



## **Information on the Neanderthal Museum**

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### **The most important facts in brief**

On 10 October 1996, the new Neanderthal Museum was opened in the middle of the Neander Valley, where the world's most famous human fossil was found in 1856. This marked the end of decades of efforts to build a museum whose size and furnishings would do justice to its prominent location. With around 150,000 visitors a year, it is one of the most successful archaeological museums in Germany. Its presentation is bilingual in German and English. Text readers in 13 other languages and transcriptions of the audio texts for the hearing impaired are available free of charge in the museum. Thanks to the inclusive app game Neanderthal:Memories and tactile objects, the museum can also be experienced by blind people and people with visual impairments.

### **Neanderthal Museum Foundation**

In 1992, the Neanderthal Museum Foundation was constituted, whose sponsors are the district of Mettmann and the Neanderthal Society.

The Neanderthal Museum generates 70% of its own income and is heavily dependent on the proceeds from ticket sales. That is why the attractiveness of the exhibition and the offer in the surroundings of the museum play a decisive role in the success of the Neanderthal Museum. Satisfied guests who visit the museum several times and recommend the house to others are of great importance for the daily work of the entire museum team.

### **Powerful sponsors**

The construction of the new museum was only made possible by the support of potent sponsors. The NRW- Foundation for the Preservation of Nature, Cultural Heritage and Culture provided DM 12 million for the construction of the building; RWE AG pledged DM 5.55 million for the furnishing. The land was provided by the city of Mettmann, and the district of Mettmann covers the operating deficit.

In the meantime, endowments from the Kreissparkasse Düsseldorf, the district of Mettmann, the Landschaftsverband Rheinland, the NRW-Foundation, the city of Mettmann and the city of Erkrath have expanded the museum's financial base.

The updates in 2006, 2016 and 2021 were made possible by significant support from the NRW-Foundation, the LVR, the district of Mettmann, the Neanderthal Society and the HABRIS Foundation.

### **The Museum**

The architecture was designed by Prof. Günter Zamp Kelp, Julius Krauss and Arno Brandhuber, the winners of an international competition. The building complex is divided into a central exhibition building and a smaller annexe attached to the side. A total of 2740 square metres of floor space is available, of which about 2200 square metres are allotted to the exhibition building. The longitudinal-oval, closed concrete structure, which has a façade of profiled glass, is characterised by a ramp that slowly rises from the ground and extends over four levels - a spiral as a symbol of evolution.

The 400-metre-long ramp, which is up to seven metres wide, houses the auditorium, the exhibition areas with 1200 square metres of permanent exhibition space and 300 square metres of special exhibition space, and the foyer with the museum shop. Daylight only enters the building



through skylights in the roof that illuminate the central staircase. In addition, the façade opens up at the end of the ramp in the café leads to a glass body that offers a view of the museum garden and the Düsseldorf valley in the direction of the Neanderthal discovery site.

The auditorium can seat up to 100 people and is equipped with conference technology media. It can be used for symposia and conferences, but also for other cultural events. The adjoining building houses the library, magazine and workshop as well as the administration offices. There is also a seminar room for up to 40 people.

### **Neanderthal World of Discovery**

The museum is located in the middle of the exciting Neanderthal World of Discovery, the unique leisure and nature area near Düsseldorf. In addition to the museum, the Neanderthal World of Discovery offers Germany's largest Stone Age playground, the site where the Neanderthal was found with Höhlenblick („Cave View“) Tower, the Ice Age animal park with wild horses, bison and aurochs, an impressive sculpture trail along the Düsseldorf and an exceptionally romantic network of hiking trails. The museum's own shop offers unusual souvenirs and the neighbouring restaurant rounds off a day in the Neanderthal World of Discovery with culinary delights. The museum sees itself as a destination for excursions, as a place to experience and learn, as a conference location and as a documentation and research centre on the Neanderthal and early human history.

