



FACTS AND FIGURES

Hier taekern

Haus der Kunst is a key global center for contemporary art. Through its programs, Haus der Kunst affirms and acknowledges that the trajectories of contemporary art are unbounded by cartographic, conceptual, and cultural limits.

For more than 75 years, Haus der Kunst has undergone historic transformations. Built as the "House of German Art" [Haus der Deutschen Kunst] it was erected between 1933 and 1937 according to the plans of Adolf Hitler's favorite architect, Paul Ludwig Troost. The neoclassical building was a symbol for the Nazi art policy. After its opening on July 18, 1937, the building served to demonstrate National Socialist cultural politics. Mounted annually, the "Great German Art Exhibitions" [Große Deutsche Kunstausstellungen] were considered the most important exhibitions of "German" art.

At the same time as the first "Great German Art Exhibition", the defamatory exhibition "Degenerate Art" [Entartete Kunst] opened on July 19, 1937 in the gallery building in the nearby Hofgarten park in Munich. Here, modernist works that had been confiscated from public collections were presented in a vilifying manner. Artists, who were defamed as "degenerate", were forbidden to exhibit their work. They were forced to escape or go into inward exile.

In the postwar period, the American military government used the nearly undamaged "House of German Art" as an officers' club. Art exhibitions took place as early as 1946. As was the case with the majority of the cultural institutions in Germany, here, too, the museum made a commitment to connect to international modernist art movements. Renamed "Haus der Kunst", the building became an important venue for exhibiting avant-garde works and thus a counterbalance to its defamatory stance during the Third Reich. Among the most important exhibitions of this time was the Picasso retrospective (1955), in which "Guernica", an icon of anti-fascist modern art, was on view for the first time in Germany.

Hier taekern

Haus der Kunst's Archive Gallery is a pilot project focused on examining and mediating the historical dimension of the present. It is the visible memory of the turbulent history and the complex historical process that has made Haus der Kunst what it is today. Discuss the following questions and issues with your classmates and teachers!

Archive Gallery
01



**FOR
DISCUSSION**

**Photo:
Wilfried Petzi**



1

The "House of German Art" was the first Nazi propaganda building. Look at the historic photos in the timeline and the picture of the model on the wall. What architectural antecedents does the building bring to mind?

[Dotted-line response box]



How does the neoclassical architecture of the "House of German Art" fit into the international context of architectural history?

[Dotted-line response box]

Representational structures were an important form of propaganda for the Nazi regime. How and why was / is architecture used to make ideological statements and to convey political messages?



[Dotted-line response box]

**FOR
DISCUSSION**

**Archive Gallery,
Installation view,
Photo:
Wilfried Petzi**

2



?

In the Archive Gallery you also find furniture and lamps that were especially designed for the "House of German Art". Pick one object and describe it. For which room was it designed? Read the information about this on the large board. To what extent was the furniture a representation of the Nazi state?



Empty dotted-line box for writing the answer to the first question.

Describe characteristics that were important for the use of the "House of German Art" as an instrument of Nazi propaganda. What effect did the building and its interior probably have on visitors at the time? How does the building affect you today?

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Empty dotted-line box for writing the answer to the second question.

FOR
DISCUSSION

Photo:
Zentralinstitut
für
Kunstgeschichte,
Munich



3

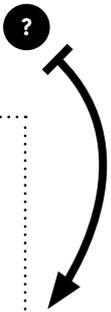


Through the "Great German Art Exhibitions", the "House of German Art" became the most important institution of Nazi art policy. Find out more about these events using the timeline and the film and photo documents.
How were the shows staged? What were the goals associated with them? Describe the works that you see in the photographs and film. What messages did they convey?

A large rectangular area enclosed by a dotted line, intended for a student's response to the first question.

Archive Gallery
04

Art was put at the service of the Nazi regime. What consequences did this have on the culture, artists and society of the time?



A large rectangular area enclosed by a dotted line, intended for a student's response to the second question.

FOR
DISCUSSION

Exhibition
„Degenerate Art“,
Munich 1937
Photo:
Haus der Kunst,
Historical Archive



4

[Empty dotted-line box for student response]



Do you know the name of any artists who had to flee Nazi Germany? What distinguishes their works from those that were exhibited in the "House of German Art"? Why did they come to embody the concept of an enemy of the Nazi state?

