



# SPIRITS OF CULTURE

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<sup>\*</sup>In fine feather.



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## SEVEN IN ONE SWEEP

According to the Brothers Grimm, an old king blows three feathers in the air to determine his successor. His three sons are told to follow them and the most successful homecomer will inherit the kingdom. However, the feather belonging to the oft-mocked youngest son falls back down on the floor, much to the glee of the other two – prematurely, as it turns out, as happiness and riches were right on their doorstep.

Halle (Saale) is now presenting a total of seven feathers: cultural feathers that make the Handel city a cultural citadel

and will crown you as a cultural chief. Join us to enjoy a year-round celebration with plenty of highlights. Feel light as a feather, treat yourself to our cultural delights and let your spirit soar – past paintings by the impressionists at the Moritzburg Foundation, above the lively city centre campus of the Martin Luther University, to the impressive Sky Disk exhibition site.

Do you already have plans at the weekend or during your holiday? Our cultural feathers are flying to invite you to come and visit us. Make sure you catch them!

Under the slogan “only here”, seven institutions in Halle want to convey the feeling of our city to you; a city full of charm, art and design. You’ll walk in the footsteps of George Frideric Handel, explore the Baroque Cabinet of Curiosities at the Francke Foundations and secure yourself a top seat in the Kulturinsel.

Become a cultural chief – only here.

P.S. You can find a calendar of events and further information on the institutions at [www.nurbeiuns.de](http://www.nurbeiuns.de).

# BURG GIEBICHENSTEIN

## UNIVERSITY OF ART AND DESIGN, HALLE

The University of Art and Design in Halle offers artistically talented young people a wide range of artistic and theoretical courses and a place where they can explore and develop their abilities through an intellectual exchange and practical cooperation with university lecturers and fellow students. Today, over one thousand students from all over the world are enrolled at the university, which was founded in 1915. They complete their studies with bachelor and master degrees in design-related subjects, with the diploma for art-related subjects and with the first state exam for teaching courses.

Visionary thinking and designing beyond commercial motives is promoted to the same extent as developing practical, career-related abilities. In terms of art and design, scope for development is offered and individual, opinionated ways are promoted. With their ideas and works, their visions and positions, the students are expected to play a part in communal discourse as mature, in-

dependent individuals who are open to criticism. The framework for this is created by wide-ranging basic training in theoretical and practical aspects, optimally equipped laboratories and workshops, research and project plans – including involvement from institutions and companies – and interdisciplinary networks and discussions.

In the artistic disciplines, the university fulfils its research contract by the lecturing artists developing their own works and then passing on the knowledge they have gained during the conception and production process. In the design disciplines, the principles of design with regard to systems, processes and products are investigated. Issues of mobility, living and working, communication and intellectual exchanges as well as life-long learning are linked with those according to the sustainability of pluralist life plans.

The university regularly presents its projects at a global level at trade fairs, exhibitions and in publications. In Halle, the

university opens its doors to interested visitors with exhibitions, lectures, symposiums, fashion shows, celebrations and, at the end of each summer semester, the annual exhibition involving all of the departments. Lecturers and students invite everyone they've worked with over the previous year who have provided great support or from whom they hope to receive help in the future. And, of course, the doors are always open to anyone who's simply curious about the fresh ideas, objects and works of art created in the various subjects of design and art at the University of Art and Design in the state of Saxony-Anhalt. Each year, visitors can make surprising, exciting and provocative discoveries during a tour of the ateliers and workshops.



Press Office Burg Giebichenstein University of Art and Design, Halle / Nikolaus Brade







FRANCKESCHE  
STIFTUNGEN  
ZU HALLE

# FRANCKE FOUNDATIONS IN HALLE

The pietist theologian August Hermann Francke (1663–1727) founded an orphanage of castle-like proportions outside the gates of Halle in 1698. Far-sighted reforms, social commitment, scientific innovation and valuable collections resulted in the orphanage in Halle gaining a reputation that extended far beyond the borders of Europe. Today, the complete historic ensemble that constitutes the Francke Foundations, named after their founder, is a unique treasure in Germany's cultural history with Europe's only complete Baroque cabinet of curiosities and the rich inventory of the historic library.

