

Honoré Daumier

6 February to 25 March 2026

The spring exhibition in 2026 is dedicated to the French artist Honoré Daumier. For the first time in 90 years, his impressive oeuvre will be on display at the ALBERTINA. Supported by around 80 loans from the Städel Museum Association, the exhibition sheds new light on the museum's extensive collection with exhibits that have never been shown before.

At the beginning of the 19th century, Paris was one of the most populous cities in Europe. The great revolution was over, Napoleon was dead, and the political situation was unstable. With a sharp eye and a pointed pen, Honoré Daumier fought on the front lines. Committed to the republican ideal, his caricatures were repeatedly censored. His scathing criticism of those in power even landed him in prison for several months.

Both chronicler and commentator, Daumier gave as much space to everyday life as he did to high politics. Alongside MPs and rulers, his pictures are populated by bathers and art lovers, drinkers and theatre people, testifying to the wit and acumen of an artist who held up an incorruptible mirror to his contemporaries. To this day, these works have lost none of their relevance.