Presseinformation
Museum am Rothenbaum
Rothenbaumchaussee 64 | 20148 Hamburg Germany | markk-hamburg.de

Be right back…
An Exhibition on the Future of the MARKK



Exhibition Dates: 15 January - 27 June 2027
Press Date: 14 January 2027 | 11 am

On 27 June 2027, the MARKK will close its doors for several years. Its listed historic building on Rothenbaumchaussee will undergo extensive renovation and modernisation, while a new permanent exhibition takes shape. Before the closure, “We’ll be right back…” invites visitors to encounter selected objects one last time and offers a first glimpse of the museum’s future. Part ideas lab, part farewell celebration and part look ahead, the exhibition and its accompanying programme create space for memories, spark curiosity about what lies ahead and explore the MARKK’s role in the life of the city, past, present and future. The exhibition also examines how museums of world cultures are rethinking the presentation of their collections in a changing society, the challenges they face and how they might engage future audiences.

The New Museum: Visions from 1912 to Today

In January 2025, the architecture firms Lina Ghotmeh — Architecture (Paris) and BIWERMAU Architekten BDA were commissioned to design the museum’s renovation and modernisation. The exhibition presents their plans and visualisations for the new MARKK, which will extend and reimagine Albert Erbe’s original 1912 building for contemporary use. Video interviews with the architects and the museum’s vision for its new home are presented alongside Erbe’s historical architectural plans and quotations from Georg Thilenius, the museum’s director at the time. Together, they create a dialogue between visions of the museum spanning more than 110 years.

Weitere Medieninformationen und Bildmaterial:
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MARKK
MUSEUM AM ROTHENBAUM
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17 Chapters: A Behind-the-Scenes Look at the New Permanent Exhibition

The new permanent exhibition aims to bring the MARKK's collections from around the world into sharper focus, situating them in global contexts, past and present, while also exploring their connections to Hamburg's history. Among other things, it reveals how closely the collections are intertwined with global trade and colonial history. Across 17 chapters, the exhibition will trace how objects entered the museum's collection, highlight the craftsmanship behind them and connect them to contemporary issues. Each chapter is represented by two to four objects, accompanied by questions the curatorial teams are exploring in relation to them. Together, they offer insight into the ongoing development of the new permanent exhibition. A section dedicated to the museum's role in the 21st century also invites visitors to have their say. At an interactive voting station, for example, they can share their hopes for the museum's future.

The World in Hamburg's Pocket: An Installation by The Ironing Board

Things take a playful turn in an interactive, walk-through installation by the Spanish-Dutch social design duo *The Ironing Board*, combining humor with provocative storytelling. Here, visitors step into the shoes of museum staff: They catalogue an item from their own bag according to museum guidelines, design a poster and invent new rules of conduct that are announced over the loudspeakers in the exhibition hall. Contradictory instructions, unexpected signals and absurd guidelines, all delivered with a touch of self-irony, reveal the decisions and negotiations behind the seemingly orderly workings of a museum. Along the way, an archive of "MARKK Visitors in 2027" gradually emerges.

Accompanying Programme: Saying Goodbye, Debating the Future

On Thursdays, when admission is free from 4 pm, and on weekends, performers cast specifically for the installation bring it to life using a script developed by *The Ironing Board*. Guided tours of unusual spaces, including the museum's old bunker complex, workshops bringing different generations together to share memories, and a high-profile discussion series featuring representatives from museums undergoing transformation invite visitors to rediscover the MARKK one last time before it closes.

The exhibition is sponsored by the Department of Culture and Media of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg and the Mara und Holger Cassens Foundation.

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15.01.2027-27.06.2027
We´ll Be Right Back… | 15.01.2027 - 27.06.2027 | MARKK

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