



## About Shedhalle

Shedhalle is an institution of contemporary and critical art in Zurich. It defines itself as a place where new forms of artistic and cultural practices—particularly those related to socio-political topics—can be tried out, produced, and presented within the framework of exhibitions and other events. Shedhalle is a cultural think-tank permanently developing new and self-reflexive approaches to the production and representation of art. Shedhalle is a forum for artists, activists, curators, scientists, theorists, and students, which permits and enables the elucidation of diverse topics in varying constellations. It invites and encourages the devising of new formats, new models of presentation, and new structures.

The Shedhalle, forming part of the Rote Fabrik, a compound within the city of Zurich that has been in use as a culture and recreation center since the early 1980s, evolved in 1986 from an interest group of local artists who felt under-represented in the established art system. Since then, the Shedhalle programme has received significant international attention and become an important reference point for an experimental, sociocritical, and contemporary art practice.

## Practical Information

**Location:** Rote Fabrik, Seestrasse 395, 8038 Zürich

**Shedhalle Website:** [shedhalle.ch](http://shedhalle.ch)

**Loving Shedhalle:** [loving.shedhalle.ch](http://loving.shedhalle.ch)

**Instagram:** [@shedhalle](https://www.instagram.com/shedhalle)

### Opening Times:

Loving Shedhalle: October 25, 2025 – January 11, 2026

Wednesday/ Thursday: 2—6 PM

Friday: 2—9 PM

Saturday/ Sunday: 11 AM—6 PM

## Key highlights

- **1972–1977:** Rote Fabrik, originally an industrial silk-weaving mill, is saved from demolition and designated as a cultural center, marking the beginning of its transformation into a public cultural space.
- **1982–1985:** Local artists organize studios under the association Trakt B, highlighting the need for alternative exhibition platforms in Zürich.
- **March 9, 1985:** Shedhalle opens its first exhibition as an “action space for young Swiss art,” organized by local artists including Felix Brunner, establishing a platform for experimental artistic practices.
- **December 1987:** Public referendum secures funding for Rote Fabrik, enabling the creation of the Shedhalle Association and the hiring of its first permanent curator and manager.
- **April 22, 1988:** The formal constitution of the Shedhalle Association establishes autonomous governance, allowing the institution to independently define its artistic program and curatorial agenda, while operating within the publicly funded framework of Rote Fabrik.
- **1994–Late 1990s:** Shedhalle adopts interdisciplinary and politically engaged programming, focusing on feminist, queer, ecological, and activist practices. Experimental media art projects place the institution at the forefront of contemporary artistic formats. A collective curatorial model was established, combining programming with activism.
- **2000–2020:** Research-led, socially engaged programs continue under successive curatorial teams. Shedhalle strengthens collaborations with emerging artists and fosters critical discourse both locally and internationally. In 2001, the *Never Look Back* exhibition comprehensively reviews Shedhalle's history, marking early self-reflection. In 2002, the *Boys'* exhibition explores masculinity and gender norms. Throughout the 2010s, exhibitions feature *Knowbotiq*, a Swiss artist collective using digital media for political critique. In 2019, exhibitions like *13 m3 Sand* address environmental themes.
- **2020–2025:** Led by curatorial directors Thea Reifler and Phila Bergmann, *ProtoZones'* program emphasizes process-based art. Queer-feminist, eco-critical, and anti-discriminatory practices are fundamental, shaping both the program but also the institutional layer of production and exhibition making.
- **October 24, 2025–January 11, 2026:** *Loving Shedhalle* marks the 40th anniversary with an exhibition, bilingual publication, and digitized archive, reflecting on Shedhalle's history, curatorial strategies, and the ongoing labor of sustaining an autonomous art space.
- **January 2026:** A new curatorial team is taking over the curatorial direction: Laura Amann Marín and Jen Kratochvil, operating on the intersections of queer feminist and popular discourses, with a particular interest in the politics of space and media literacy.