

DARMSTÄDTER GESPRÄCH

WORLD AND HUMANKIND

March and September 2027

DARMSTADT CONVERSATION · WORLD AND HUMANKIND

The world is facing an unprecedented crisis and with it humankind. Democracy, environment, climate, togetherness, language and thinking – almost every area of society is subjected to a profound erosion.

Our project addresses this finding by organising **public discussions** between committed personalities from a wide range of disciplines who focus on specific proposals for solutions. At the same time, several **exhibitions** will take place giving the crises a tangible form in order to open up a humane future in an aesthetically striking manner. As part of the supporting programme, we will organise **concerts, performances and readings**. In direct exchange with the audience they will try out ephemeral ways of a critical public. Finally, there will also be **visits of places** where the crisis shows its face but can be turned utopian through civil society engagement.

In spirit and design the “Darmstadt Conversation” planned for 2027 ties on the “Darmstädter Gespräche” which, after the barbarism of Nazi rule, sought philosophical, artistic and creative possibilities to lead Germany into a world of togetherness. To achieve this, the world and humanity had to be redefined. It seems just as imperative to us today to ask about a worthy future for mankind as a whole.

The project is divided into five sections: 1. “Images of Humanity and World Views”, 2. “Humankind and the Natural World”, 3. “Humankind and the Cultural World”, 4. “Human Interaction” and 5. “Economics for Humankind and the World”. Internationally and nationally renowned personalities opening up future-oriented perspectives on the section topics are invited to the talks, exhibitions and concerts. The talks are not only open to the public but also actively involve the audience; they are recorded and made available free of charge for listening. All exhibitions are accompanied by a comprehensive catalogue with the works on display and views of the locations to be visited.

The project is part of World Design Capital Frankfurt Rhein-Main 2026 (<https://wdc2026.org>). Every two years, the World Design Organisation awards the title World Design Capital® to a city or region in recognition of its special achievements in design-based economic, social, cultural and ecological development. Under the motto „Design for Democracy. Atmospheres for a Better Life“, the Rhine-Main region will showcase best practice projects for sustainable, design-oriented improvement of quality of life in 2026. The following year our Darmstadt Conversation will draw conclusions and contribute to consolidating the insights gained.



Darmstadt Conversation "Theater", 1955

A project by the departments of design and architecture at Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences, Werkbund Academy Darmstadt, Jazz Institute Darmstadt and Institute for the Practice of Philosophy (IPPh)
Programme board: Dr. Bettina Bohle, Prof. Dr. Kai Buchholz, Dr. Christian Driesen, Céline Grieb, Jochen Rahe, Julia-Kim Sieber, Prof. Justus Theinert

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