

## The Core Exhibition in Facts and Figures

<b>Opening</b>	August 23, 2020
<b>Location</b>	Libeskind Building, Lindenstrasse 9–14, 10969 Berlin
<b>Opening hours</b>	Daily: 10 am – 6 pm
<b>Title</b>	Jewish Life in Germany: Past and Present
<b>Funding</b>	Roughly €18.6 million with funding provided by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media (BKM) on the basis of a resolution by the German Bundestag
<b>Renovation period</b>	December 2017 to July 2020 (31 months)
<b>Chief curator</b>	Cilly Kugelmann
<b>Project leader</b>	Dr. Michael Dorrmann
<b>Project manager</b>	Henriette Kolb
<b>Curating team</b>	<p>Curators: Inka Bertz, Julia Carls, Dr. Yaniv Feller, Monika Flores, Michal Friedlander, Miriam Goldmann, Dr. Christoph Kreutzmüller, Maren Krüger, Dr. Tamar Lewinsky, Martina Lüdicke, Dr. Haim Mahlev, Leonore Maier, Aubrey Pomerance, Dr. Lucia Raspe, Iris Saeger, David Studniberg, Theresia Ziehe</p> <p>Curating assistants/trainees: Sabrina Akermann, Sarah Binz, Dr. Shelley Harten, Theresa Polley, Lisa Renner</p> <p>In cooperation with the Education, Digital &amp; Publishing, and Visitor Experience &amp; Research teams</p>
<b>Exhibition design</b>	ARGE chezweitz GmbH / Hella Rolfes Architekten BDA

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**Panel of experts for the new core exhibition (2016–2019)**

Prof. Anja Dauschek, Prof. Yaacob Dweck, Prof. Johannes Heil, Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, Christoph Sattler, Prof. Stefanie Schüler-Springorum

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**Academic Advisory Council of the Jewish Museum Berlin (2019–2020)**

Prof. Michael Brenner, Prof. Anja Dauschek, Prof. Dan Diner (chair), Prof. Barbara Hahn, Prof. Christoph Marksches, Prof. Angelika Neuwirth, Prof. Stefanie Schüler-Springorum

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**Guiding theme**

The exhibition relates from a Jewish perspective the history and culture of the Jews in Germany. It focuses on the relationship between Jews and their Christian, and increasingly secular, surroundings.

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**Time period**

From the Middle Ages to the present

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**Floor space**

Total: 5058 sq. m. (54,444 sq. ft.)  
Tour (1st and 2nd upper floors): 3599 sq. m. (38,740 sq. ft.)

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**Exhibition tour layout**

Five chronologically arranged epoch rooms, plus eight theme rooms on Jewish culture, tradition, and religious practice

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**Number of exhibited objects**

More than 1,000, roughly 90 percent of which are originals and 10 percent reproductions or replicas

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**Objects in the exhibition from the JMB collection**

approx. 700

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**Loaning Institutions**

70, including:  
The Israel Museum, Jerusalem; Jewish Museum of the city of Vienna; SMPK Alte Nationalgalerie Berlin; Museumslandschaft Hessen Kassel, Bavarian State Archaeological Collection, Munich; Germanisches Nationalmuseum, Nuremberg; and the Jewish Museum, New York

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**Exhibit diversity**

Paintings, graphics, Judaica, sculptures, manuscripts, video art, photographs, films, audio-visual sources, tactile stations, 3D models, graphics, interactive stations/games, installations

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**Contemporary art**

Gilad Ratman, *Drummerrsss*, 2020, commissioned work in the lower level of the Libeskind building  
Supported by the U.S. Friends of the Jewish Museum Berlin

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Victoria Hanna, video piece: *Aleph Bet – Hosha'ana*, 2015,  
Torah theme room Supported by the Friends of the Jewish Museum  
Berlin

Hagit Hollander-Shimoni, video projection: *Visual Prayer*, 2009,  
Prayer and Practice theme room

Yael Buchbinder-Shimoni, *Tzeenah u-Reenah*, painting/mixed  
technique, 2017,  
In the Early Modern Period epoch room

Anselm Kiefer, *Shevirat ha-Kelim*, sculpture, 1990–2019,  
Kabbalah theme room

Izhar Patkin, “Pot” and “Dorothea” from the “Judenporzellan” (Jewish  
Porcelain) series, collages, 1998,  
When Jews Became Germans epoch room

Edmund de Waal, *archiv*, 2016,  
Art and Artists theme room

Frédéric Brenner, *Minima Moralia*, inkjet print, 2018,  
After 1945 epoch room  
Supported by the Friends of the Jewish Museum Berlin

Daniel Josefsohn, decorative cushion, 2014–15,  
After 1945 epoch room

Yael Bartana, *Herzl I-III*, photographs, 2015,  
After 1945 epoch room

Sari Srulovitch, Torah breastplate, 2015,  
The Jewish Object theme room  
Supported by the Friends of the Jewish Museum Berlin

Mila Tanya Griebel, kiddush cup: “Far above Rubies,” 2015,  
The Jewish Object theme room

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## Media Installations

Interview collage: *The Way You Walk*, directed and produced by Ruth  
Olshan in cooperation with the International Film School Cologne. Five  
interlocutors talk about their religious practice:

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Rabbi Delphine Horvilleur (Paris)  
Anna Chernyak (Berlin)  
Rabbi Joshua Spinner (Berlin)  
Rabbi Tobias Jona Simon (Oldenburg)  
Elad Lapidot (Berlin)  
Prayer and Practice theme room