### **Museum concept**

The Neanderthal is an occasion to reflect on the entire history of human development. The exhibition tells the story of humankind from its beginnings four million years ago to the present day.

The tour of the museum begins with the history of the Neander Valley and the discovery of the Neanderthal. In the introductory part of the permanent exhibition "A Journey Through Time", visitors can expect an impressive staging. An expansive wooden construction consisting of over 300 triangles of different sizes represents the „river of people“. On top of it are six spectacular hominin reconstructions by the Dutch sculptors Adrie and Alfons Kennis, including such famous finds as "Lucy". They tell their personal stories from decisive stages of human evolution via audio texts.

The introductory room is followed by five thematic rooms:

- Life and Survival
- Tools and Knowledge
- Myth and Religion
- Environment and Nutrition
- Communication and Society

In each thematic room, a chronological outline of the development of humankind is given. Neanderthals form a focal point of the presentation in each case.

Beyond the elements of the classic museum presentation (exhibit, image and reading text), the Neanderthal Museum as an adventure museum tells visitors the story of their human development through atmospheric staging and audio experiences. The exhibition was revised and re-



opened in 2006, 2016 and 2021. Individual sections of the permanent exhibition are updated promptly as new research findings come to light, so that visitors can always be presented with the current state of knowledge on human evolution and neurological research. By addressing current topics such as climate change, migration and encounters between people of different origins, the social relevance of research on our past for today's time and society becomes clear again and again.

In addition to the permanent exhibition and the museum's educational programme, changing special exhibitions ensure the museum's attractiveness for repeat visits. In addition to special exhibitions presented by other museums, the Neanderthal Museum regularly conceives and presents its own special exhibitions. In recent years, the Neanderthal Museum has been able to make itself better known in the museum landscape with its special exhibitions, which are toured throughout Germany.

The Stone Age Workshop, the former museum building, houses rooms for the museum's educational workshops, which, in combination with guided tours through the exhibition, have established the museum as an extracurricular place of learning. The Stone Age Workshop also offers national and international scientists modern, well-equipped workplaces where they can conduct their research on the Neanderthal.

### **Guided tours and workshops**

Guided tours of the museum are offered for groups of visitors - by prior arrangement. Various guided tour concepts have been developed for school classes, which are adapted to the school curricula. About 3000 events are held annually. Teachers are also trained in special teacher training courses for teaching about human evolution.

If you want to experience the exhibition in an entertaining way, you should opt for a guided tour. Whether "With the mop into the Stone Age" or "The caretaker's Stone Age", these tours are guaranteed to leave no eye dry. During the pandemic and times of lockdown, the museum team has actively devoted itself to the development of digital offerings. New digital formats for guided tours and workshops were created.

### **Opening hours:**

The museum is open Tuesdays to Sundays from 10.00 to 18.00, closed on Mondays and 24, 25 and 31 December. Open on Easter and Whit Monday.

### **Site of the Neanderthal with Höhlenblick Tower**

Since December 2022, visitors to the Neanderthal Museum can marvel at a new highlight: the Höhlenblick („Cave View“) Tower. The tower is an open steel structure on the site of the Neanderthal discovery cave Feldhofer Grotte, which was completely destroyed by lime mining in the 19th century. The 22-metre-high tower can be accessed barrier-free through alternating inner and outer ramps over 360 metres. The ascent is almost effortless, accompanied by short audio stories from contemporary witnesses of the valley's history at the turning points of the ramps.