In autumn 1990, the Friends of the Francke Foundations e.V. was established in Freylinghausen-Saal to prevent its degeneration. Buildings and collections were in a ruinous condition. The setting was steeped in history, yet it was located right in the middle of the partial de-

molition extending from the gym to the ballroom. The historic building complex of the Francke Foundations has since been renovated at great expense and effort; in line with the founding principle, a vibrant educational cosmos with a cultural, scientific, pedagogical and social duty has moved into the buildings in the historic educational city. At the heart of the site lies the timber-framed Lindenhof with the historic orphanage and library, which whisk you away into the world of the Baroque. The cabinet of artefacts and curiosities represents the macrocosm with over 3,000 natural wonders, artefacts and curiosities in 18 ornate collection cabinets. In the "Kulissenbibliothek", experiencing knowledge is given more structure. Bookshelves arranged like stage scenery open up your perspective and enable visitors to dive into a world of knowledge. Thanks to the renovation of the Francke residence, the idea of the foundation can

now also be experienced in the varied talents of August Hermann Francke. Whether building owner, diplomat, theologian or communicator, the varied talents of the founder form the starting point for a network which virtually no other comparable institution in Germany can offer. In collaboration with over 40 partner institutions on the Francke Foundations site, there is further social stimulus created in the fields of culture, science, education and social affairs today. The historic educational city is now among the cultural beacons of the former East Germany and is listed among the German nominations to become a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



A glimpse into the cabinet of artefacts and curiosities at the Francke Foundations, Photo Ingo Gottlieb







# THE SKY DISK

## STATE MUSEUM OF PREHISTORY, HALLE

The State Museum of Prehistory is among the most important archaeological museums in Central Europe. The extensive collection with far in excess of ten million finds contains countless items of pan-European distinction, some of which have gained international recognition, such as the famous “Nebra Sky Disk”, which forms the centrepiece of the brand new permanent exhibition.

In the well-lit halls, archaeologists have recreated scenes from the everyday life of the first inhabitants of this part of Germany, which provide a diverse and interesting voyage of discovery into the roots of the European history of humanity. Outstanding stagings create a realistic image of life during the Stone and Bronze Ages – with wild cave lions and imposing mammoths, pensive Neanderthals, Ice Age hunting grounds, shamans, death chambers, gold-filled chieftains’ graves and, of course, the

“Nebra Sky Disk” (1600 B.C.), humanity’s oldest concrete representation of the sky. Thanks to the fascinating history of the discovery, which is reminiscent of a crime thriller, its secretive astronomical and mythological symbolism, its timeless aesthetics and the glimmer of gold, it’s virtually impossible for beholders to escape the fascination of this archaeological find of the century. However, items that at first glance appear unimportant sometimes contain hidden treasures, too: a small piece of birch pitch shows the only verifiable fingerprint of a Neanderthal to date – it was hidden in the ground for 80,000 years until the lignite miners and archaeologists brought the find back into the daylight.

Alongside the permanent exhibition, the state museum also regularly presents large special exhibitions. For example, in 2010 it’s all about a long-gone primeval world. Under the title

“Elephant Kingdom – a Fossil World in Europe”, 200,000-year-old relics from a discovery site not far from Halle are displayed, the highlight of which is the remains of 70 prehistoric Eurasian elephants. These giants towered above the height of modern elephants. Together with the well-preserved remains of rhinoceroses, lions and other exotic animals, they reveal a positively Mediterranean ecosystem, which existed during a warm period in the Ice Age in the heart of Europe.

With a diverse accompanying programme including classic tours, special promotions, series of lectures and informative museum events, there is something for people of all ages, old and young, to quench their thirst for knowledge.



Skeleton and reconstruction of a Palaeolithic forest elephant killed by prehistoric man (approx. 125,000 years), Nebra Sky Disc; Photos: State Office for Heritage Management and Archaeology Saxony-Anhalt, Juraj Lipták







# I WANT TO KNOW!

## MARTIN LUTHER UNIVERSITY HALLE-WITTENBERG

The Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU) is one of Germany's oldest universities and, with more than 18,000 students, nine faculties and over 180 courses and programmes on offer, also the largest educational establishment in Saxony-Anhalt. The university has stood for excellent research and teaching for over 500 years. Martin Luther, Christian Thomasius and Christian Wolff are just a few of the famous people who have taught at MLU and made their mark on the world.

Today, the university regularly takes the top spot in the rankings for educational science, pharmacy and medicine, among others. In terms of research, the university's focus also lies on biological science and nanoscience, Enlightenment research and Oriental studies.

Due to its long history, the university's buildings intermingle with the other buildings in the city. The centrally-located university square is one of the areas of the city most steeped in tradition and is also one of the most beautiful univer-

sity squares in Europe. The campus consists of the neo-classical main building, also called the Lion Building, the Thomasianum, the Melanchthonianum, the Juridicum, the Robertinum and the modern main lecture hall, connected via a large perron. The scientific departments are based at the Weinberg campus, the second largest science and technology park in the former East Germany.