VR installation on three synagogues (in Cologne, Hannover, and Plauen) that were destroyed in the Nazi period, reconstructed by the Architectura Virtualis GmbH in cooperation with the Technical University of Darmstadt,  
When Jews Became Germans epoch room

Film installation: *The Outsider as Insider: Jews in the Weimar Republic*, 2020, chezweitz GmbH, museum and urban scenography, directed by Dominique Müller and Detlef Weitz,  
When Jews Became Germans epoch room

Yael Reuveny and Clemens Walter, video installation: *Mesubin*, 2020,  
After 1945 epoch room

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## Epoch Rooms

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### Ashkenaz

Period: 300–1500 CE

Segments:

- From Jerusalem to Ashkenaz
  - Jerusalem on the Rhine
  - Sefer Hasidim – The Book of the Pious
  - Image of the Self and the Other
  - Persecution
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### In the Early Modern Period

Period: 1500–1770

Segments:

- In Black and White
  - Longing for Redemption
  - Servants of Kings
  - Letters of Protection
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### When Jews Became Germans

Period: 1770–1933

Segments:

- Egalité – Equality
  - People in Pictures
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Berlin, Berlin</li><li>▪ Religion and Reform</li><li>▪ What's Your Job?</li><li>▪ The Two Faces of Wagner</li><li>▪ A Country of One's Own</li><li>▪ In Uniform</li><li>▪ Weimar</li></ul>
<b>Catastrophe</b>	Period: 1933–1945 Segments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Measures against the Jews</li><li>▪ Emigrate or Endure?</li><li>▪ 9 November 1938</li><li>▪ Getting Out of Germany!</li><li>▪ No Way Out</li><li>▪ Holocaust</li></ul>
<b>After 1945</b>	Period: 1945 to the present Segments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Homeless in Germany</li><li>▪ Migration time line</li><li>▪ Waiting for Justice</li><li>▪ Antisemitism debate room</li><li>▪ Nationality "Yevrey"</li><li>▪ Israel, Germany, and the Jews</li><li>▪ Finale <i>Mesubin</i></li></ul>
	<b>Theme Rooms</b>
<b>Torah</b>	Torah as the center of Judaism, genizah, significance of the Hebrew script and Jewish languages in the Diaspora.
<b>Prayer and Practice</b>	Judaism as a lived tradition with the subjects of Talmud, kashrut, tzedakah, prayer, and Shabbat.
<b>Music</b>	Jewish music between tradition and the surrounding cultures (including liturgical music, popular music, festival sounds). Link to the playlist: <a href="https://www.jmberlin.de/en/musicroom">https://www.jmberlin.de/en/musicroom</a>
<b>Kabbalah</b>	Room-filling installation <i>Shevirat ha-Kelim (Breaking of the Vessels)</i> by Anselm Kiefer

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## Family Album

Interactive, digital wall with 10 family archives selected from the collection of the Jewish Museum Berlin (5 m [16 ft] wide by 2.10 m [7 ft.] high).

Supported by the Friends of the Jewish Museum Berlin

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## Hall of Fame

A humorous bow to a series of Jewish personalities; portrait drawings between hero worship and comics (Illustrations: Andree Volkmann).

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## Art and Artists

Thirty-three works of art by 22 artists on glass panels (including Jankel Adler, Otto Freundlich, Max Liebermann, Felix Nussbaum, Moritz Daniel Oppenheim, Jakob Steinhardt, Julie Wolfthorn, and Lesser Ury); time span: 1820s to 1940s.

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## The Jewish Object

The concept of holiness in Judaism: "What is a Jewish object?" and "What is sacred in Judaism?"

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### Scenographic Highlights

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## Stairway installation

Hebrew and Latin letters accompany visitors up a stairway to the start of the exhibition.

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## Welcome Point

Stylized 5 m (16 ft)-high tree of white waxed wood. Visitors can write wishes onto leaves that are then attached to the tree.

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## Shabbat room

Room installation on Shabbat – sacred time of rest and contemplation, Prayer and Practice theme room

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## Letters of Protection installation

Floor-to-ceiling wall element with more than 300 German territories and their varying residence regulations for Jews, In the Early Modern Period epoch room

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## Weimar cinema

Essayistic film on Jews in the Weimar Republic: *The Outsider as Insider* in three parts: Hostility toward Jews and the Republic, Jewish Renaissance, and In the Thick of Things (Film length: 11 min; number of seats: 26), When Jews Became Germans epoch room

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## Anti-Jewish measures

962 anti-Jewish ordinances, printed on long banners hung from the ceiling, illustrating the significance, the vast extent, and the perfidy of the bureaucratic hatred of Jews in Nazi Germany. Catastrophe epoch room

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**Raised walkway**

A roughly 40 m (130 ft.)-long raised white walkway, a room-filling 3D element,  
After 1945 epoch room

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**Prism showcase  
“Is it holy?”**

Ca. 100 ceremonial objects in a spectacular prism showcase (incl. a Torah scroll, Torah crown, Chanukah menorah, kiddush cups, mezuzah, seder plate) presented in the sense of their holiness.  
The Jewish Object theme room

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**General Information**

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**JMB App**

Languages: German, English, and, coming soon, French, Italian, Spanish, and Hebrew, including ca. 100 stations.  
Available as an app at the AppStore and Google Play for download for your own device or one that can be borrowed on site.  
Link under: [www.jmberlin.de/app](http://www.jmberlin.de/app)  
Supported by the U.S. Friends of the Jewish Museum Berlin

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**Website**

<https://www.jmberlin.de/en/core-exhibition>

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