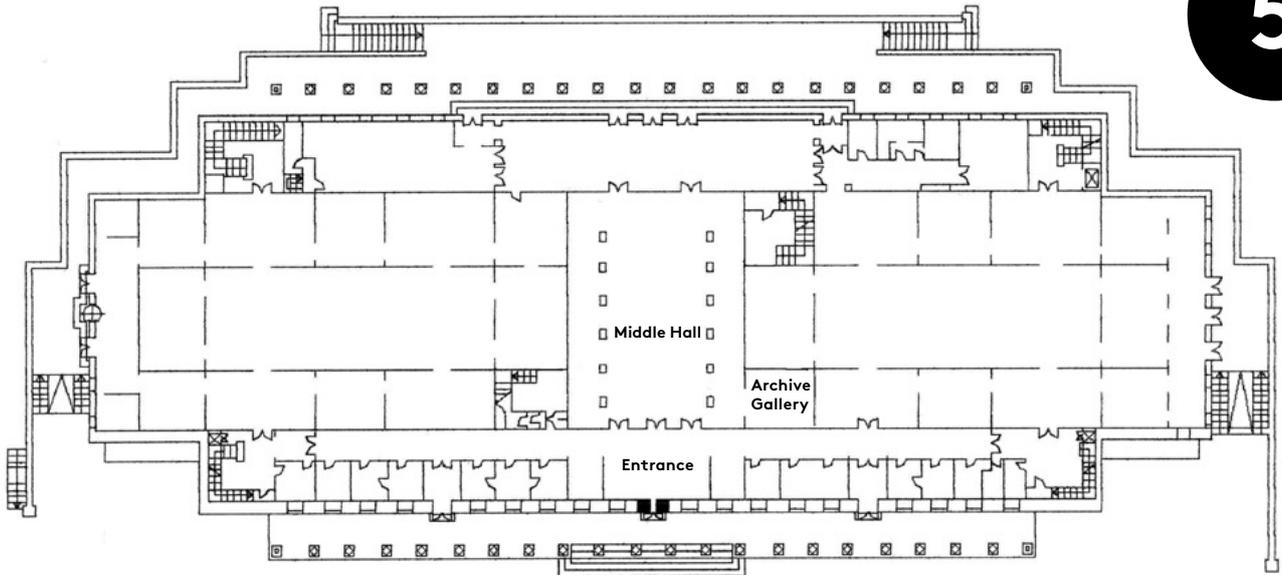
[Empty dotted-line box for student response]



What is the significance of art in totalitarian systems? Why are artists, who do not reflect or wish to comply with the prevailing concept of art, antagonized and persecuted? Discuss actual cases (e.g. Ai Weiwei in China).

FOR
DISCUSSION

5



The expansive "Hall of Honor" (now the Middle Hall) in the center of the building plays a special role in the history of Haus der Kunst. Find out which function this room had served in the past (important information is contained, for example, in the timeline)! What transformations has the Middle Hall experienced over the years?

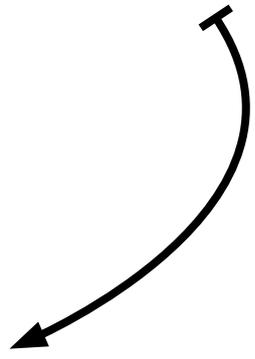
Large empty rectangular area with a dotted border, intended for a student's response to the first question.

Archive Gallery
06

Large empty rectangular area with a dotted border, intended for a student's response to the second question.



What reasons were decisive for such changes?



FOR
DISCUSSION

Archive Gallery,
Installation view,
Photo:
Wilfried Petzi

6



Look at the timeline and the exhibited posters to learn about Haus der Kunst's exhibition history since 1945. Which artists and art movements are represented? With which artists and art movements are you familiar? How has the exhibition program changed over the years?

Empty dotted-line box for student response to the first question.

Archive Gallery
07



Find out about the current Haus der Kunst program. What topics do contemporary artists explore?

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Why do you think it is important to engage with contemporary art?





USEFUL LINKS:

Important dates and exhibitions in the history of Haus der Kunst:
www.hausderkunst.de/en/research

Booklet of the exhibition "Histories in Conflict: Haus der Kunst and the Ideological Uses of Art 1937-1955", which explores the first 18 years of Haus der Kunst's history:
<http://bit.ly/1erpN9d>

Lecture by Prof. Harald Bodenschatz, Center for Metropolitan Studies, TU Berlin: "Urban Design, Architecture, and Representation of European Dictatorships in the 1930s and 1940s". Haus der Kunst, July, 6, 2012:
<http://bit.ly/1krjlli>

Image database and research platform dedicated to "Große Deutsche Kunstausstellungen" [Great German Art Exhibitions] and Nazi art:
www.hausderkunst.de/en/research/history/gdk-research

A Teacher's Guide to "Degenerate Art", produced by the Florida Center for Instructional Technology, College of Education, University of South Florida:
<http://fcit.usf.edu/holocaust/arts/artdegen.htm>

Panel Discussion: On the occasion of Ai Weiwei. Art, Dissidence and Resistance. Haus der Kunst, July, 27, 2011:
<http://bit.ly/1krjPx4>

"What is Modern Art?" - the Museum of Modern Art's free online resources for teachers and students:
www.moma.org/learn/moma_learning

Information on Mel Bochner's "The Joys of Yiddish":
<http://bit.ly/1erpTh5>

The exhibition on the website of Haus der Kunst:
www.hausderkunst.de/en/agenda/detail/archiv-galerie

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www.hausderkunst.de/en/learn/school-groups