

## THE GERMANISCHES NATIONALMUSEUM



**DATABASE FOR THE MIDDLE AGES.** FROM TIME TO TIME EARLIER EPOCHS GAIN NEW IMPORTANCE. AFTER THE DECLINE OF THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE OF THE GERMAN NATION IN 1806 THE MIDDLE AGES WERE REDISCOVERED. HE WHO KNOWS HIS ORIGIN FEELS SECURE IN THE FUTURE. QUESTIONS OF IDENTITY ARE BACK ON THE AGENDA AFTER GERMAN REUNIFICATION: WHERE DO WE COME FROM? WHICH ACHIEVEMENTS CAN WE BE PROUD OF? THE GERMANISCHES NATIONALMUSEUM WAS FOUNDED MORE THAN 150 YEARS AGO TO REVEAL THE IDENTITY OF THE GERMAN-SPEAKING NATIONS. TODAY THE MUSEUM HAS HUGE COLLECTIONS, WHICH CONSTITUTE A DATABASE OF CULTURAL HISTORY AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE.

Albrecht Dürer's portrait of his mother Barbara was painted around 1490 and is the earliest remaining painting of the Nuremberg master.



The presence of the Middle Ages: Historical monastic architecture and the modern entrance hall of the Germanisches Nationalmuseum.

## Panorama of an epoch: The Middle Ages

The Germanisches Nationalmuseum has approximately 1.3 million objects of German culture and history in its possession, a large part being the collections of the Middle Ages, including its architecture.

The core of the museum consists of a medieval Carthusian monastery with monastic cells, church and cloister. The Nuremberg painter Albrecht Dürer created the ideal of Charlemagne the way posterity likes to picture him: powerful, bearded and dressed in the imperial regalia. Together with the portrait of Emperor Sigmund, each painting forms one of the two doors of the cabinet that houses the shrine of the regalia.

Both panels face the captivating “Nuremberg Madonna” of 1515,

whose fascination derives from the girlish features bestowed on her by an unknown Nuremberg wood carver. Love overcomes pain.

In 2006 the collection of the Early and High Middle Ages was completely redesigned. The exhibits now go back to Carolingian times. What you see now is the panorama of an epoch – not just an art exhibition of the Middle Ages. In 2010 many visitors will be astounded. A special exhibition “The Castle Myth” (July 8<sup>th</sup> until October 2010) will set right widely held beliefs about life in a castle. The exhibition is long overdue, as castles have not only taken possession of children’s rooms but also of computer games. No longer the damsel of the castle but real life!



The admiration of Albrecht Dürer’s contemporaries for Charlemagne is clearly visible in Dürer’s painting of the founder of the empire.

### INFORMATION MUSEUM

#### Germanisches Nationalmuseum

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Opening times: Tue-Sun 10.00–18.00 hrs, Wed 10.00–21.00 hrs. Admission charges: 6.00–4.00 EUR, children up to 6: free, over 6: 4.00 EUR, groups of 10 or more: 4.00 EUR, schools: 1 EUR per student, families 9.00 EUR. Wed 18.00–21.00 hrs: free of charge. Full wheelchair accessibility. Conducted tours available through Kunst- und Kulturpädagogisches Zentrum der Museen in Nuremberg. Tel. +49 (0) 911.1331238 or Fax +49 (0) 911.1331318  
[www.kpz-nuernberg.de](http://www.kpz-nuernberg.de)

The “**Kaiserburgmuseum**” (museum of the Imperial Castle) in the boudoir buildings of Nuremberg Castle is a branch of the Germanisches Nationalmuseum and displays the historical role and the changing purposes of the Nuremberg Kaiserburg. Here you can visualise how combat techniques at a castle changed over the centuries. A collection of historical weapons, both defensive and offensive e.g. body armour, firearms, stick weapons and shields illustrate the changes.