The tower's landmark is the dome above the upper platform, designed as a skull dome. The oversized skull of the Neanderthal is about nine metres long and weighs a proud six tonnes. The



Höhlenblick Tower adds an exciting experience to the excursion into Neandertal. At last, visitors can climb the lost gorge and stand at the top where the Neanderthal's cave once was. From here you can look down on the opposite side of the valley, just as the Neanderthal once did from the lost Feldhofer Grotte cave. Below the uppermost platform, those with a head for heights can climb through a net tunnel and experience how deep the former Neanderthal gorge was. The 16 bones of the Neanderthal are presented as a tactile exhibit in the centre of the uppermost platform. A QR code triggers a 360-degree video of the Feldhofer Grotte discovery cave at this point. You can see the burial scene, the laying down of the famous Neanderthal in the cave. "Telescopes" on the edge of the upper platform enable a great augmented reality experience journey that takes you back to the time of the Neanderthals. Visitors look into the deep ice-age gorge and observe Neanderthals hunting bison, see their everyday life at the campsite in front of Neanderhöhle, spot herds of mammoths in the distance and witness when the mighty cave lion takes the leap to snatch a giant deer.

In cooperation with the design office Art & Com from Berlin, three core messages were worked out to be conveyed by the sensual staging:

- I stood at the top where the Neanderthal's cave was!
- The Neander Valley used to be a deep gorge!
- The Neanderthals buried their dead in the cave!

The path from the museum to the site has also been upgraded and diversified. Life-size silhouettes of witnesses to the valley's history, such as a quarry worker or the painter Johann Wilhelm Schirmer, are made to speak at kinetic listening stations.

The site was first opened to the public in 2002 with the wish to create a place of remembrance. The commission went to the landscape architects Cornelia Müller and Jan Wehberg from Lützow 7 in Berlin. However, their design of the site was not very comprehensible to visitors. Since the previous design of the site was not able to achieve the expected effect for visitors, initial considerations for upgrading the site began to develop around 2010. In 2014, the project was launched with an architectural competition, in which the design by Prof. Jürg Steiner prevailed. Approval planning followed, and construction work could finally begin in November 2021.

The project was made possible by Heimatförderung NRW, the Habris Foundation and the district of Mettmann. The costs amount to around 3.6 million euros.

The construction of the Höhlenblick Tower is the most important event since the opening of the Neanderthal Museum in 1996. With it, the site where the Neanderthal was found receives the appreciation and attention it deserves.

**Opening hours:** Höhlenblick Tower can be visited during the opening hours of the Neanderthal Museum.

**Guided tours:** Guided tours of Höhlenblick Tower can be booked.



### **Art trail "Human Traces"**

Since May 2002, an art trail has started opposite the museum and leads along the Düssel on a romantic circular path for almost 2000 metres. The artist and curator Volker Marten has succeeded in attracting sculptors of international standing to the Neander Valley. Works by Magdalena Abakanowicz, Zadok Ben-David, Ian Hamilton Finlay, Antony Gormley, Volker Friedrich Marten, Jaume Plensa, Anne and Patrick Poirier and Klaus Simon will be shown. With their "foreign view", they open up completely new perspectives on the significance of the Neander Valley. The art trail "Human Traces" is part of the art trails of EUROGA 2002plus. It is dedicated to the field of tension between man and nature. With the beginning of humanity, humans have tried to gradually step out of nature and find an independent position. Self-reflection and artefact are the two parameters that have stimulated this process. Through the works of the eleven artists, this process is made visible in very different ways and can be experienced by visitors. The sculptures challenge self-reflection on human nature and at the same time require a new way of looking at nature. The artists' traces on the path along the Düssel connect with the landscape in different ways. Many of the works have to be discovered or change their condition in the seasonal ups and downs. This dynamic process is a special feature of "Human Traces".

The art trail is located in public space and can be visited at any time of day. The sculptures are accompanied by audio texts in which visitors listen to interviews with the artists. These very personal and poetic texts enable a deeper understanding of the works. The audio texts are played through a loudspeaker that can be activated by turning a crank.

