

One Place – One Space – Two Worlds **Locally anchored, globally visible**

The Stommeln Synagogue has always been a place of encounter, of Jewish culture, art, and remembrance. Since the 1990s it has established itself as a special venue for contemporary art, where international artists such as Jannis Kounellis, Richard Serra, and Rebecca Horn have created site-specific works in dialogue with the historic architecture and Jewish history.

In recognition of the art series curated since 1991 by the City of Pulheim in the former Stommeln Synagogue, “One Place – One Space – Two Worlds” presents itself as an independent, community-driven initiative to revive Jewish cultural life on site and online. The initiative will not set up parallel structures, but will seek a factual and respectful dialogue to meaningfully complement existing activities. [1]

A bridge between tradition and lived Jewish present

The Stommeln Synagogue will become a place that connects Jewish heritage with a vibrant contemporary cultural life. The focus is on reviving Jewish culture around the synagogue—through formats and programs of encounter, learning, music, language, and shared remembrance. “One Place – One Space – Two Worlds” expands the previous approach by interweaving physical presence on site with a digital dimension, thereby creating access for different audiences. [2]

One space – two worlds: on site and online

The synagogue becomes an interface between direct experience and digital engagement. On site, a vibrant setting for Jewish cultural life will take shape, one that incorporates the historic architecture, the local community, and the history of the place. At the same time, the digital dimension opens up new possibilities for participation and connection: content and programs are designed so that the synagogue can be experienced both in Stommeln and online. This dual approach strengthens cultural potential and makes the synagogue accessible to a broader public.

Digital presence: visible, accessible, connected

A key component of the concept is a clear, strong online presence: an up-to-date website, virtual insights into the space, and multimedia content such as videos and live formats/events. A digital archive documents activities, programs, and work of remembrance, making them accessible worldwide. Social media will be used to foster dialogue and participation and to reach younger audiences. Through digital events, the synagogue becomes a cross-regional hub for culture and exchange.

Education and intercultural dialogue

The Stommeln Synagogue is a place for education and understanding. Planned offerings address Jewish history, culture, and music, helping to reduce antisemitism and prejudice. Community projects create spaces for encounter, promote dialogue between different cultures, and build bridges between past and present. The dignity of Stommeln’s former Jewish community remains at the center at all times.

Expanding reach: locally anchored, globally visible

The Stommeln Synagogue remains firmly rooted in the local community while expanding its supra-regional presence. Through in-person and digital formats, it becomes a visible place for cultural exchange and creative encounters. This dual orientation strengthens the connection between local identity and global networking, making the synagogue a lively center of Jewish culture and intercultural dialogue.

Conclusion: a place for the future

The Stommeln Synagogue stands on the threshold of a new phase. With “One Place – One Space – Two Worlds,” it becomes a place that unites tradition and lived present, local rootedness and global visibility. By combining Jewish cultural life on site with digital participation, the synagogue becomes accessible to both local and international audiences. It remains a place of remembrance while once again becoming a vibrant center for Jewish culture, education, and exchange—a place that connects past and present and opens new perspectives.

Footnotes:

[1] Context and clarification note: The art series mentioned is overseen by the City of Pulheim. The initiative “One Place – One Space – Two Worlds” is an independent, community-led undertaking; there is no organizational or financial connection to the municipal art series.

[2] Ownership notice: The former Stommeln Synagogue is owned by the City of Pulheim. The mention of the location serves for orientation and does not imply cooperation or endorsement by the City.