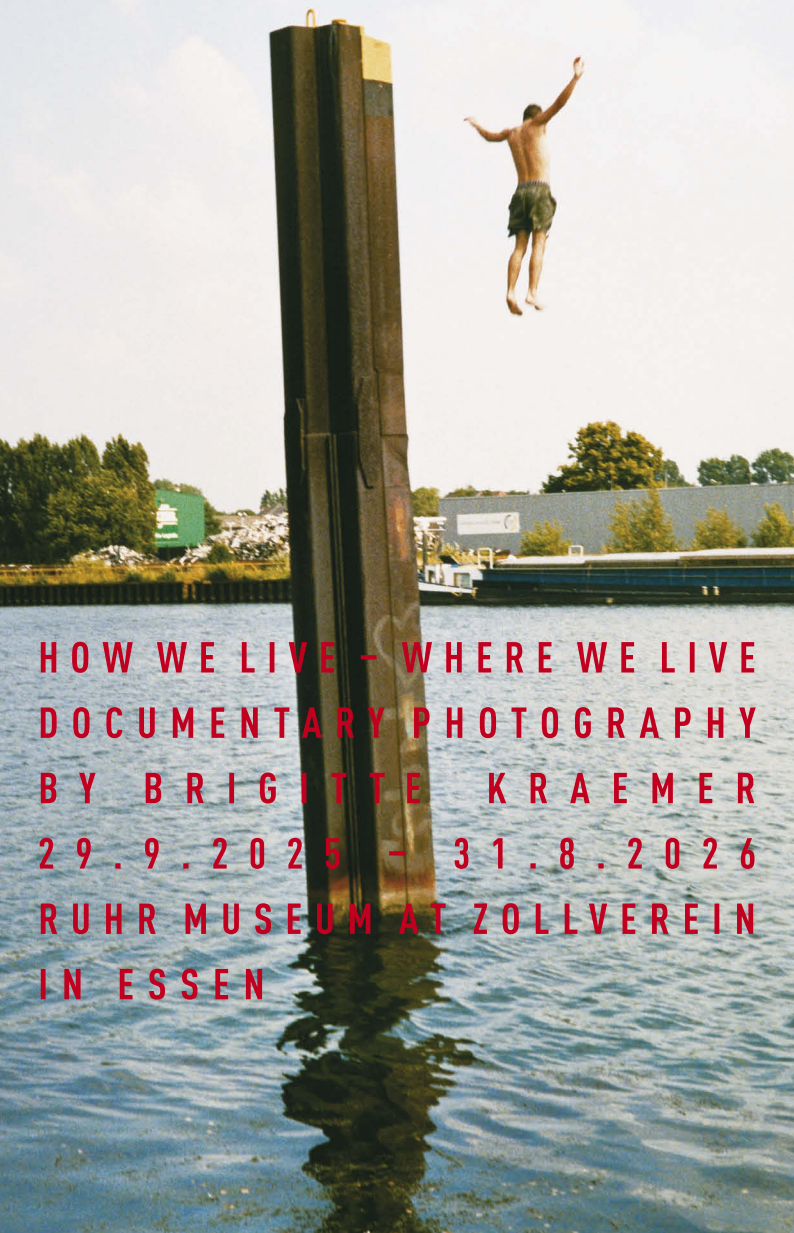




Ruhr Museum



HOW WE LIVE - WHERE WE LIVE
DOCUMENTARY PHOTOGRAPHY
BY BRIGITTE KRAEMER
29.9.2025 - 31.8.2026
RUHR MUSEUM AT ZOLLVEREIN
IN ESSEN



What is life like in the Ruhr region? Answers can be found in the exhibition **“How We Live – Where We Live”** at the Ruhr Museum on the UNESCO Zollverein World Heritage Site. The special exhibition shows about 200 documentary photographs by Brigitte Kraemer and a recent interview film. Her pictures going back more than 40 years tell stories of people from the region – stories of leisure and good times, but also of difficult life situations. All the photographs bear the hallmarks of Kraemer’s unmistakable style, which is intimate, personal and unpretentious, testifying to her very special empathy with the people she photographs.



