



Die Alte Nationalgalerie [Old National Gallery]

The idea to create a “sanctuary for art and science” in the heart of Berlin between palace, cathedral and university dates back to Friedrich Wilhelm IV. The core architectural thinking behind today’s Alte Nationalgalerie – a raised-base temple design, reminiscent of classical antiquity – likewise stems from the King. Formal plans were drawn up by a student of Schinkel’s, Friedrich August Stüler, who had already designed the Neues Museum [New Museum]. Johann Heinrich Strack, another Schinkel student, completed the museum after Stüler’s death.

On 22nd March 1876, the birthday of Kaiser Wilhelm I, the Nationalgalerie was officially opened, the third museum to be sited on the island on the river Spree. After the Second World War the building was swiftly restored and by 1949 partially opened to the public. In 1998 HG Merz architects set about reconstructing the building and modernising the technology. The Alte Nationalgalerie reopened on 2nd December 2001.

The collection

The Nationalgalerie contains an international collection of art covering the period from 1800 to the present day. It is one of the major collections of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin [National Museums in Berlin], with works located at a number of addresses across the city. The Alte Nationalgalerie is a window on the art of the 19th century, with pieces by masters such as Caspar David Friedrich or Max Liebermann. The collection ranges from early Neo-Classical and Romantic works to the Impressionist school and includes pieces such as “In the Conservatory” by Edouard Manet and “Summer” by Claude Monet.

The museum also holds the largest collection of paintings by Adolph Menzel in existence. The Neue Nationalgalerie [New National Gallery] presents the art of the 20th century and is currently closed for refurbishment. Parts of the collection are now on display at other locations. The Nationalgalerie also encompasses the Museum Berggruen, the Sammlung Scharf-Gerstenberg [Scharf-Gerstenberg Collection] and the Hamburger Bahnhof - Museum für Gegenwart - Berlin [Hamburger Bahnhof - Museum for Contemporary Art - Berlin].



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Alte Nationalgalerie

Staatliche Museen zu Berlin
Museumsinsel Berlin
Visitor’s entrance: Bodestraße
10178 Berlin

Tuesday – Sunday 10am – 6pm
Thursday – 8pm, Monday closed
Ticket price includes audioguides in
several languages

No queuing for admission to any museums
and exhibitions. Tickets available from
www.smb.museum/tickets

Information, assistance, reservations

Monday – Friday 9 – 4pm
Tel. 030 – 266 42 42 42
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Events

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Subject to alterations

