

A classical painting depicting a hand holding a bunch of red cherries. The hand is rendered with soft, realistic shading, and the cherries are vibrant red with dark stems. The background is dark, making the hand and fruit stand out.

ANNUAL PROGRAM
2025

DRAIFLESSEN COLLECTION



Dear visitors,

In 2025, our various projects will operate under the umbrella of the annual motto “The Missing Link.” This term, which originally comes from the theory of evolution and describes the missing links in the development of life, stands in 2025 as an inspiration for very different perspectives and approaches to art and society and their possible connections.

The exhibitions deal with gaps, interstices, and transitions, asking questions about what we are missing, what connects us, and what we have perhaps forgotten or not yet discovered.

Each exhibition attempts to discover such connections and links in its own unique way: *Rooted and Branched* focuses on the connection between the individual, the human being, and the whole (with nature). *A Garden of Flowers*, in turn, builds a centuries-old bridge by examining the historical and contemporary artistic view of the same subject. *Beneath the Surface: The Secrets of Panel Paintings* uncovers hidden aspects and connects them with the seemingly obvious. While *Magical Women* tells of traditional and outdated perspectives, the exhibitions *The Devil: Myth, Power, Mystery* and *Putting Down Roots: C&A in Sneek* close the gap to what was likely previously unknown.

But in all of this, open questions may remain—for we are not primarily concerned with the answers, but also with the search and with the act of searching itself.

We look forward to a new exhibition year with you!

Warmly, Corinna Otto

MAIN SPACE | until February 16, 2025

LANGUAGE/TEXT/IMAGE

The exhibition focuses on the central role of language, text, and image, which are essential means of expression for human communication and the creation of meaning. In their sound- and text-based, photographic, printmaking, filmic, or textile works, thirteen selected artists from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries examine the relationship between language, text, and image and the related possibilities for making something sayable, visible, and audible. They question the human need to be heard and seen, and highlight how this is conveyed through language, text, and image. In doing so, these artists also reveal mechanisms of inclusion and exclusion, and offer scope for appropriation and the transfer of meaning.

IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD

ON THE POWER OF COMMUNICATION

Two well-known Bible stories from the Old and New Testaments show how important it is to be able to understand each other, at best to speak a common language, and how dire it is if people do not (or no longer) understand each other at all. The Tower of Babel, for example, tells of the linguistic confusion imposed by God on mankind, which led to insurmountable communication difficulties, while the miracle of Pentecost tells of all-encompassing mutual understanding. However, this immense power of language is also demonstrated by the translation of the Bible into the vernacular languages, which unleashed unforeseen forces that continue to have an effect today. The showcase exhibition uses exemplary objects to explore the tension between language and speechlessness, between understanding and misunderstanding.

STUDY ROOM | until May 4, 2025

CUNDA, KNÖS & KNASPELHUTSCHE

IN SEARCH OF COMPANY VOCABULARY

The Tüötten, itinerant traders from Germany's northern Münsterland region, developed a secret language which, at its height in the eighteenth century, was mainly used to keep business secrets while traveling. For Clemens and August Brenninkmeijer, the founders of C&A, secrecy was also relevant, especially for sales figures. It was not just at C&A that a simple encryption technique was established for this purpose, to which only several managers were privy. Shaped by shared experiences in training, a special identity developed among the employees, which in turn found expression in individual language terms. In search of C&A's corporate vocabulary, the exhibition traces the functions of secret language communication.

ROOTED AND BRANCHED

Roots anchor trees and supply them with nutrients. We humans are also deeply rooted in our social, cultural, and ecological environments. Root systems function like underground communication networks that collect, process, and pass on information about their surroundings. Above ground, tree crowns form complex structures that bear witness to dynamic growth and networking processes. Both concepts can be understood as metaphors for human networks of relationships. The exhibition shows artistic positions that visualize the diverse networks in our world. Inspired by plant structures, the works depict connections between social, ecological, and cultural phenomena and explore the "missing link" between humans and nature.

STUDY ROOM | May 21 to November 02, 2025

A GARDEN OF FLOWERS

LILLA TABASSO & CRISPIJN DE PASSE THE YOUNGER

We have invited the Milanese glass artist Lilla Tabasso (b. 1973) to approach the important botanical work *Hortus Floridus* by the Dutch engraver Crispijn de Passe the Younger (1594/95-1670) and translate it into her personal artistic language. She takes his detailed and finely elaborated depictions of plants as a starting point and transforms the black-and-white copperplate engravings into sensual, three-dimensional, and surprisingly hyperrealistic glass sculptures made of Murano glass. The showcase exhibition in the Study Room thus presents a cross-epochal dialogue between two artistic positions, each of which offers an extraordinary view of the floral beauties and builds a bridge between past and present.