Born in Hamm in 1954 and resident in Herne, Kraemer has been working as a freelance photographer for such well-known magazines as *Stern*, *Brigitte* and *Der Spiegel* since graduating from the University of Essen (formerly Folkwang School of Applied Arts). She often chooses her own themes and pursues her projects over many years. One focus of her photography is everyday life in the Ruhr region. Since the early 1980s, she has been photographing people in a wide variety of situations: on campsites and in allotment gardens, by the canal, barbecuing, shopping, in ice cream parlours, at chip shops, on coffee trips, at funfairs and at kiosks. With humour and an eye for the bizarre, she paints a colourful picture of the population.



On the other hand, Kraemer also goes to places that are unknown to or difficult to access for most people. She takes photographs at Peace Village International in Oberhausen, in women's shelters and in women's prisons. Another theme is migration. To this day, she sensitively documents the lives of migrant workers, their families and refugees. Here she proves herself to be one of Germany's great social photographers, impressively capturing in images over decades the joys of life, but also the challenges that people face.

Rogation procession with attendants, Essen 2008



By staging this exhibition, the Ruhr Museum honours not only a major photographer, but also an extraordinary body of work. Kraemer has entrusted her extensive archive to the Ruhr Museum. Her provisional bequest of almost 400,000 images was purchased in 2022 with support from the Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach Foundation. The collection is one of the largest in the Ruhr Museum's photo archive. Following previous exhibitions on press photographer Marga Kingler and industrial photographer Ruth Hallensleben, this exhibition is the third part of the series on great women photographers of the Ruhr region.



GUIDED TOURS IN GERMAN

Unless otherwise stated: Ruhr Museum, 24 metre level, 1 hr, adults €5 plus admission, children €3, admission free, with registration

Public tours

Sun 12.10., 9.11., 14.12., 11.1., 8.2., 8.3., 12.4., 10.5., 14.6., 12.7., 9.8._12 pm

Exhibition tours with Brigitte Kraemer

Thu 6.11.25_5pm

Followed by a conversation
with former *Stern* reporter
Werner Schmitz (2h)

Kiosk, Bochum 1999



Thu 22.1.26_4 pm

Focus: Cultural Diversity (1.5h)

Sat 7.3.26_4 pm

Focus: Women's Shelters followed by a conversation with representatives of a women's shelter (2h)

Thu 28.5.26_4 pm

Focus: Leisure Time (1.5h)

Tours for senior citizens

Tue 18.11., 17.3., 21.7._3pm

EN Group tours

1 hr., English, €90 plus admission per person

Pupil and student group €60

admission free

Guided tour for school classes from school class 9 onwards

Mon to Sun 10am to 6 pm, dates by arrangement

1 hr., €60, including admission per group (max. 15 persons; from 16 persons upwards two parallel groups)

Event for teachers

Mon 29.9._3pm, free with registration

LECTURE IN GERMAN

Thu 27.8.26_4pm

Ruhr Museum, 24m level, free of charge after payment of museum admission fee

In the exhibition Brigitte Kraemer presents her latest photographs. (1.5h)

EN QUIZ FOR FAMILIES

During opening hours, English, around 1 hr., free of charge



Ruhr Museum

Ruhr Museum Address

in the Coal Washing Plant
Zollverein UNESCO World
Heritage Site
Gelsenkirchener Straße 181
45309 Essen

Opening hours

Mon–Sun, 10 am–6 pm
24., 25. and 31.12. closed

Admission

Admission
€5, reduced €4, children and
young people under 18, as well
as pupils and students under 25:
free admission

www.tickets-ruhrmuseum.de

Information/Bookings

Ruhr Museum Visitor Service
besucherdienst@ruhrmuseum.de
Mon–Fri, 9 am–4 pm
Phone: +49 201 24681 444
www.ruhrmuseum.de



How to get there

Tram line 107

From Essen main station in the
Direction to Gelsenkirchen or from
Gelsenkirchen main station in the
direction to Essen (Zollverein stop
in each case)

Bus line 183

From Altenessen station
or Zollverein-Nord station
to the Kohlenwäsche stop

Address for parking

Parking lots A1 und A2
Fritz-Schupp-Allee, 45141 Essen

Catalogue

256 pages, 244 images
Klartext Verlag, Essen 2025, €29,95
ISBN 978-3-8375-2735-3

Photo credits

All images: © Brigitte
Kraemer / Fotoarchiv Ruhr Museum

Subject to change.



Institutional sponsors



Ministerium für
Kultur und Wissenschaft
des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen

