

Quiz for families with children from the age of 6

beuys
2021



Hello and welcome to the exhibition “Invisible Sculpture. The Expanded Concept of Art after Joseph Beuys”.

Joseph Beuys was a very famous artist. Some people think his art work is great, others don't like it at all. Let's see what you think!

Joseph Beuys had the courage to do many things very differently from other artists. For example, he liked to use quite ordinary everyday objects for his works of art. He would paint them, write on them, glue or stick them together – and that was his work of art. Joseph Beuys didn't always want to create something especially beautiful. He much preferred to make something that would make people think and talk to each other.

Looking at the works of Joseph Beuys can be very exciting. We hope that this quiz will make you curious about his art and help you to enjoy exploring it. The letters printed in front of the correct answers will spell a solution word in German.

On the last page, you can put all the letters together and they will tell you the name of a city that was very important to Joseph Beuys.

Dear parents, please read the following page!



Dear parents,

We are delighted that you are here to visit the exhibition "Invisible Sculpture. The Expanded Concept of Art after Joseph Beuys" with your child. The exhibition focuses on Joseph Beuys' efforts to reveal sociopolitical imbalances, especially in the fields of democracy and ecology. But what would be a good way to see and understand these topics with your children?

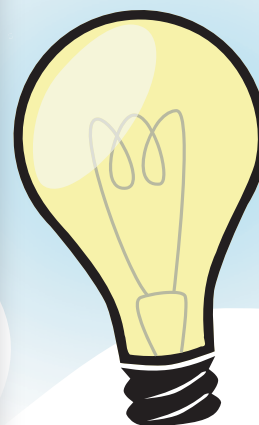
Perhaps democracy and ecology are unfamiliar to your children as abstract concepts, but the notions behind them, which are concerned with how to live together in a fair way that works for everyone and how to take good care of nature, will definitely be familiar to them.

This quiz may build a bridge for you and your children, leading to an inspiring encounter with the artist Joseph Beuys and his work.

All works of art that the children will be looking for are located on the upper level. The aim of the quiz is not so much to decode what the work wants to say but rather to look at the art work together and to talk about your impressions, which was exactly the artist's intention:

"I am only interested in art in as far as it gives me an opportunity for dialogue with other people."¹⁾

1) Joseph Beuys, interviewed by Achille Bonito Oliva 1971, Partitur von Joseph Beuys, La rivoluzione siamo Noi, in: Exhibition catalogue *Joseph Beuys und Italien. L'arte è una zanzara dalle mille ali oder Die Kunst ist eine Stechmücke mit tausend Flügeln*, edited by Marc Grundel, Rita E. Täuber, Städtische Museen Heilbronn, Kunsthalle Vogelmann, Bielefeld 2016, p. 101.



1 Look for the "**Capri-Batterie**" – an artwork made from a lemon and a lightbulb. Joseph Beuys was very committed to protecting the environment. His work "Capri-Batterie" was meant to motivate people to take better care of nature.

What do you think: can you generate electricity using a lemon and make a light shine?

- (H)** Yes. The lightbulb of the "Capri-Batterie" shone for many hours after Joseph Beuys assembled it 40 years ago.
- (G)** Yes. But you also need some cable with crocodile clips, cent-coins, screws or washers made of zinc and a small LED-lamp.
- (B)** No. It's not possible to make a lamp shine without electricity from the power line.

2 Joseph Beuys loved nature. He even made sure that 7000 trees were planted in the city of Kassel. Go and find the art work that Joseph Beuys made entirely of dead leaves and that he named "**Lasst Blumen sprechen**". Once you have found it, count the leaves.

How many leaves did Joseph Beuys glue together to make the picture?

- (K)** 6000 leaves
- (L)** 6 leaves
- (P)** 2 leaves



- 3 Look at the vitrine with the picture made from a long paper strip. The work is called **"Diagramma Terremoto"**, which means:

"Showcase of an Earthquake". Joseph Beuys drew this zig-zag-like picture 40 years ago, when there was a terrible earthquake in Italy. He gave the money that he got for the picture to the people who urgently needed money to rebuild their houses in Italy.

There are devices that can measure and write down the force of the shaking during an earthquake. They produce a zig-zag picture that looks very similar to the one drawn by Beuys.

What is the name of the device that can record the oscillations of an earthquake?

- (K) Photograph
- (S) Seismograph
- (I) Stenograph



- 4 Look for the work of art with **boxing gloves**. The objects are souvenirs from a boxing match that Joseph Beuys fought at the large art exhibition "documenta". Fortunately, he and his opponent only hit each other very gently. You can see it in the video that is close to the art work.

Who won the boxing match?

- (N) Joseph Beuys
- (M) His opponent Abraham David Christian
- (P) The boxing match ended in a tie.



- 5 Please find the art work **"Rose für direkte Demokratie"** and look closely at its bright-red petals.

Joseph Beuys thought that roses are very beautiful. He was very impressed by how they develop from a bud to a blossom.

Do you know the colour of a rosebud before it blooms?

Before it blooms, the bud of a red rose is

- (V) brown like the earth.
- (K) green like the stem.
- (T) red like the petals.

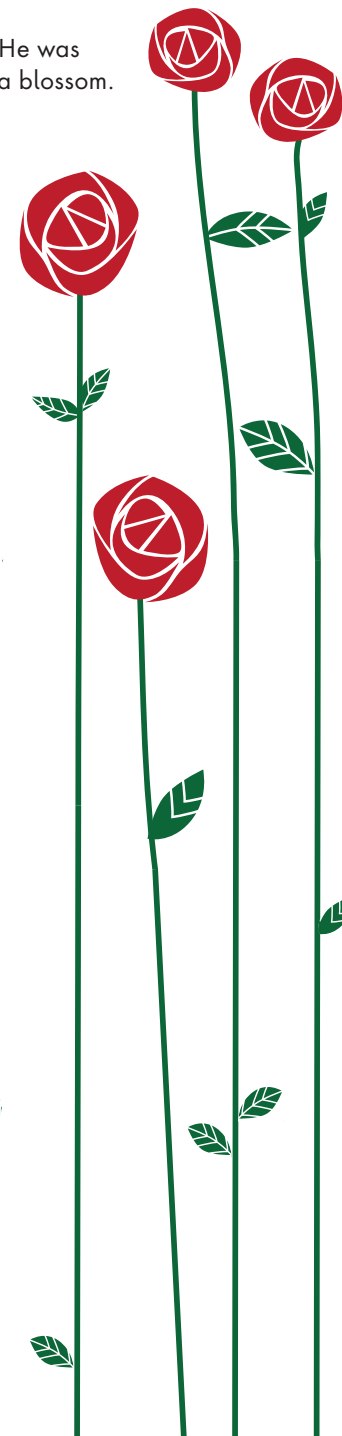
- 6 Sometimes you think something is really great and sometimes you think it's stupid. You think that some things are cool and others are silly.

Look for the thing that Joseph Beuys thought was stupid. What is it?

- (Y) A bottle
- (I) A box
- (D) A chair



Do you agree with Joseph Beuys? Do you also think that the thing is stupid? Why? Or: Why not?



7 Now look for the **golden honey bucket**. Do you like honey? Unfortunately, we don't know whether Joseph Beuys liked to eat honey. But he was very impressed by bees who worked so hard to collect nectar for honey. A lot of work goes into a bucket of honey! Because one bee can only collect nectar for around 10 milligrams of honey on one flight! One bucket can hold 2.5 kilogrammes of honey. And now it's up to you to guess or calculate:



How many flights does a bee have to make to fill the bucket with honey?

One single bee would have to make

- (H) 2,500 trips
- (W) 25,000 trips
- (R) 250,000 trips



Bees live together in colonies. That means that they work together in a large group. Still, it's a lot of work!

8 Look for the work of art called "**Ja Ja Ja Ja Ja, Nee Nee Nee Nee Nee**". It is a reel of tape in a stack of felt-pieces. Joseph Beuys had some very funny ideas and sometimes they were a little crazy! Together with his friend, he repeated the words "ja", which means yes, and "nee", which means no, many many times and recorded the whole thing on tape. **nee**

Take a guess how long the two of them kept it up!

- (L) 25 minutes
- (Z) 45 minutes
- (C) 65 minutes

nee
nee **JA**
JA nee

ja

Would you like to listen to the recording for a few minutes? There is a media station only a few metres from the art work. Do you like the Ja Ja Ja Ja Ja, Nee Nee Nee Nee Nee?

NEE

ja

9 Close your eyes and think of a snowman. What colour is it? What does it feel like when you touch it? And now go and look for Joseph Beuys' snowman here in the exhibition.

What is his snowman made of?

- (F) Snow
- (H) Coal
- (P) Candy floss



10 Now you have seen quite a few works of art by Joseph Beuys. And you will probably have seen several photos of him throughout the exhibition.

Did you notice a piece of clothing that seems to have been his favourite?

Joseph Beuys liked to wear

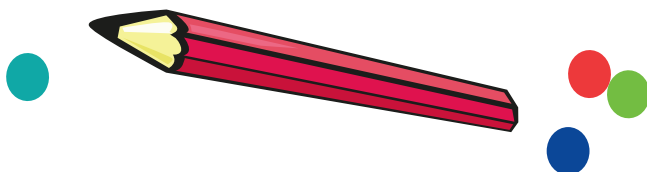
- (N) a hat
- (D) rubber boots
- (E) a long coat.



The solution

Joseph Beuys even founded a university. Its name was: “**Freie Internationale Universität**”, which means “Free International University”, and it was spread across several German cities.

One of the cities was



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Heritage Site
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45327 Essen
info@zollverein.de
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Design
Katrin Kusenberg

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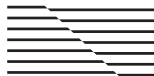
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