The Ruhr Museum in Essen and the Deutsches Bergbau-Museum Bochum stage their first joint exhibition to mark the end of coal mining in Germany. The exhibition is presented in the UNESCO World Heritage Site Zollverein which for many years was the largest colliery in Europe. The museum features comprehensive social and technical-historical collections, covering the history of colliery mining in the Ruhr Area which are now jointly on display in one exhibition. With their exhibits more than 100 international lenders complete the total of more than 1,200 objects on display. Among them is the original contract of the “European Coal and Steel Community” (ECSC), on loan from the National Archives of Luxembourg. Founded in 1951, the ECSC was the first and decisive step towards the European Union. Other exhibits include paintings and busts, mining relics and heavy machines, photographs and films, flags, a historic wallpaper from the Musées Gadagne in Lyon and original samples of the first synthetic colours made from coal.

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Exhibition

The Age of Coal. A European History
27.4. – 11.11.2018

www.ageofcoal.eu

Exhibition Venue
UNESCO World Heritage Site Zollverein
Areal C [coking plant], mixing plant [C70]/entrance at the weighing tower [A29]
Arendahls Wiese, 45141 Essen

Information and Booking
Tel.: +49 (0)201 24681 444
besucherdienst@ruhrmuseum.de
www.ageofcoal.eu

Opening Times, Admission
Daily, Mon – Sun 10am to 6pm, admission EUR 10, reduced EUR 7, free admission for children and adolescents under the age of 18 as well as pupils and university students under the age of 25, group discounts and combi tickets available at the counter, online tickets at www.kohle-tickets.de

The exhibition is, largely, barrier-free.

Guided Group Tours
90 minutes, EUR 70 plus EUR 8 admission per person, groups of pupils and university students EUR 50 by free entry, foreign languages EUR 80 plus EUR 8 admission (upon request)

Audio Guide
EUR 3 (German and English)

Family Tour/Coal Quiz
Mon – Sun 10am to 4pm
EUR 1 per quiz plus admission

Accompanying Programme
For additional events offered, see our event flyer or www.ageofcoal.eu

Catalogue
288 pages with a lot of illustrations, Klartext publishers, Essen (Germany) 2018, ISBN 978-3-83751953-2, EUR 24.95

#ageofcoal

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2018. Coal mining in Germany comes to an end with the closing of the Prosper-Haniel colliery in Bottrop. This event signifies the termination of an important chapter not only in German history, but also in European history, which has been shaped significantly by coal for the last 200 years. The production and consumption of coal left its marks on industry and infrastructure, social life, politics, both World Wars and the European unification. In the Ruhr Area in particular, coal had a strong impact on the work, everyday life and mentality of the people.

From 27 April to 11 November 2018 "The Age of Coal. A European History", the joint exhibition of the Ruhr Museum and of the Deutsches Bergbau-Museum Bochum presents the multifaceted and fascinating history of coal production, its consumption and its consequences in the impressive mixing plant of the Zollverein Coking Plant.

Starting with a ride on the cable car, the history of coal awaits the visitors at the place where coal was sorted, stored and mixed in order to produce 5,000 tons of coke a day. On three spectacular levels the exhibition covers the period from 1750 until today. First, however, "The Worlds of Coal" shows how coal was created more than 300 million years ago in carboniferous forests and presents the largest piece of coal mined in the Ruhr Area.

At the first level of "Mining" is presented: How did miners reach the coal? How did they push the limits of nature in the European coalfields? The four elements earth, air, fire and water illustrate the fascinating technical developments of mining and also its physical exertion and constant dangers. Mining technology reduced these dangers, but never eliminated them. In the windowless bunkers of the second level, "Unleashing" deals with the numerous possibilities of coal. Not only did the "black gold" contain stored solar energy which fuelled the industrial age. It also gave rise to the chemical industry, allowing it to imitate nature. Furthermore, coal provided the substances for numerous pharmaceutical products. It also contributed to better living conditions and was the guarantor of complex infrastructures, numerous jobs and the accumulation of wealth.

At the same time, it played a decisive role in the development of class conflicts and in the waging of wars.

The third level "Culmination and Farewell" is dedicated to the heyday and the consequences of coal. These range from the key contribution of coal to the economic reconstruction and political unification of Europe after World War II, the replacement of coal with new energy sources, the subsequent structural changes and the immense ecological consequences that result from the extraction and consumption of coal.

The People and Machines in Mining conclude the exhibition. In interviews "People in Mining" express their personal farewell to "The Age of Coal". Outside in the Sculpture Park gigantic machines illustrate the dimensions of modern mining.