MLU also has a considerable influence on cultural life in the city: UNI BIGBAND, the Academic Orchestra, the university choir and the chamber choir provide a wide range of musical events. Within the "aula konzerte halle" event, renowned, internationally-recognised musicians perform in MLU's Lion Building. The countless museums at the university – from the "Kupferstichkabinett" (Museum of Prints, Drawings and Photographs) to the "Geiseltalmuseum" – show alternating exhibitions on art, literature, history and science. With over five million items, MLU also possesses one of the largest scientific collections in Germany, which

is due to be brought together within the 'Natural History University Museum' project.

One year-round event highlight is the Long Night of the Sciences, which traditionally takes place in summer in cooperation with numerous research institutions. On this night, laboratories, institutes, museums, collections, clinics and libraries at MLU open their doors to all curious visitors. Exciting experiments, interesting tours and entertaining talks about everyday questions, extraordinary information and leading edge research are offered within the university's historic buildings and high-tech laboratories.

"I want to know how a zero works!" – Katrin Wüstefeld studies IT and is one of 19 student ambassadors at MLU, [www.ich-will-wissen.de](http://www.ich-will-wissen.de), Photo: konzeptundform, Halle





# HALLE-LUJAH!

## HANDEL HOUSE FOUNDATION



Halle has a rich musical heritage, the traces of which can still be seen today. However, no one has shaped the cultural life of the city more than the famous son and namesake of the 'Handel City' of Halle, George Frideric Handel (1685–1759), even after three centuries. The Handel House Foundation brings together numerous activities under one roof in order to maintain and investigate the musical heritage of the great Baroque composer in his city of birth. In "Große Nikolaistraße" in the centre of the Handel City of Halle, musicologists and Handel researchers devote themselves to this task in the music museum, Handel Festival, museum educational service, library/archive and restoration workshop departments.

As a music museum, Handel House has been providing information about the life and work of George Frideric Handel, an early European with roots in this

area of Germany, since 1948. During the Handel festival year in 2009, the newly-created permanent exhibition "HANDEL – the European" was opened in the house where he was born. In a space measuring 550 square metres, spread over two floors, a total of 14 rooms in the newly designed exhibition are devoted to the life and works of the famous Baroque composer. Around 160 historic exhibits, primarily original paintings, engravings and musical instruments, illustrate the exhibition and provide a vivid insight into Handel's way of life. When designing the exhibition, particular attention was paid on enabling visitors to experience George Frideric Handel and his music in a diverse way. For example, visitors become the opera audience in a miniature Baroque theatre while an animated George Frideric Handel relates eight of his more than 40 operatic productions on the harpsichord. What's more, alternating special exhibitions in the "treasure room" show valuable original documents, some of

which have never been on public display before. Historical exhibits from five centuries can be seen in the musical instrument exhibition, which is one of the most significant in this region of Germany. Concerts and events also take place regularly in the Handel House.

The Handel Festival has been delighting music lovers from all over the world in the birthplace of the great Baroque composer since 1922 with operatic performances, oratorio performances and concerts. Around 80 premier events and a unique atmosphere in delightfully atmospheric performance locations, including unique historic theatrical venues such as the "Marktkirche", the church where Handel was baptised, are what gives the festival its reputation – after all, this is the only Handel Festival in Germany to take place in authentic locations. These exceptional surroundings and international stars from the Baroque music scene attract ten thousand visitors to Halle each year – to a city in which Handel was not just born but where Handel is still lived to this day.

"Final concert with musical fireworks", Handel House Foundation, Photo: Jens Schlüter





# THE WINDOW ON THE CITY

## MORITZBURG FOUNDATION

The Moritzburg – built around the end of the 15th century – presents its treasures in the heart of the city, just a few minutes away from the marketplace.

The new extension has created one of the most important exhibition sites for modern art in the State Museum of Art of Saxony-Anhalt. The centrepieces are the institution's collection of paintings with excellent works by 'Die Brücke' artists and masterpieces such as those by Gustav Klimt, Emil Nolde, Franz Marc or Max Beckmann, and the Hermann Gerlinger collection on the art of the 'Die Brücke' painters, which is on permanent loan. The newly designed permanent exhibition enables a differentiated view of the art of the 20th century and the present, while not only focussing on exceptional individual pieces but also on the contexts, comparisons and confrontations, and shows both continuities and fractures in art since 1945 with reference to modern art. It also enables visitors to see how the concept of work changes and how traditional image concepts dissipate. The perception of contemporaries is intentionally covered broadly and the entire post-war development – with examples

of GDR art – is interpreted as a context of energy, which is still influential today.

