

***documenta IV* in Kassel (1968)**

Abstract

During National Socialism, Germany was cut off from developments in the international art world. To reestablish that connection in the postwar Federal Republic, Arnold Bode, a professor at the art academy in Kassel, organized the first *documenta* exhibition, which opened in that city in 1955. The *documenta* exhibition subsequently developed into the most important exhibition of contemporary avant-garde art in Germany (and arguably the entire world); it is now held every five years and still takes place in Kassel.

The *documenta IV* exhibition, the first ever to turn a profit, drew large crowds. It featured a selection of Pop Art, Minimal Art, and Kinetic Art that intrigued visitors and roused critics, some of whom spoke of a “modern house of horrors.” The gallery shown below features Pop Art by the Americans Robert Indiana and Tom Wesselmann. Indiana’s *The Great Love* (1966) hangs on the right side of the rear wall; Wesselmann’s *Mouth No. 15* (1968) hangs to the left. Wesselmann’s *Great American Nude No. 98* (1967), five canvasses arranged behind one another in three planes, is positioned against the gallery’s left wall. Two of these three works, *The Great Love* and *Great American Nude No. 98* are in German collections today. Photo by Abisag Tüllmann.

Source



Source: *documenta IV*: Exhibition space in the Fridericianum. Date: June 1968. Photo: Abisag Tüllmann. bpk-Bildagentur, image number 30008429. For rights inquiries, please contact Art Resource at requests@artres.com (North America) or bpk-Bildagentur at kontakt@bpk-bildagentur.de (for all other countries).

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