



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:** Selection and image editing of the material (captioning and tagging will be managed internally).



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 (18–21th of June 2026) is a prerequisite.

Budget and Scope

- Total budget: 15,000 Euros excl. VAT
- Hourly quota: 350 hours (March to October 2026) covering time on-site and digital post-production
- Reimbursement of expenses: Travel and transit costs are not included in the fee. These can be invoiced upon submission of supporting documentation and will be reimbursed in accordance with the North Rhine-Westphalia State Travel Expenses Act (Landesreisekostengesetz NRW).

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 submit your portfolio by 10.02.2026 via our digital application form: [click here](#).

Questions regarding the position and application process should be sent to lukasarp@manifesta.org.

Interviews will be conducted by the Manifesta 16 Ruhr communication team.