

Urbane Künste Ruhr

May 5 until June 25, 2023

Experience the Ruhr region through contemporary art

The *Ruhr Ding: Sleep* is a special way to explore the former mining region

The *Ruhr Ding: Sleep* is the focus of this year's Urbane Künste Ruhr program. From **May 5 to June 25, 2023**, the extensive exhibition project in public space includes 22 works by 19 artists. It also marks the end of a trilogy with which Urbane Künste Ruhr is traveling through the Ruhr region under the artistic direction of Britta Peters. After *Ruhr Ding: Territories* (2019) and *Ruhr Ding: Climate* (2021), the third *Ruhr Ding* shows site-specific new productions in the cities of **Mülheim an der Ruhr, Essen, Witten and Gelsenkirchen-Erle**. From questions about the environment and surroundings, it shifts the focus to the human body and its need for sleep, and uses the means of art to reflect on the question of how we want to live.

In the south of the Ruhr region, the first collieries closed as early as the 1960s. Even then, talk of the region as a future sleeping area was already circulating in this context. The question of how the transformation of the working world from industrial work to post-industrial forms of work affects our dreams, our sleep and our bodies can be excellently explored in the smaller towns located along the meandering river Ruhr.

The topic of sleep is particularly suitable because it not only affects all people, animals, and plants all over the world, but also combines several approaches: it encompasses dreams and nightmares, night work and club culture, intimacy and scientific measurement, control and loss of control, under which both psychological and political dimensions can be subsumed. The eight-hour sleep rhythm as we know it first came into being with industrialization and is now increasingly being called into question by more flexible working hours and locations.

The *Ruhr Thing: Sleep* is curated as a multi-voiced dialogue in which different artistic positions find each other: They complement and contradict each other, some involve their audiences. Some projects are loud and impossible to miss, but alongside them quieter voices and more subtle interventions assert themselves. Whether film, sculpture, painting, language, text, music, or sound, whether installations, workshops, or performances - they all have one thing in common: they were each created for concrete places and contexts in the Ruhr region and make the cities and landscapes of this unique area experienceable in a special way.

You can find detailed texts on the individual projects and events, a **comprehensive press kit** and printable images for download in the [press section of our website](#). Or simply ask us!

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