

Thomas Mann: Democracy Will Win! |



Exhibition and programs Nov 2 – Dec 3, and January
Press Release - For immediate release
October 15, 2022

German Cultural Center Goethe-Zentrum Atlanta opens exhibition DEMOCRACY WILL WIN! on the fragility of democracy in America and Europe now & then

One week before the midterm elections in Georgia, the exhibition THOMAS MANN: DEMOCRACY WILL WIN! opens to the public at Goethe-Zentrum, the German Cultural Center in Downtown Atlanta. The exhibition will run from November 2 – December 3. In January, there will be a post-election follow-up with the question: Did Democracy Win?

Opening Reception: Wednesday, November 2 at 6:00 pm at Goethe-Zentrum Atlanta, 233 Peachtree Street, Suite 100, Downtown ATL (Franco-German Cultural Center)

Opening Hours: November 2 – December 3, Thursday and Friday: 10am – 6pm, Saturday: 10am – 4pm (closed on Thanksgiving), and with appointment. January: tba

Based on the life and actions of the German writer Thomas Mann, DEMOCRACY WILL WIN! adds an international, historical, and non-partisan perspective to the current debate on democracy, populism, nationalism in Georgia and on both sides of the Atlantic.

"It is a terrible spectacle when the irrational becomes popular," stated the German writer and Nobel laureate Thomas Mann in his famous speech at the Library of Congress in 1943. His resistance of the Nazis is inspiring and relevant today, as we witness the fundamental values of democracy once again being called into question, and that populism and nationalism are putting our democratic society under massive pressure. The exhibition Thomas Mann: Democracy Will Win! and an accompanying cultural program is intended as a concrete contribution to the current debate on both sides of the Atlantic.

The first part of the exhibition presents Thomas Mann's political biography in its development from monarchist to powerful opponent of National Socialism and committed fighter for democracy. Photographs, texts, excerpts from the famous radio addresses "To the German Listeners!" and original exhibits trace his intellectual, political, and spatial paths.

The second multimedia part connects this history to the present. *What makes a political person? How does one become a supporter of democracy? How does one defend one's stance? Examples from the recent past, films and interviews, tweets, and quotes from*

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personalities from politics, pop, literature and society - such as Greta Thunberg or Saša Stanišić, Donald Trump or Barack Obama, Igor Levit or Edward Snowden - illustrate the importance of the question: How can we defend and sustainably strengthen democracy as the only possible form of society? This is a task that is more important than ever today, in times of global migration, climate change, and new pandemics.

The terms Beginnings, Zeitgeist, Affirmation, Take Action, and Responsibility structure the exhibition - and show the ambivalences that even a democratic system cannot eliminate. Thomas Mann's life offers numerous points of departure for examining the state and future of democracy - while adhering to Mann's dictum: "DEMOCRACY WILL WIN!"

This exhibition will be accompanied by a series of cultural programming - more information to come.

In cooperation with Thomas Mann House Los Angeles and Goethe Institut North America.

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About Goethe-Zentrum Atlanta

Our mission is to deliver language courses and programs that foster communication, education, collaboration, and cultural exchange for passionate learners for whom German is not their first language, natives of German-speaking countries, and people residing in the southeastern United States interested in or affiliated with Germany or Europe through heritage, career, or personal experience.