

The Polish Institute Düsseldorf is proud to present the 2025 edition of “Polish Freedom Weekend”, a multi-faceted cultural project that explores the theme of freedom through the lens of women’s experiences, voices and creativity.

PRESS RELEASE OF THE POLISH INSTITUTE DÜSSELDORF

Polish Freedom Weekend 2025 – “Freedom Is a Woman”

11 – 17 November 2025 | Düsseldorf (with supporting events in Frankfurt am Main, Darmstadt and Essen)

The Polish Institute Düsseldorf presents the 2025 edition of “Polish Freedom Weekend”, a multi-faceted cultural project that explores the theme of freedom through the lenses of women’s experiences, voices and creativity. Under the title “Freedom Is a Woman” the programme invites audiences to engage with art, film, literature, music and discourse that centre around female agency, cultural memory and social transformation.

Key programme highlights

- * A feature-film retrospective of acclaimed Polish filmmaker Barbara Sass, whose work charts the shifting terrain of women’s lives in modern Poland.
- * A documentary exhibition “Doppelt frei” (Doubly Free) commemorating the Polish suffragette movement and the attainment of women’s voting rights in Poland already 1918.
- * A solo exhibition by Polish artist Alicja Bielawska, whose poetic visual work evokes fragility and resilience in female identity.
- * A music & narrative performance that brings to life the stories of Polish and German women of the inter-war period between the both world wars — bridging history, storytelling and live sound.
- * A major discussion & conference on feminism, artistic freedom and equality, bringing together cultural practitioners from Poland and Germany with focus on Polish women in the Rhine region.
- * **A special concert with cellist Dobrawa Czocher and pianist/synth-artist Natalia Czekala**, combining classical and experimental sound worlds in a powerful finale to the Polish Freedom Weekend.

Background & Concept

Polish Freedom Weekend was inaugurated by the Polish Institute Düsseldorf with the intention of offering a high-profile cultural window into Poland’s evolving freedoms — particularly through the lens of artistic expression and bilateral Polish-German dialogue. It is held annually on the first weekend following Poland’s National Independence Day (11th November).

In 2025 the focus shifts explicitly to female freedom: how women have shaped, and continue to shape, the cultural, political and social landscape — in Poland, Germany and beyond. The Institute aims to amplify under-represented voices, explore questions of equity and autonomy, and foster reflection through contemporary culture and exchange.

Partners, Support & Participation

The Polish Institute Düsseldorf is collaborating with leading cultural institutions in Düsseldorf and the Rhine-Ruhr region. Key partners include (but are not limited to) the Kunstpalast Düsseldorf, the Maxhaus Düsseldorf, theatre Schauspielhaus Düsseldorf and other venues in Frankfurt, Darmstadt and Essen.

The event is supported under the patronage of:

- * Marta Cienkowska, Polish Minister of Culture and National Heritage
- * Ina Brandes, Minister of Culture and Science of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia
- * Dr Stephan Keller, Lord Mayor of Düsseldorf

Invitation to Media & Public

The Institute warmly invites journalists, cultural commentators and the public to attend the opening events of Polish Freedom Weekend. Most events are free of charge, although registration may be required due to limited capacity. Additional information, full programme details and registration links are available on the Institute's website www.institutpolski.pl/duesseldorf and on its social media channels.

Contact

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