

Press Release

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Bauhaus, Romanticism, and a New Museum

Weimar. Three major exhibitions will be opened this year: the first is the permanent exhibition of the new Museum of Forced Labor created by the Buchenwald Memorial. It will be deliberately opened on the same day as the Klassik-Stiftung exhibition "Bauhaus and National Socialism", on May 8, 2024. Finally, Weimar will conclude the Caspar David Friedrich Year with its own exhibition on Romanticism and the painter. For the first time, the importance of Goethe for Friedrich's career will be explained.

The Museum of Forced Labor will illustrate the history of forced labor under National Socialism. From 8 May 2024, the exhibition will be on display in the former Gauforum, just a few steps away from the Bauhaus Museum. The Buchenwald Memorial Foundation has created a new memorial to the crimes of National Socialism in a legacy of the Third Reich. The new museum covers 2,000 square meters of exhibition space and deals with the history of Nazi forced labor in Germany and the occupied countries of Europe. From 1933 to 1945, millions of forced laborers were deported and exploited. The pan-European dimensions of Nazi forced labor are documented in over 60 documentary and photographic case histories.

The exhibition "Bauhaus and National Socialism" presents the political history of the institution, persecution, and adaptation as well as exemplary lives during the Nazi dictatorship. It will be located in three museums of the Klassik Stiftung Weimar and includes about 450 exhibits. The latest research findings draw a more differentiated picture of the Bauhaus students, who were previously primarily regarded as progressive. The first major exhibition in this context recounts the life-changing paths and juxtaposes works of art from different creative periods, uncovering some contradictions and exposing misrepresentations.

Today, Caspar David Friedrich is considered one of the most important German Romantic artists. It is less known that his career began in Weimar and that he was closely associated with Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. The museums of the Klassik Stiftung Weimar hold an important collection of paintings, drawings and prints by the Romantic artist. These are presented in the exhibition "Caspar David Friedrich, Goethe and Romanticism in Weimar", which focuses on the connection between the two artists. This is a rare chance to see Friedrich's drawings, which, for conservation reasons, will have to be returned to dark storage after the exhibition.

Dates:

- May 8, 2024: Opening of the Museum of Forced Labor under National Socialism in the former Gauforum
- May 8 to September 15, 2024: "Bauhaus and National Socialism" at the Bauhaus Museum Weimar, Museum Neues Weimar and Schiller Museum
- November 22, 2024 to March 2, 2025: "Caspar David Friedrich, Goethe and Romanticism in Weimar" at the Schiller Museum

[all exhibitions](#)

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