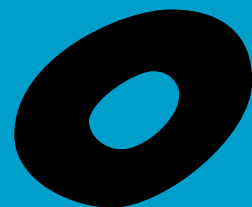




**arp
museum**

Bahnhof
Rolandseck



To the Stars!

| 10 July 2026 –
10 January 2027

Outer Space and Inner
Longing since Modernism

Press Conference:
Thursday, 9.7.2026
11 am

Opening:
Friday, 10.7.2026
7 pm

Hans-Arp-Allee 1
53424 Remagen
arpmuseum.org

Press Release

Remagen-Rolandseck,
10 July 2026

Cosmos as a Space for Longing, Escape, and Vision in Art / Focus: Works from 1920 to the Present / Contemporary Positions including Yael Bartana, Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster, Mona Schulzek and Katharina Sieverding / Duration: 10 July 2026 to 10 January 2027

The cosmos has long served as a projection surface for longing, dreams, and fantasies of escape—long before figures such as Elon Musk or Jeff Bezos began to revive the “space race” in economic and political terms. Gazing into the sky opens up visions of withdrawal from the world and new beginnings, raises questions about the origins of life, and challenges the supposed supremacy of humankind. At the same time, this shift in perspective can foster a sense of connection with nature, the elements, and the greater whole. In times of global crisis—from wars and climate disasters to growing inequality—this longing has once again gained urgency.

The exhibition *To the Stars! Outer Space and Inner Longing since Modernism* presents nearly 100 works spanning painting, sculpture, photography, as well as video and spatial installations, illustrating how perspectives on outer space and its utopian reflections in art have evolved over time. Curated by Director Dr. Julia Wallner, the exhibition is on view on the first exhibition level and the outdoor areas of the Arp Museum. It begins with works from Romanticism, places a particular focus on the 1920s, and extends to contemporary works, some of which were created specifically for the exhibition, including pieces by Yael Bartana, Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster, Bjørn Melhus, Katharina Sieverding, Mona Schulzek, and Emma Talbot.

Utopian Reflection

The exhibition takes as its starting point a widespread sense of crisis in light of the fragility of our planet and an increasingly unstable socio-political order founded on freedom, peace, and mutual understanding. A look at history shows, however, that such experiences are not exceptional but rather recurring motifs. In such moments, art can open up alternative perspectives. It understands the cosmos as a site of longing — a stage for play, freedom, and experimental transgressions of boundaries. Under the motto “*less science, more fiction*”, the exhibition develops visionary images that question human hubris.

From Starry Skies to Machine Humans of the 1920s

During Romanticism, the longing gaze into the night sky and out of the window shaped artistic conceptions of the cosmos, as seen, for example, in Johann Peter Hasenclever’s *Die Sentimentale* (1846/47). From around 1900 onward, artistic perspectives on outer space expanded significantly. In theory, space travel had become conceivable. Inspired by scientific discoveries and new technological visual worlds, works emerged that broke with reality in the spirit of revolution. Examples can be found in the abstract-constructivist paintings of Sophie Taeuber-Arp (1889–1943) and El Lissitzky (1890–1941), as well as in the technology-enthusiastic sculptures of Alexander Rodtschenko (1891–1956).

Amid the World Wars, fears for survival and doubts about the rationality of the world reached new dimensions, reflected in Dada and Surrealism, for example in the works of Hans Arp, Joan Miró, or the otherworldly landscapes of Yves Tanguy. As early as the 1920s, artists experimented with hybrid beings, striking representations

Contact: **Raphaëla Sabel**, Head of Communications Department Arp Museum Bahnhof Rolandseck, sabel@arpmuseum.org, Tel +49 2228 9425-29 | **Joëlle Warmbrunn**, Communications Department, warmbrunn@arpmuseum.org, Tel +49 2228 9425-26 | **Ruth Eising**, re-book kommunikation, r.eising@re-book.de, Tel +49 160 1564308

of the body, and fluid states. Particularly in theater and dance, the cosmos became a vision of a freer world beyond gravity. One example is the widely exhibited dance masks and stage costumes by Lavinia Schulz.

Encounters in the Present

Yael Bartana's (1970) video work, created for the exhibition, continues her 2024 project *Light to the Nations* developed for the German Pavilion at the Venice Biennale. A spaceship intended to repair and heal the world connects themes of escape, optimism, and social engagement. A 186-minute video by Katharina Sieverding (1941), based on NASA satellite images of the sun, makes the power of the cosmos directly perceptible. By contrast, Sylvie Fleury (1961), with her object *First Spaceship on Venus – Soft Rocket*, humorously comments on human—perhaps particularly male—hubris in attempting to travel into space and dominate the cosmos. Finally, Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster (1965) invites visitors, with her walk-in panorama *Cosmirama* created specifically for the exhibition, to imagine an encounter with extraterrestrial life.

From July 2026, this artistic engagement—often visionary in its exploration of questions surrounding future coexistence—can be experienced for six months in the Richard Meier building, which itself resembles a futuristic space station overlooking the ridges of the Rhine Valley.

Total works: 89; including contemporary positions: 16

Dates

To the Stars! Outer Space and Inner Longing since Modernism

Press conference: Thursday, 9 July 2026, 11 am

Opening: Friday, 10 July 2026, 7 pm

Exhibition duration: 10 July 2026 to 10 January 2027

World Premiere

From 10 September, *Birds' Head Haggadah* (2026), a single-channel video and sound installation, will be presented for the first time in Rolandseck and Berlin in cooperation with the Jewish Museum Berlin. The work continues the installation *Light to the Nations/Farewell*, which was shown in 2024 at the German Pavilion of the Venice Biennale and remains on view at the Arp Museum until September.