**Opening hours:** The art trail is located in public space and is not bound to any opening hours.

**Guided tours:** Guided tours of the art trail can be booked.

### **Ice Age Animal Park**

The area surrounding the museum also has a lot to offer as an excursion destination. The Neandertal is a valuable nature reserve with a rich tree population and serves as a retreat for rare animal species. The animal park was founded in 1935 by the Neandertal Nature Conservation Society. The ice-age animal species are particularly exciting for visitors to the valley. Here, image breedings of aurochs and tarpans (wild horses) can be observed. For some time now, three bison ladies have been living in a new stable enclosure in the animal park. On a hiking trail, which is not barrier-free and takes 60 to 90 minutes to walk around the enclosure, you can wonderfully enjoy the beautiful landscape of the valley.

**Opening hours:** The animal park is located in public space and is not bound to any opening hours.



### **Stone Age Workshop**

The Stone Age Workshop is located in the centre of the art trail about 400 metres up the Düsseldorf from the museum. With a floor space of over 800 square metres, it forms the didactic platform of the museum. The range of topics spans from Stone Age techniques to the fossil record of human evolution. Teachers and their pupils take up the educational offer at the Neanderthal Museum as an extracurricular place of learning very well. About 3000 events are held annually. A wide range of activities is presented in three spacious workrooms and a staged cave room. The workshops offered cover all age groups from kindergarten and primary school age to secondary schools. Particularly popular is the preparation for the examination in biology with a focus on human evolution.

In addition to the educational programme for schools, there is a wide range of events with children's birthday parties, holiday activities for children and adults and courses up to weekend seminars where you can learn Stone Age techniques. The active programmes with archery and geocaching for company outings and birthdays are particularly popular.

**Opening hours:** Events in the Stone Age Workshop can only be held after prior registration.

### **Registration for guided tours and events in the Stone Age Workshop:**

Monday to Thursday 9am-12pm and 12.30pm-3.30pm by phone.  
02104.979715 or by email to [buchung@neanderthal.de](mailto:buchung@neanderthal.de).

### **Research at the Neanderthal Museum**

The Stone Age Workshop also houses the museum's teaching collections on the palaeoanthropological fossil record, on Ice Age mammals, and on palaeolithic stone tools and raw materials. On the top floor there are additional workrooms for scientists who are involved in various research projects at the museum.

Research topics of the Neanderthal Museum Foundation are:

- Human evolution, palaeo- and mesolithic period  
Focus on Europe and Asia (tool culture, aDNA research, flora & fauna, art, lifestyle, childhood & old age, social structures, gender & sex, migration movements & climate change...)
- Museology (visitor research, inclusion & participation, innovative education & mediation)
- Archaeoinformatics
- Social perception of Neanderthals & human evolution
- Professionalisation of museum operations

Information on current research projects can be found at [www.neanderthal.de](http://www.neanderthal.de).

**Science communication**

The Neanderthal Museum sees it as its task to communicate science to society and to prepare it in such a way that it is made accessible to a broad public in an understandable way.

Who are we, where do we come from and where are we going? These are the central questions that the permanent exhibition tries to answer. Our society is in a constant state of change. The museum wants to make its contribution to current social issues and also respond to them in its exhibitions and research. The museum is active in various networks such as the Museumsbund, the European network ECSITE, the Forum for Science Communication and the MINT network. It is also involved in the European cost action network iNEAL (Intergrating Neanderthal Legacy).

At national and international conferences on museum management, exhibition design and education and outreach, the museum regularly presents its work and seeks new inspiration.





## Chronicle of the Neanderthal Museum

### **August 1856**

During lime mining in the Neander Valley, workers find bones in the "Feldhofer Grotte" that Johann Carl Fuhlrott, a professor at the Elberfeld grammar school identified as the skeletal remains of an ice-age human being.

### **1877**

After Fuhlrott's death, the Rhineland Provincial Museum in Bonn acquires the bones of the Neanderthal.

### **November 1920**

Foundation of the Neandertal Nature Conservation Association.

### **9 August 1921**

By ministerial decree, the Düssel Valley and the Mettmann-Brook-Valley are declared a "Neandertal Nature Reserve". The Neandertal becomes the oldest nature reserve in the Free State of Prussia.

### **Since 1927**

Museum of local history in the attic of Mettmann's town hall with Ice Age finds from the caves of the Neander Valley.

### **21 August 1935**

An enclosure with some of the species of big game that were native to the Neandertal is being set up. To this day bison, aurochs and tarpans can be marvelled in the Ice Age Animal Park.

### **1 May 1937**

Opening of the Neandertal Museum of Prehistory under the auspices of the Neandertal Nature Conservation Association.

Closed shortly afterwards because the presentation of the history of human development did not conform to National Socialist racial ideology.

### **3 March 1938**

Re-opening of the Museum of Prehistory after adaptation of the exhibition to the National Socialist racial ideology.

### **Since 1939**

Quartermaster of military horses; thereafter from about 1940/41 closure and accommodation for soldiers and forced laborers.

### **10 May 1947**

Re-opening of the museum in cooperation with the Löbbecke Museum, Düsseldorf.

### **20 March 1951**

Withdrawal of the Löbbecke Museum and reorganization of the exhibition with a focus on the Neanderthal and his environment.

**August 1956**

100th anniversary of the Neanderthal discovery in Düsseldorf.

**1960-1962**

Development of a new concept in cooperation with the Neandertal Nature Conservation Association, the Düsseldorf-Mettmann district administration, the Rhineland Regional Association and the Institute for Prehistory and Early History at the University of Cologne. First reconstruction measures (visitor toilets and ticket booth).

**22 June 1962**

Re-opening of the museum with a new exhibition.

**1968**

Foundation of the special-purpose association "Erholungsgebiet Neandertal" (Neandertal recreation area) consisting of the district of Mettmann, the cities of Düsseldorf, Erkrath, Mettmann, Haan and Wuppertal as well as the Neandertal Nature Conservation Association.

**Since 1970**

Concrete planning by the Düsseldorf-Mettmann district, the Rhineland Regional Council, the special-purpose association and the Neandertal Nature Conservation Association with the scientific assistance of the Institute for Prehistory and Early History at the University of Cologne.

**June 1981**

Re-opening of the museum; in August of the same year, blocking of all subsidies for the new museum building by the NRW Ministry of Culture; nature conservation forces the search for a new location.

**1982**

Foundation of the Neanderthal Society, with the aim to build a new museum at a different location, which would do justice to the Neanderthal known worldwide.

**1985**

The district committee of the district of Mettmann agrees to a new planning of the Neanderthal Museum at another location.

**1987**

The NRW - Foundation for Nature Conservation, Heritage and Cultural Preservation decides, to take over the costs for the construction of a new museum building (up to 12 million DM).

**1988**

The acquisition of a suitable building plot by the city of Mettmann determines the choice of location.

With its decision to allow the district to join the Neanderthal Museum Foundation, the district council of Mettmann creates the prerequisite for the establishment of the foundation and thus the necessary organisational basis for further planning.

**June 1991**

Commitments made earlier are concretised by the signing of some important contracts: The contract for the construction of the museum is signed with the NRW Foundation for the Preservation of Nature, Cultural Heritage and Culture.

The city of Mettmann makes the land available; the district of Mettmann and the Neanderthal Society undertake to build and operate the museum.

**1992**

The Neanderthal Museum Foundation, whose sponsors are the district of Mettmann and the Neanderthal Society, is constituted.

As the building owner of the museum, the foundation is now pushing ahead with the new building.

**1993**

A scientific planning group headed by the prehistorian and early historian and future director of the museum, Prof. Dr. Gerd-Christian Weniger, has been appointed.

**1994**

RWE AG grants the Neanderthal Society (as a partner in the in the Neanderthal Museum Foundation) a donation in the amount of DM 5.55 million for the furnishing of the new museum.

**März 1994**

The five prize-winning designs that emerged from a total of 136 entries in a previous international architectural competition will be presented to the public.

