

# DAS MINSK

## KUNSTHAUS IN POTSDAM

### PRESS RELEASE

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### ROBIN RHODE

***Der Botanische Garten* [engl. The Botanical Garden]**

**On view from June 2025**

In the coming weeks, artist Robin Rhode will realize his site-specific mural *Der Botanische Garten* [engl. The Botanical Garden] on the south façade of blu Sport- und Freizeitbad in Potsdam. The large-scale artwork, prominently visible from the terrace of DAS MINSK at the Brauhausberg, will greatly enhance the view of the Potsdam cityscape. It is set to be completed in early June 2025 and will remain on display for at least three years.

Rhode, best known for his multi-panel works that combine photography, performance, wall painting, and drawing, engages with the urban landscape to create complex, symbolically rich narratives that disrupt and transform their environments. The wall is at the center of Rhode's practice, and he considers its many meanings and functions: as a divider within urban space, as a surface and substrate in art historical traditions ranging from cave painting to street art, as a threshold between art and life in notion of the "fourth wall," and as a psychoanalytic screen. Rhode's Potsdam mural will extend across the entire south façade of blu. Rendered in various shades of blue, abstracted floral shapes emerge, evoking both botanical illustrations and organic processes. The wall becomes a visual narrative of transformation, nature, and cultural rootedness.

The artist takes Goethe's text *The Metamorphosis of Plants* (1750) as the inspiration for his mural. Goethe's conception of the constant transformation in nature is reflected in Rhode's dynamic visual language. Indigenous South African medicinal plants like Buchu (*Agathosma betulina*), Hoodia (*Hoodia gordonii*), *Silene capensis* (also known as *Silene undulata*), and Canna (*Canna indica*) appear in his work, serving as symbols of resilience, healing, and cultural exchange. In Potsdam—a city with rich botanical and scientific history—such a dialogue unfolds between South African heritage and a European context. Robin Rhode uses Prussian Blue—a deep, intense pigment discovered in Berlin in 1706, the first modern synthetic pigment in Europe. It replaced the costly ultramarine and was used extensively in art, architecture, and cartography, particularly in Prussian Potsdam residences like Sanssouci and the Neues Palais. The choice of this color connects the artwork to the

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city's cultural history, recalling its historic significance. The mural is complemented by figures that are being developed on site during the production process, adding an immediate and site-specific dimension to the work.

"We are very pleased to have found an artistic solution for the south façade of blu. In doing so, we are able to further activate the outdoor space—an area we intend to emphasize more strongly in our upcoming program. The work creates a wonderful visual connection between DAS MINSK and the Potsdam city panorama."

—Stefanie Plattner, Member of the Hasso Plattner Foundation Board

"Robin Rhode is an outstanding artist, and having his work in public space is a great asset—for DAS MINSK and for the city of Potsdam. Through his deep engagement with the history of the place, he builds a bridge to Indigenous South African medicinal plants, thus connecting a global perspective with a local context."

—Anna Schneider, Director of DAS MINSK Kunsthaus in Potsdam

The historic swimming hall at Brauhausberg was demolished in 2018. Originally part of an ensemble with the former terrace restaurant "Minsk"—both designed by architect Karl-Heinz Birkholz—it once offered an unobstructed view of the Potsdam cityscape from the Brauhausberg. With the construction of the blu Sport- und Freizeitbad, the visual axis to the city center was altered. Drawing inspiration from the historic panorama of Potsdam's cityscape, Robin Rhode is now creating a mural that redefines the view from the terrace of DAS MINSK—allowing it to fully unfold its impact from this vantage point.

The artwork was commissioned by the Hasso Plattner Foundation and the project is being realized in cooperation with DAS MINSK Kunsthaus in Potsdam, and Stadtwerke Potsdam GmbH. With their joint efforts, the unique view from DAS MINSK over the city of Potsdam is being recreated, offering Potsdam's residents and visitors a new opportunity to engage with art and culture at the Brauhausberg.

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### PRESS CONTACT

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We would be happy to assist you if you need further information or images.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

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OPENING HOURS  
Daily except Tuesdays  
Wednesday to Monday 10 am – 7 pm

ADMISSION  
10 Euros, 8 Euros concession

Combined ticket 20 Euros, 12 Euros concession  
The combined ticket is valid for the Museum Barberini and DAS MINSK Kunsthaus in Potsdam.

DAS MINSK Kunsthaus in Potsdam is a project of the Hasso Plattner Foundation. The goal of the Hasso Plattner Foundation is to promote the digitalization of scholarship and education, to improve access to art and culture, and to support the preservation of the environment.

[www.plattnerfoundation.org](http://www.plattnerfoundation.org)