

Press release | January 2026

SCULPTURAL The New Galleries

24 April 2026 to 11 April 2027

Press conference: Thursday, 23 April 2026, 11 a.m.

Opening: Thursday, 23 April 2026, 7 p.m.

SCULPTURAL. The New Galleries is the first-ever large-scale presentation of the Hamburger Kunsthalle's sculpture collection, spanning multiple media and periods. Across an area of 1,500 square metres, over 500 sculptures, reliefs, paintings, works on paper and photographs as well as spatial and video installations from 2,500 years of art history will prompt some surprising comparisons – antiquity versus the present day, two versus three dimensions, miniature versus monumental. A special focus is the museum's recently uncovered trove of »sculptures en miniature«, as the first director, Alfred Lichtwark, called these tours de force of numismatic art in the form of coins, medals and sculptural reliefs in gold, silver and bronze. These new discoveries will be exhibited alongside masterpieces in multiple media, such as larger-than-life sculptures by Auguste Rodin and Aristide Maillol, while antique portraits enter into a dialogue with contemporary photography, and reliefs by Käthe Kollwitz with body casts from the 1960s and video works by Marina Abramović and others. The sculptural forms suggest associations between dimensions and times based on themes such as the settings for art and the emotions and facial expressions in portraits and masks. While the museum's collection has to date focused on a span of 800 years, here it will be extended by further eventful centuries. Loans of prime works from the Musée d'Orsay in Paris and European private collections will complement the selection from the permanent collection on display in the new sculpture galleries. These extend from the classical columned hall, an architecturally imposing symbol of an early engagement with antiquity, to the rotunda, where a large site-specific contemporary work has been commissioned to conclude the exhibition circuit.

The presentation developed out of the research project »From the second to the third dimension«, for which around 6,000 coins, medals and plaques are for the first time being reviewed, restored, digitised and researched in their respective contexts. The first objects will be published online in January 2026. The research and presentation are made possible by the Dorit & Alexander Otto Foundation, which is once again acting as a major sponsor. Other cooperation partners include the University of Hamburg, the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin and the Musée d'Orsay, Paris.

Curator and Director of the Collection and Research Project: Dr. Annabelle Görgen-Lammers | Assistant Curator, Project Coordinator and Research Assistant: Ann-Kathrin Hubrich | Research Assistant in Numismatics: Patrik Pohl | Production Manager and Project Assistant: Petra Bassen | Student Assistants: Tessa Scheunert and Dana Zacharias

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Fernand Khnopff (1858–1921)
A Mask (Un masque), ca. 1897
Painted plaster, 18.5 x 28 x 6.5 cm
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Photo: Christoph Irrgang

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