

PACT Zollverein invites you to participate in an artistic project in the exhibition space »Der Kleine Laden« located in the Katernberg neighbourhood

Der Kleine Laden (*The small shop*), a compact space with a generous window facade located in the centre of Katernberg, will be transformed into an exhibition space in 2025. Two consecutive thematic exhibitions address global issues and their significance for the neighbourhood, its residents and the Ruhr Valley. The theme for 2025 is »Water«.

With this call for entries, we are seeking artistic contributions for both exhibitions simultaneously. In particular, regional artists from the Ruhr region and North Rhine-Westphalia working on the theme of »Water« are invited to present existing works in Der Kleine Laden.

Multisensory approach

We are particularly interested in works that utilise different media, such as sound, language, light, scents, objects and video in order to make the experience tangible in various sensory ways, thus facilitating a multi-layered perception.

Presentation and supporting programme:

The exhibitions in the space Der Kleine Laden must be designed in such a way that the works can be seen and experienced from the outside. The doors of the space will be opened at specific intervals to allow visitors and local inhabitants an intimate experience of the works. However, the storefront window remains the central display area.

The exhibition will be complemented by a supporting programme featuring various formats, including performances and readings at PACT Zollverein as well as workshops in the WerkStadt and open formats in the urban vicinity, such as thematic walks offering unique experiences and showcasing unusual practices.

Application procedure

- Submissions may include a variety of media, including:

Fine arts – painting, drawing, sculpture, graphic reproduction

Photography & film – analogue/digital photography, video art & cinematography,

Digital & interactive media – VR, AR, AI art, multimedia installations,

Site-specific art & installations – sculptures, interactive works, light & sound art, performative works that leave visible traces in the surrounding space and critical cartography.

- The application must include the following documents:
 - A concept or description of the work, including motivation statement if applicable (max. 2,500 characters)
 - Images of the submitted work and, if applicable, links to further work samples
 - Information relating to technical requirements (tech rider)
 - Information regarding any requirements necessary to barrier-free work in »Der Kleine Laden«, as applicable
- **The application deadline is 4. May 2025.**
- The final selection will be made by a heterogeneous jury, some of whom are drawn from the Katernberg neighbourhood. The jury will select the works based on their thematic relevance and artistic quality.

Conditions

- Fee per exhibition of 1,000 EUR (gross)
- Material costs of up to 500 EUR
- Part-time working space in the WerkStadt in Essen-Katernberg (by arrangement)
- Networking opportunities via WerkStadt contacts and collaborations
- Technical support during set-up
- Accommodation and travelling expenses are not covered
- Transportation expenses are not covered

Exhibition space

- The absence of regular opening hours means that the submitted works should be visible from outside the space.
- The exhibition space is approx. 30 square metres in size (dimensions: length approx. 7.40 m, width approx. 3.50 m, height approx. 2.40 m)
- Power up to 7,000 watts
- No water connection and no toilet in the exhibition space (access to the toilet in the »Kon-Takt« community centre during the day and in the WerkStadt with your own key around the clock).

- Accessibility: The exhibition space and community centre are accessible to wheelchair users. The WerkStadt is also accessible via a ramp with a width of 90 cm. There is a barrier-free car park in front of the WerkStadt.

The toilet in the WerkStadt is not accessible to wheelchair users. There is an accessible toilet in the »Kon-Takt« community centre, which can be used during the centre's opening hours. The community centre can be reached on foot in 1 minute, the WerkStadt in 5 minutes.

Schedule:

We would like to kindly inform you that the presence of the artists is required on the following dates.

Unveiling of the artistic installations on »Neighbours' Day«, an event involving local inhabitants, incl. a Q&A session	30.05.2025
Set-up: »Water #1«	31.05.2025 - 21.06.2025
Opening: »Water #1«	27.06.2025
Dismantling: »Water #1«	24.08.2025
Set-up: »Water #2«	25.08.2025- 19.09.2025
Opening »Water #2«	20.09.2025
Visit from the Alliance of International Production Houses (public event featuring a short, guided tour of the exhibition)	25.09.2025
Conclusion and dismantling: »Water #2«	23.11.2025

We look forward to the submission of creative contributions which address contemporary issues and present these for reflection and discussion in an urban context. Particular emphasis will be placed on the perspectives and expertise of people who are often disregarded, made invisible or not taken seriously.

We warmly invite artists with disabilities to apply in a tandem constellation with an assistant who is familiar with the aesthetics of accessibility. We provide an additional budget of 500 EUR per exhibition for this form of assistance.

In case of any questions, please email mina.mahmoudian@pact-zollverein.de

Applications may only be made only online using [this form](#).