

MANIFESTA 16 Ruhr

Open Call: Do you want to be the official photographer for Manifesta 16 Ruhr?

What is Manifesta?

Manifesta is the European Nomadic Biennial – a cultural event that moves to a new location within Europe for each edition. Since its 30 years of existence, Manifesta has become one of the most influential and forward-thinking biennials in the world, renowned for its pioneering approach that connects art, social dialogue, urban research and civic engagement.

Manifesta 16 Ruhr will take place in various cities across the Ruhr area in 2026, focusing on the transformation of former churches into spaces for culture and community. The headquarters of Manifesta 16 Ruhr are located in Gelsenkirchen-Ückendorf.

The Project

Are you ready to document one of the most exciting art events in Europe? As part of the Marketing and Communications team, you will be the photographer following Manifesta 16 Ruhr. This is a unique opportunity to document all major events, capturing the work of international and local artists, architects and the vibrant life of the biennial. You will be responsible for the photographic journey of Manifesta 16 Ruhr – from the people, exhibitions, installations, events and the venues to the unique atmosphere of the project, with publications in catalogues, print publications and international communication formats.

Responsibilities (Selection)

- **Capturing the excitement:** Photographic coverage of site visits, artist visits as well as behind-the-scenes work and production processes
- **On the road:** Travel within the Ruhr area to document urban spaces and create portraits of local project participants, cooperation partners and stakeholders
- **Event documentation:** Capturing public events prior to the opening and during the entire run of the biennial
- **Post-production:** Image selection, editing, precise keywording and captioning of the visual material

Manifesta 16 Ruhr gGmbH
Kronprinzenstr. 35
45128 Essen
Germany
TAX Number 112/5978/1340

Initiating Partners

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RUHR

Ministry of Culture and Science
of the State of
North Rhine-Westphalia



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Requirements

- Some professional experience as a photographer in the cultural sector, with a strong focus on **event photography** (art or architecture experience is a plus)
- Excellent technical skills, including proficiency in Dropbox and the Adobe Suite (InDesign, Photoshop and Illustrator)
- Ability to create visual content that will be used for digital formats such as videos, GIFs, stories and social media publications
- **A valid driving licence and access to a car** (essential for reaching various locations across the region)
- Willingness to work flexible hours and travel within the Ruhr area
- Excellent organisational skills and high attention to detail
- Good command of English and fluent command of German
- On-site presence: Participation during the opening weekend (18–21st of June 2026) is a prerequisite.

Budget and Scope

- Total budget: 15,000 Euros incl. VAT
- Hourly quota: 350 hours between March 2026 and 5th of October 2026

Rights

The selected photographer guarantees full copyright and usage rights for the images created. The exploitation rights will be granted to Manifesta for use across all media, worldwide and without time limitation.

Application

Please send your portfolio by 10th of February 2026 via email to m16jobs@manifesta.org | Subject: Open Call Official Photographer Manifesta 16 Ruhr. Selection interviews will be conducted by the Manifesta 16 Ruhr Communications team.

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