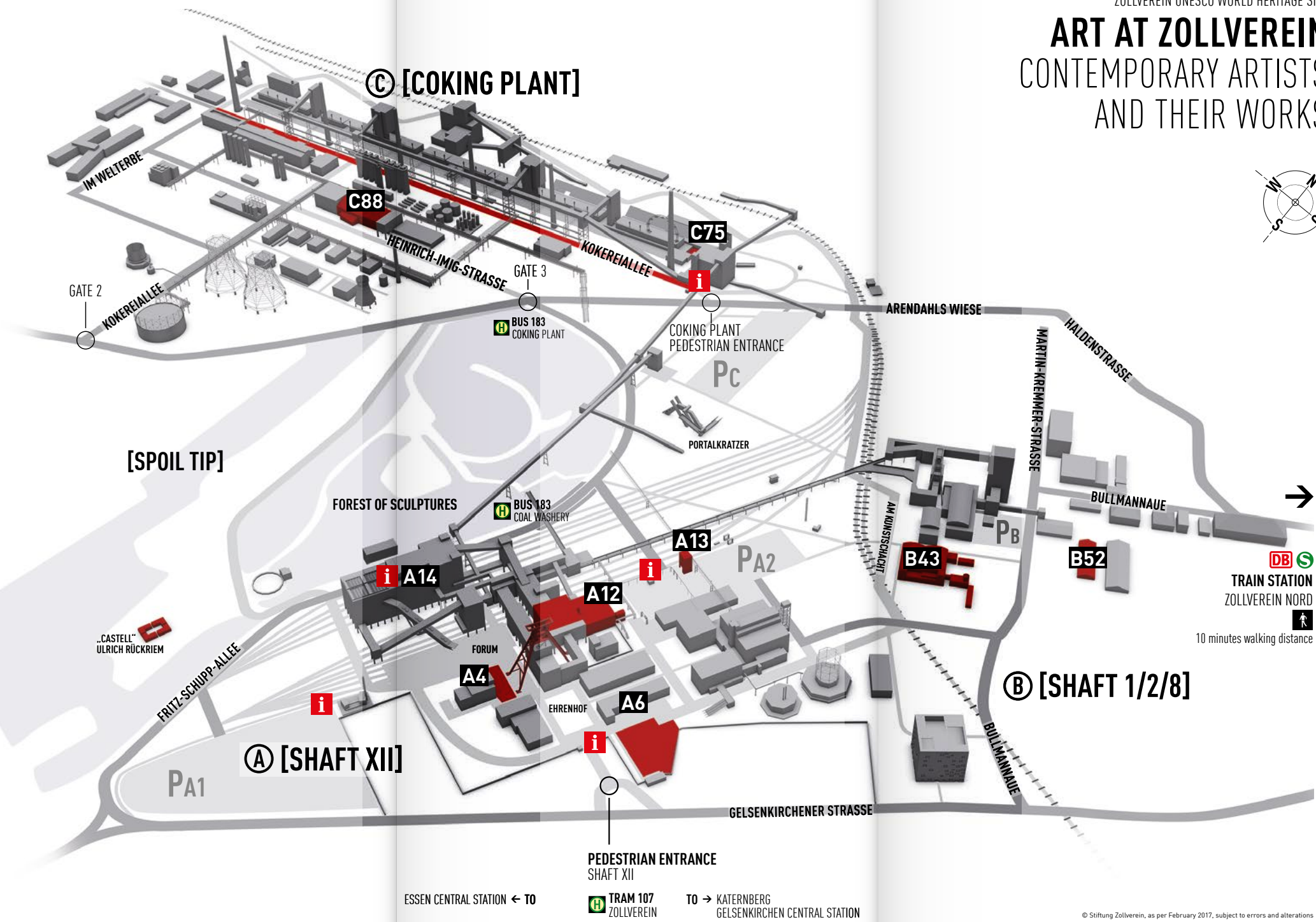


## © [COKING PLANT]

## [SPOIL TIP]

## ® [SHAFT 1/2/8]

## Ⓐ [SHAFT XII]



TRAIN STATION  
ZOLLVEREIN NORD



10 minutes walking distance

ESSEN CENTRAL STATION ← TO



TO → KATERNBERG  
GELSENKIRCHEN CENTRAL STATION

# KUNST AUF ZOLLVEREIN

**A4**

Hall 4

**ALF LECHNER:**

*Konstellation D4*

**A6**

Hall 6

**ANSGAR NIERHOFF:**

*Von einem Block / Zweiteilige Standskulptur / Das Paar*

**A12**

Hall 12

**ARKA KULTURWERKSTATT E.V.:**

*ARKA Kulturwerkstatt*

**THOMAS MACK:**

*Atelier Thomas Mack*

**A13**

Boiler Ash Bunker

**MARIA NORDMAN:**

*LA PRIMAVERA*

**A14**

Coal Washery

*Photography exhibitions in the Circular Thickener and at the Ruhr Museum (temporary)*

**B43**

Machine Hall

**THOMAS ROTHER:**

*Kunstschacht Zollverein*

**B52**

Building Materials Store

**YOUNG-JAE LEE:**

*Keramische Werkstatt Margaretenhöhe*

**C75**

Works Swimming Pool

**DIRK PASCHKE UND DANIEL MILOHNIC:**

*Werksschwimmbad*

**C88**

Salt Store

**ILYA UND EMILIA KABAKOV:**

*The Palace of Projects*

Spoil Tip

**ULRICH RÜCKRIEM:**

*Forest of Sculptures*

Kokereiallee

**JONATHAN SPEIRS UND MARK MAJOR:**

*Monochromatic Red and Blue*

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**Info Point**

Orientation and information about the Zollverein World Heritage Site.



## IMPRINT

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