BENEATH THE SURFACE

THE SECRETS OF PANEL PAINTINGS

Centuries-old paintings are full of secrets: the depictions make use of symbolism that we no longer readily understand today and must first decipher. The genesis

of the works and the original purpose for which they were created are often a mystery. The materials and painting technique, on the other hand, can tell us a lot about the time of origin and the artist. As most of these old panel paintings have been restored, the question also arises as to which painted areas are still original or what may have been added later. In the exhibition we will collaborate with the conservator Ludmila Henseler to get to the bottom of the secrets of two panel paintings from our collection: Joos van Cleve's *The Madonna of the Cherries* (ca. 1530) and *The Holy Family with Angels* (ca. 1510), the latter presumably by the so-called Master of the Portraits of Princes.

DAS Forum | May 21 to November 02, 2025

MAIN SPACE | October 26, 2025, to February 22, 2026

MAGICAL WOMEN

The concept of the magical is closely linked to the image of the feminine: the fascination with figures such as witches, seers, or high priestesses can be found in the most diverse cultural circles. It has shaped ideas for thousands of years and simultaneously evokes both positive and negative associations—from the persecution of witches to the spiritualism movement of the nineteenth century, to current trends that return to nature mythologies or occultism. The exhibition explores the question of how primarily women artists deal with the image of the feminine, making use of various aspects of the magical in order to question and reinterpret clichés such as the femme fatale or the malicious witch—and to write their own stories.

THE DEVIL

MYTH, POWER, MYSTERY

No other figure has caused as much horror and fascination in Christianity as the devil. For centuries, believers feared that he and his demons, as God's adversaries, would try to bring disorder into the world at any time and tempt the faithful. These temptations of the devil have spawned a multitude of stories in Christianity, which have nourished one thing above all else in people: the fear of eternal torment in hell. Similarly, the most imaginative depictions of the devil, his servants, and hell have developed over the centuries. The exhibition sheds light on the changes and diversity of the image of the devil through the ages and takes a look at the significance of the devil and hell for Christianity.

STUDY ROOM | November 26, 2025, to April 2026

PUTTING DOWN ROOTS

C&A IN SNEEK

There is something mystical about founding sites. Even today, for example, a small half-timbered house, which is considered the “parent company” of the steel group founded by Friedrich Krupp in 1811, stands almost like a foreign object on the grounds of the company headquarters in Essen. The garage in California where Steve Jobs and his partner Steve Wozniak soldered together the first Apple computer is now a monument. Companies need historical anchor points. Sometimes, however, they fall into oblivion—as is the case with C&A. The exhibition uses photos, memoirs, account books, and administrative documents to trace the place where the brothers Clemens and August founded their company in 1841, from which the Brenninkmeijer family’s now internationally active group of companies emerged.

TOURS AND ART EDUCATION

In addition to public and private tours, we also offer creative formats as well as tours encouraging accessibility and inclusion—thereby furthering an individual approach to art, with a special focus on children and youth through programs like MuseumFun during the holidays. Our varied program is likewise enriched by workshops, excursions, lectures, and podium discussions for adults and families.

Further information is available at: www.draiflessen.com



CONCERT SERIES

PROGRAM 2025

The meetMUSIC by Draiflessen concert series has long since become a real highlight—and the name says it all: music becomes a connecting experience between artists and audience. Whether jazz, classical, or singer-songwriter—meetMUSIC has something for every taste in its program. Let yourself be enchanted by the special atmosphere at Draiflessen and the wonderful sounds of music.

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| February 13, 2025 | 7:30 p.m. Maik Krahl Quartet
Trumpet with virtuosity and creativity—an exceptional talent in German jazz |
| February 19, 2025 | 7:30 p.m. Barbican Quartet
A new voice on the international chamber music scene: intimate, powerful, and virtuoso |
| March 19, 2025 | 7:30 p.m. Jazz-Trio Renner
Modern jazz with dense sounds and fine ballads—two brothers and a kindred spirit use unusual techniques for unusual effects |
| April 21, 2025 | 7:30 p.m. Easter Monday Concert in St. Agatha's Parish Church, Mettingen: Friedemann Wuttke
Masterful solo guitar playing with works by French, Spanish, and Brazilian composers |
| August 14–16, 2025 | Save the Date: meetMUSIC Open Air Festival in the Park |
| October 9, 2025 | 7:30 p.m. Elsa Johanna Mohr with the LUAH Trio
Afro-Brazilian rhythms and songs about the variety of moods between cheerful <i>celebração</i> and longing <i>saudade</i> |
| December 07, 2025 | 5:00 p.m. The Twiolins: Join-in Concert for Children
A story about friendship, courage and the power of music |

Information and tickets at: www.meetmusic.de



Draiflessen Collection | Georgstraße 18 | 49497 Mettingen | +49 5452 9168-3500
info@draiflessen.com | www.draiflessen.com |   @draiflessencollection

Opening Hours

Wednesday to Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. | Every first Thursday of the month,
11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

More details on our events program: www.draiflessen.com

Illustrations: Joos van Cleve, *The Madonna of the Cherries*, ca. 1530 (details)

© Draiflessen Collection, Mettingen, photo: Henning Rogge