

OPEN CALL

BILDENDE &
DARSTELLENDEN
KUNST

08.11.2026

VISUAL &
PERFORMING
ARTS

ZEITZEUG_SETS OUT/ BREAKS OPEN

ZeitZeug_ is setting out for the next festival in 2027!

From **April 21 to 25, 2027**, we are inviting artists from the German-speaking region and beyond to show their works in Bochum. We are looking for your contributions: **plays, performances, exhibitions, interventions, installations, digital works and anything else you can think of.**

ZeitZeug_Festival sees itself as a connecting platform for young and emerging artists. Our goal is to support **artists on the cusp of a professional career.** In various independent venues and exhibitions spaces, they can present their work to a broad audience and connect with Bochum's independent cultural scene. The festival program offers a space to experiment, try out new formats, fail, and explore together.

We want to explicitly invite applications by People of Color, queer people and disabled people. Our goal is to make the festival as accessible and safe as possible for everyone. You can find further information about the festival, our work as well as impressions from the past years on **www.zeitzeug.net**.

_WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

This year's motto is **ZeitZeug_bricht auf: ZeitZeug_sets out/ZeitZeug_breaks open**. In German, it is an ambiguous expression that describes both the act of departure, of saying goodbye and setting out on a new path as well as breaking something (violently) open. We invite you to show works that engage with that ambiguity and complexity. You can imagine destinations that are worth setting out for, as well as those that one is forced to travel to. You can describe both the future and possible alternative futures artistically. At the same time, our festival motto provides a space to explore and demonstrate the breaking open of current structures that have often developed over a long period of time. We invite you to question the construction of our present and to turn the sometimes destructive process of breaking things open into something productive.

Submitted works can be personal and (auto)biographical in nature, or they may address broader social issues. We also welcome submissions that approach the topic through philosophical, historical, or scientific perspectives.

Further information on the application can be found on the next page as well as on our website!

_FACTS

The festival takes place from April 21 to 25, 2027 in Bochum.

To ensure a fruitful festival experience for everyone, we want to foster interdisciplinary exchange and networking among the artists. When applying, **please make sure you are able to participate on at least two of the five festival days.**

We would be delighted if you could stay in Bochum before and/or after your event.

For the duration of the festival we offer you an artist's fee and catering, as well as accommodation if necessary. We cover travel costs according to the Landesreisekostengesetz NRW. Please note that due to our limited financial means, we can only invite groups with up to four people to the festival.

However, if other people involved in the project want to travel to and stay in Bochum at their own expense, we happily invite them to the festival as well.

_APPLICATION

What we need from you:

Completed application form on **www.zeitzeug.net** with

- Detailed concept or project description
- Detailed technical rider and spatial requirements for the work
- If available, documentation material (photos, sound recordings, video recordings etc.)

Please submit your application by **November 8, 2026.**

Feel free to follow our updates on Instagram and our website. If you have any questions, please contact us at **festival@zeitzeug.net**

Zeitzeug_Festival n.e.V.
Ruhr-Universität Bochum
Universitätsstraße 150 GA 03 / 133
44801 Bochum

festival@zeitzeug.net
www.zeitzeug.net
Instagram: @zeitzeug_festival