With its spectacular combination of old and new, the modern architecture of the extension offers visitors a very special experience, since the Spanish architect Nieto Sobejano paid a great deal of respect to the historic Moritzburg in his work. Nieto Sobejano joined together the West Wing – large parts of which have been in ruins since the Thirty Years' War – and the North Wing of the castle with a plastically-deformed aluminium roof. On the upper floors of the new building, exhibition boxes hang in the steel framework of the roof construction. This creates an exciting dialogue between the historic and modern rooms in the museum of art.

The Bauhaus master Lyonel Feininger has a very special place in the Moritzburg. The former artist in residence and his series of Halle images are celebrated in a gallery in the West Wing of the extension building.

A "window on the city" offers a breath-taking view of the motifs of the artist who created these famous city views in the gate tower of the Moritzburg between 1929 and 1931 and who fell victim to the cultural barbarianism of "degenerate art". Three of what was once eleven Halle images and countless sketches now belong to the museum again: the "Dom zu Halle", the "Marienkirche mit dem Pfeil" and the "Rote Turm I". The latter work was considered lost for centuries and was acquired for the museum following its rediscovery in 2009. Art from the 19th century as well as forerunners and pioneers of modern art, such as the impressionists of the Berlin Secession, can be seen in the domed hall of the "Talamt" and in the battlement parapets, while medieval carved sculptures are on display in the gothic arches of the Moritzburg.

Inner courtyard of the Moritzburg, Photo: Ludwig Rauch, Berlin





# THE KULTURINSEL

## THEATRE, OPERA AND ORCHESTRA GMBH HALLE

5 stages, 5 areas, 5 worlds. They have been a GmbH since January 2009: the Opera House, Staatskapelle, Neues Theater, Puppet Theatre and Thalia Theatre. The HALLE OPERA HOUSE is one of the leading music stages in the state of Saxony-Anhalt. It offers a wide range of operas, operettas, musicals, ballets, original productions and productions for children and involving children.

The highlight of every season is the HANDEL FESTIVAL, during which numerous Handel operatic productions as well as original and debut performances of contemporary opera and musical theatre attract national interest. The "Der Ring des Nibelungen" and a Verdi cycle begin during the 2010/11 season. The STAATSKAPELLE HALLE presents the concert repertoire and the literature of opera and musical theatre, ranging from the Baroque to the present, to its wide audience and regularly gives guest

performances at home and abroad. The HÄNDELFESTSPIELORCHESTER (Handel Festival Orchestra) is unique in Germany and has been performing using historical instruments since 1993. The affiliation of these musicians with the Staatskapelle Halle, a concert and opera orchestra that plays on modern instruments, is exceptional within the German music scene.

The Neue Theater, the theatre of the city of Halle, offers a wide range of productions: classics such as 'Faust' and 'Macbeth', comedies such as 'The Importance of Being Earnest', and original productions such as 'November Child' are the scope of what the various stages of this establishment have to offer. The HALLE PUPPET THEATRE offers every opportunity to discover the magical combination of puppets and humans and to demonstrate this on the stage. With the unusual combination of theatre and

puppet show, the ensemble is a frequent guest at countless international festivals and performs shows for children and adults.

The THALIA THEATRE HALLE is the city's children's and youth theatre and, as well as staging productions in-house, also tries out new means of communication outside of the everyday routine of the city theatre at unusual, temporary venues. The productions depict the constant search for points of contact between artistic work and reality, which become an important laboratory for poetic everyday research. Precedent-setting models for the future shaping of society are developed by artists together with children and young people during the scholarship programme FORMAT – Neue Wege in die Kultur .

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?, Neues Theater (Jörg Lichtenstein and Elke Richter), Director: Tanja Richter, Photo: Falk Wenzel





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# IT'S TRULY ASTOUNDING THAT THE CITY OF HALLE ...

... possesses one of the largest surface architectural monuments in Europe in its historic centre.

... houses the original death mask of Martin Luther.

... is home to the "Marktkirche", the church where Handel was baptised, Bach played the organ and Luther preached three times.

... was the birthplace of the reformation due to the conflict between Cardinal Albrecht and Martin Luther.

... possesses the "Roter Turm", the largest carillon in Europe and the second largest in Europe.

... houses Europe's longest timbered house and the only original Baroque cabinet of artefacts and curiosities in the Francke Foundations.

... calls the oldest evangelical church library, the Marienbibliothek, its own.

... is home to a 500-year-old university.

... wrote world history with Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

... has been holding the Handel Festival since 1922 to honour its great son.

... is the place where you can hear Germany's oldest secular boys' choir, the "Stadtsingechor".

... possesses the world's oldest brotherhood in the form of the Hallors, the brotherhood of salt producers in Thale zu Halle.

... inspired artists such as Feininger, Eichendorff, Goethe and Novalis.

... is home to the "Stadtgottesacker", the most significant camposanto (cemetery) north of the Alps.