**Juli 1994**

After a thorough review of the designs, the Foundation finally decides in favour of the design by Prof. Günter Zamp Kelp. from Düsseldorf.

**13 July 1995**

Laying of the foundation stone.

**10 October 1996**

Opening

**March 1997**

Welcoming the 100,000th visitor

**1997**

Concrete architecture award

Rediscovery of the former site of the Neanderthal by the Rhineland Office for the Preservation of Archaeological Monuments.

**1998**

Awarded the European Museum Prize as one of the 10 best museums in Europe.



BDA Architecture Award North Rhine-Westphalia

Opening of the Stone Age Workshop.

Acquisition of the Neanderthal site with the support of the NRW Foundation.

**April 1999**

500,000 museum visitors since the opening.

**August 2000**

Decision of an international competition among landscape architects for the preparation of the Neanderthal site. The winners are Cornelia Müller and Jan Wehberg, Lützow 7, Berlin.

Awarded the Rhineland Award 2000 for innovative tourism management in the Rhineland.

**February 2002**

Welcoming the millionth visitor.

**2002**

As part of EUROGA 2002plus, opening of the site of the Neanderthal, the Art Trail "Human Traces" and the re-opening of the renovated Stone Age workshop.

**2003**

Special recognition by the Living City Foundation "The best concept for living museums and modern cultures".

**May 2005**

1.5 millionth visitor.

**2006**

Anniversary year of the Neanderthal; 150th anniversary of the bone discovery

**March 2006**

Approval of the new foundation statutes.

The original founders, the district of Mettmann and the Neanderthal Society, are joined by the Kreissparkasse Düsseldorf, the Landschaftsverband Rheinland, the NRW Foundation and the cities of Mettmann and Erkrath as benefactors.

**10 October 2006**

Opening of the newly designed permanent exhibition.

**September 2008**

2 millionth visitor since opening.

**January 2012**

2.5 millionth visitor since opening.

**4 May 2012**

Anniversary celebration 75 years Neanderthal Museum.

**September 2013**

Certification by ServiceQualität Germany

**May 2015**

3 millionth visitor since opening.

**June 2016**

Re-certification by ServiceQualität Germany.

**10 October 2016**

Opening of the newly designed permanent exhibition.

**January 2019**

Dr. Bärbel Auffermann becomes new director.

**10 October 2021**

Opening of the newly designed permanent exhibition on the occasion of the 25th anniversary.

**8 December 2022**

Opening of the Höhlenblick Tower at the site of the Neanderthal.

**Neanderthal Museum Foundation**

The sponsor of the Neanderthal Museum is the Neanderthal Museum Foundation.

The members of the foundation are the Neanderthal Society and the district of Mettmann as well as the Kreissparkasse Düsseldorf, the Landschaftsverband Rheinland, the North Rhine-Westphalia Foundation for Nature Conservation, Heritage and Cultural Pre-servation and the cities of Mettmann and Erkrath.

The Board of Trustees is the highest body of the Neanderthal Museum Foundation. The members are:

**Representative of the Neanderthal Society e.V.:**

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Gert Kaiser (Chairman of the Foundation Board)

**Representative of the District of Mettmann:**

District Administrator Thomas Hendele (Deputy Chairman of the Foundation Council)

Nicole Anfang

Detlef Ehlert

Gabriele Hruschka

Annerose Rohde

**Representative of the North Rhine-Westphalia Foundation for Nature Conservation, Heritage and Cultural Preservation:**

Prof. Dr. Barbara Schock-Werner

**Representative for the Rhineland Regional Association:**

Dr. Corinna Franz

Elke Thiele

**Representative for the Kreissparkasse Düsseldorf:**

Ulrich Rüter

**City of Mettmann:**

Sandra Pietschmann

**City of Erkrath:**

Christoph Schultz

**Honorary member:**

Dr. Bernd Stoy

The Board of Trustees manages the business of the Neanderthal Museum Foundation. Its members are:

