

PRESS RELEASE

AUTUMN HIGHLIGHT AT THE STÄDEL: MARY MAGDALENE THROUGH THE CENTURIES

**FIRST COMPREHENSIVE EXHIBITION IN THE GERMAN-SPEAKING WORLD
DEVOTED TO ONE OF THE MOST FASCINATING FIGURES IN ART HISTORY /
TICKET PRE-SALES NOW OPEN**

Frankfurt am Main, 11 June 2026. From Dürer to Lady Gaga, from Beckmann to Lotte Laserstein: beginning 17 September 2026, the Städel Museum and the Liebieghaus Skulpturensammlung will present the first comprehensive exhibition in the German-speaking world dedicated to the extraordinary figure of Mary Magdalene. The exhibition, “Mary Magdalene. Sin. Pray. Love.”, traces the transformation of her image over the centuries—from apostle and devoted follower of Jesus to sinner and ascetic penitent, from ecstatic saint to modern, self-determined woman and identification figure.

At the heart of the exhibition are key works from the collections of the Städel Museum and the Liebieghaus Skulpturensammlung. More than 100 outstanding paintings, sculptures and works on paper spanning from the Middle Ages to the present day—including major loans from German and international collections—offer a multifaceted perspective on the artistic and emotional range of representations of Mary Magdalene. With a special focus on women artists, the Städel Museum will feature works by Lavinia Fontana, Elisabetta Sirani, Luisa Roldán, Lotte Laserstein, Kiki Smith, Marlene Dumas and Nieves González, alongside masterpieces by renowned male artists such as Albrecht Dürer, Pedro de Mena, Guercino, Georges de La Tour, Claude Lorrain, Auguste Rodin, Arnold Böcklin, Max Beckmann and David LaChapelle.

Philipp Demandt, Director of the Städel Museum and the Liebieghaus

Skulpturensammlung, explains: “One of the particular strengths of both the Städel Museum and the Liebieghaus Skulpturensammlung is the ability to present art across historical periods and to connect historical themes with contemporary questions. In recent years, we have repeatedly dedicated our major exhibitions to significant women artists, including Otilie W. Roederstein, Lotte Laserstein and, most recently,

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Annegret Soltau. With ‘Mary Magdalene. Sin. Pray. Love.’, we now turn our attention to one of the most influential female figures in art history. Few subjects have been depicted and reinterpreted in such diverse ways over the centuries. We are delighted to present a comprehensive exploration of Mary Magdalene’s rich visual history and to shed light on a figure through whom questions of gender roles, spirituality and female experience continue to resonate today.”

Mary Magdalene is one of the most complex figures in Christian tradition. She is a contradictory character who has been constructed and reinterpreted time and again over the centuries: as Christ’s companion, as saint and sinner, and as a symbol of both desire and repentance. From the writings of the New Testament and medieval legends to the present day, she has inspired countless artistic interpretations, often reflecting the prevailing ideas of femininity, spirituality and autonomy of each era. The exhibition at the Städel Museum presents these diverse interpretations of Mary Magdalene. She emerges both as a projection screen for cultural and religious ideas and as an independent, multifaceted figure negotiating between body, faith and the social roles attributed to her. At the same time, the exhibition traces her iconographic transformation into popular culture, revealing how each era has inscribed its own questions, ideals and longings into her image.

The exhibition will be accompanied by an extensive programme of events and educational offerings, including a Städel Night, an exhibition catalogue, a Digitalia®, and an audio guide app.

Tickets for “Mary Magdalene. Sin. Pray. Love.” are now available online at staedelmuseum.de/en/tickets.

An exhibition of the Städel Museum and the Liebieghaus Skulpturensammlung.

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Curators: Dr Bastian Eclercy (Head of Italian, French and Spanish Paintings before 1800, Städel Museum), Dr Stefan Roller (Head of the Medieval Department, Liebieghaus Skulpturensammlung)

Exhibition Dates: 17 September 2026 – 17 January 2027

Press Preview: Wednesday, 16 September 2026, 11.00 am

Location: Städel Museum, Schaumainkai 63, 60596 Frankfurt am Main

Information: staedelmuseum.de/en/

Visitor Services and Guided Tours: +49 (0)69-605098-200, info@staedelmuseum.de

Opening Hours: Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun + holidays 10 am–6 pm, Thu 10 am–9 pm

Special Opening Hours: For up-to-date information on special opening hours, please visit staedelmuseum.de/en/visit.

Tickets: €19, reduced €17; Tuesday Special: every Tuesday 3–6 pm €10; admission free for children under 12. Groups of at least 10 persons who would normally be charged the full admission fee: €17 per person. Registration is generally required for all groups, by telephone +49 (0)69-605098-200 or email to info@staedelmuseum.de.

Supported by: Gemeinnützige Kulturfonds Frankfurt RheinMain GmbH, Dagmar Westberg Stiftung, Städtelscher Museums-Verein e.V.

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Media Partners: Süddeutsche Zeitung, ARTE

Catalogue: Accompanying the exhibition, Hirmer Verlag will publish a catalogue in German edited by Bastian Eclercy and Stefan Roller. The volume includes a foreword by Philipp Demandt and contributions by Bastian Eclercy, Svenja Grosser, Christian Hecht, Siobhán Jolley, Silke Petersen, Stefan Roller and Matthias Weniger.

Educational Programme: The educational offerings include a Digital@, an audio guide app and an exhibition booklet, as well as a diverse programme of events featuring guided tours in German and English, a Städel Night, studio courses for adults, teenagers and children, and an exclusive behind-the-scenes insight.

@staedelmuseum on social media: #staedel on Instagram / YouTube / TikTok / Facebook / LinkedIn / STÄDEL STORIES: For more stories and background information on the collection and the special exhibitions, read, watch and listen to stories.staedelmuseum.de (in German).