

## Press Release

### **E.ON sends congratulations to Essen's Museum Folkwang on its 100th anniversary**

- E.ON sponsorship for the 100th anniversary
- Ceremony on 5 February with the German President

This year, the Museum Folkwang looks back at a successful 100-year history. Its close ties with Essen's industry are just as long.

E.ON congratulates the museum on this anniversary by sponsoring an exhibition and looks back on a partnership that began in the 1980s.

In 1987, on the occasion of the supply anniversary '10 years of natural gas from Norway', the Essen gas trading company Ruhrgas (integrated into E.ON AG in 2003) made it possible to present the exhibition 'Edvard Munch' at the Museum Folkwang. The show attracted 230,000 visitors, a record at the time, and marked the beginning of a long partnership between Ruhrgas, later E.ON, and the Museum Folkwang.

This was followed by extensive shows of works by artists such as van Gogh, Gauguin, Cézanne, William Turner, Caspar David Friedrich and, most recently in 2020, contemporary art by Keith Haring. A highlight of the 35-year partnership was the 1993 show 'Monet to Picasso. Morozov and Shchukin – the Russian Collectors', which attracted more than one million visitors.

The highly popular exhibitions at the Museum Folkwang not only drew art lovers from the region, but also from all over Germany and abroad to Essen. The intention of Ruhrgas, and later E.ON, was to support the museum, to offer an attractive program, and to strengthen the city of Essen and the Ruhr region. An expression of 'corporate citizenship': of solidarity with the city, with art and with the many employees of the company who live in Essen and the surrounding area.

The ceremony on February 5, 2022 in the presence of Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier will herald the Museum Folkwang's great anniversary year with the first exhibition 'Renoir, Monet, Gauguin – Pictures of a Flowing World'.

The idea of Karl Ernst Osthaus, founder of the Museum Folkwang, to make art the intellectual property of all, can still be felt and experienced today. Thus, the E.ON-sponsored autumn show 'Expressionism at the Folkwang. Discovered – Ostracised – Celebrated', will open with a large, 24-hour summer festival on August 19, 2022. If the pandemic situation allows, this summer festival and the exhibition should become a highlight for the citizens of Essen in 'their' Museum Folkwang.

**E.ON SE**  
Brüsseler Platz 1  
45131 Essen  
Germany  
[www.eon.com](http://www.eon.com)

For information  
please contact:

Dorothee Gräfin von  
Posadowsky-Wehner  
T +49 177 457 9335  
[Dorothee.vonposadowsky@eon.com](mailto:Dorothee.vonposadowsky@eon.com)  
.com

Dr. Christian Drepper  
T +49 170 184 3470  
[Christian.drepper@eon.com](mailto:Christian.drepper@eon.com)

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E.ON CEO Leonhard Birnbaum: “The history of the Museum Folkwang and Essen's industry is long-lasting, visionary and a good example of how sustainable support for culture can be. The Museum Folkwang is a stroke of luck for the city of Essen.”

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