

# The Moontower Foundation

The Moontower Foundation was created by Rebecca Horn in 2007 in Bad König in the Odenwald. Its primary purpose is the preservation, documentation and study of her artistic work, including sculpture, performances, works on paper and films. At the same time, the Foundation is exploring how the site and its buildings might gradually become more accessible in the future, in ways that remain faithful to Rebecca Horn's intentions for the place.

The Foundation is located in a group of former mill buildings that once belonged to Horn's family. Her grandfather and father had used the site as a commercial dairy and later for textile production. After the family business closed in the late 1990s, the buildings stood vacant for several years. In 2007 Rebecca Horn purchased the remaining structures and began transforming them into the home of the Moontower Foundation, close to where she was born and where she had established her atelier in the late 1980s.

Today several of these buildings house Horn's atelier, storage facilities, archives and exhibition spaces. In 2013 she completed the renovation of a building that now presents a permanent display of her work. With its celestial blue tiled roof and the rebuilt factory chimney topped by a floating blue neon moon, the building has become the visual emblem of the Foundation. The display brings together works from all periods of Horn's oeuvre, including kinetic sculptures, installations and works from the series *Body Landscapes*. Among the works on view is the *Hydra-Piano* (1990), one of Horn's characteristic mechanical instruments. The presentation also includes a small number of works by artists she admired, such as Marcel Duchamp, Joseph Beuys, Meret Oppenheim and Jannis Kounellis, as well as works by former master students from her class at the Hochschule für bildende Künste in Berlin. The installation is intended to be preserved as conceived by Rebecca Horn and to be made accessible to students, artists and selected groups of visitors at certain times of the year.

A long-term collaboration with the State of Hesse and the Museum Wiesbaden led in 2024 to the creation of a dedicated room in the museum for changing presentations of Horn's work. Works are also lent to institutions organising exhibitions, including Haus der Kunst in Munich and Castello di Rivoli in Turin in 2025, and Skulpturenpark Waldfrieden in Wuppertal in 2026.

Rebecca Horn was also an influential teacher and for more than twenty years served as Professor at the Universität der Künste in Berlin. Many of her students have become internationally recognised artists, and throughout her career she took a strong interest in the work of younger generations. At Bad König she envisaged the possibility of providing studios, residencies and artistic projects that could bring together artists working in sculpture, film, music, poetry and literature.

Her thinking was partly inspired by the example of Black Mountain College in the United States in the early 1950s, where the poet Charles Olson created a programme that brought together artists from different disciplines. Among those associated with the college were Merce Cunningham, John Cage, Robert Rauschenberg, Ruth Asawa, Robert Creeley and Cy Twombly, who studied with Josef and Anni Albers, Buckminster Fuller and others of an earlier generation.

Following Rebecca Horn's death in 2024, the Moontower Foundation has begun to realise some of these ideas through initiatives supporting emerging artists. One of these is a scholarship at the Hochschule für bildende Künste in Hamburg, where Horn herself studied in the early 1970s. In 1971–72 she received an award that enabled her to spend a formative year in London at St Martin's School of Art. The new scholarship, established in her name, began earlier this year and aims to offer a similar opportunity to a new generation of artists.

A second initiative will offer Rebecca Horn's former apartment in Berlin as a residence for an international artist participating in the DAAD Berlin Artists Programme. Beginning in autumn 2026, one artist each year will be invited to live there during their twelve-month stay in Berlin.

The Foundation, chaired by Dr Sandra Beate Reimann and Sir Nicholas Serota, continues to work on the preservation, documentation and presentation of Rebecca Horn's work and plans to appoint a full-time Director in the near future.

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