**For the Neanderthal Society:**

Robert Wirtz (Chairman of the Board)



**For the district of Mettmann:**

Volker Freund

**For the Neanderthal Museum:**

Dr Bärbel Auffermann (Deputy Chairperson)

**Board of the Neanderthal Society:**

Chairwoman:

Dr. Bärbel Auffermann

Vice-Chairman:

Prof. Dr. Dres. h.c. Gert Kaiser

Treasurer:

Ulrike Krautz

Assessors:

Christof Birkendorf

Prof. Dr. Jürgen Brand

Volker Engels

Volker Friend

Ulrike Haase

Daniela Hitzemann

Horst Masanek

PD Dr. Jörg Orschiedt

Dr. Lilia Sabantina

Jan Söffing

**Short vita Prof. Dr. Dres. h.c. Gert Kaiser****(Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Neanderthal Museum Foundation)**

Born 1941 in Hardheim in the Odenwald. Grew up in Mannheim. 1959 - 1964 Studied German and Romance languages and literature in Heidelberg and Munich. 1964 Doctorate in Heidelberg in German studies. 1969 - 1971 Habilitation scholarship from the German Research Foundation. 1971 Habilitation in Heidelberg. Venia legendi for German philology. 1972/73 Substitute professor at the University of Tübingen. 1972 Scientific Council and Professor of German Philology in Heidelberg. Since 1977 Chair of Older German Studies at the University of Düsseldorf (since 1988 Heinrich Heine University). 1983 - 2003 Rector of the University of Düsseldorf. Since 1988 President of the Wissenschaftszentrum Nordrhein-Westfalen (from 1988 - 2003 in a part-time position; since 2004 in a full-time position). 1987 - 1989 Vice President of the West German Rectors' Conference. 1991 - 1992 Member of the Founding Senate of the University of Potsdam. January to April 1991 Max Kade Visiting Professor at the University of California, Davis. 1996 Call as Founding Rector to the Hanse-Wissenschafts-Kolleg in Delmenhorst/Lower Saxony (declined). 2003 assumption of the chairmanship of the Dr. Meyer-Struckmann-Foundation, 2004 president of the Neanderthal Society and Sponsors of the Heinrich-Heine-University Düsseldorf e.V., president of the Science Center North Rhine-Westphalia in full-time office, vice president of the German-Italian University Center, chairman of the board of the Society of Friends of the Düsseldorfer Schauspielhaus e.V., 1990 Awarded the Golden Badge of Honor by the Düsseldorf Chamber of Industry and Commerce. 1991 Awarded the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany. 1992 Awarded the French Order of State "Officier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Academiques". 1993 Award of the Minerva Prize Jülich. 1996 Awarded an honorary doctorate (DLitt h.c.) from the University of Reading (Great Britain). 1997 Award of the French Order of State "Chevalier dans l'Ordre national du Mérite". 2001 Awarded the Order of Merit of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia. 2001 Awarded the Josef Neuberger Medal of the Jewish Community of Düsseldorf. 2002 Award of the Moe Radzyner Foundation "Brückenschlag" for successful academic cooperation with Israel. 2003 Awarded the "Great Golden Jan-Wellem-Medal" of the Heimatverein Düsseldorfer Jonges e.V. 2004 Awarded the Jan-Wellem-Ring of the state capital Düsseldorf for his contribution to the development of Düsseldorf into a city of science.

Awarded in the name of the Italian President of the Order "Commendatore dell'Ordine al Merite della Repubblica Italiana" for services to the promotion of scientific and cultural relations with Italy. Award of the second highest Japanese decoration "Order of the Rising Sun with Stars, Gold and Silver Rays" for long-standing commitment to scientific and cultural relations between Japan and Germany. Award of the Golden Badge of Honor of the Düsseldorf Chamber of Crafts. Award of the Federal Cross of Merit 1st Class.

- Member of several advisory boards and boards of trustees.
- Chairman of several foundations (Dr. Meyer-Struckmann-Foundation, Society of Friends and Sponsors of the Heinrich-Heine-University Düsseldorf, Foundation "Corporate Law", Foundation Neanderthal Museum).
- Author of several books and numerous essays on the discipline "Older German Language and Literature" as well as on cultural history in a broader sense.
- Also editor of several books as well as author of numerous writings, essays, speeches on the cultural, scientific and science-political situation of the present.





**Short vita Dr. Bärbel Auffermann  
(Director of the Neanderthal Museum)**

Dr. Bärbel Auffermann has been director of the Neanderthal Museum in Mettmann since 2019. The museum is sponsored by the Neanderthal Museum Foundation and covers most of its costs through independently generated funds. Dr. Bärbel Auffermann has worked for the museum since the conception phase and, as deputy director, has been responsible for exhibition management and press and public relations since 1997. She has succeeded in giving the Neanderthal Museum a recognized profile for successful, visitor-oriented exhibitions despite the limited exhibition space.

She is on the board of Ecsite, the largest European network of science centers and museums, on the board of MINTaktiv and the Museumsverband NRW, as well as deputy spokesperson for the Archaeological Museums Group in the German Museums Association, and serves on advisory boards and boards of trustees of renowned German museums.

Dr. Bärbel Auffermann holds a doctorate in archaeology. She studied prehistory and early history, geology and ethnology at the universities of Münster and Tübingen.

Quote: "We live in a society in which theoretically everyone has the right to participate in scientific knowledge. Museums are places that can fill this participation with life. Learning can become a joyful, inspiring experience here. Our work builds on this, without any fear of thresholds, from Doggy Day to cleaning tours to scientific symposia."

**The sponsors of the Neanderthal Museum**

The history of the Neanderthal Museum is unthinkable without sponsors.

The funds for the construction of the present museum building were provided by the NRW-Foundation. It is also the owner of the building.

The furnishings were financed by RWE AG. The land was provided by the city of Mettmann and the district of Mettmann undertook to cover the operating deficit.

In the meantime, further donors have come forward to care for the "Neanderthal heritage": The Kreissparkasse Düsseldorf, the Landschaftsverband Rheinland, the city of Mettmann and the city of Erkrath have joined the circle of supporters. Further endowments are desired.

The revision of the permanent exhibition in 2006 was financed by the NRW Foundation and RWE AG.

The updates in 2016 and 2021 were made possible by generous donations from the NRW-Foundation, the LVR, the district of Mettmann, the Neanderthal Society and the HABRIS Foundation.



## **Awards and prizes**

### **1997**

Concrete Architecture Award of the German Concrete Industry Association

"Award for Good Buildings" of the Association of German Architects, Düsseldorf

### **1998**

European Museum Award by the European Museum Forum as one of the 10 best museums in Europe for its extraordinary multimedia presentation

Architecture Award North Rhine-Westphalia of the BDA

### **1999**

Goldstar of the International Council of Museums for the museum's website [www.neanderthal.de](http://www.neanderthal.de)

### **2000**

Rhineland Award for innovative tourism management in the Rhineland

### **2002**

Selection by a national and international jury for the special exhibition "New German Architecture. A Reflexive Modernity"

### **2003**

Special recognition by the Living City Foundation as part of the "The Best Concept for Living Museums and Modern Cultural Sites" award ceremony

### **2005**

Winner of the competition "365 Landmarks in the Land of Ideas" as "Selected Landmark 2006"

### **2008**

Nominated as cultural brand of the year

### **2009**

Winner of the German Archaeology Award of the German Society for Prehistory and Early History

With the online database NESPOS Winner of the competition "365 Landmarks in the Land of Ideas" as "Selected Landmark 2009"

### **2013 and 2016**

Certification by ServiceQualität Deutschland

### **2021**

DigAMus Award

