



Goethe-Institut e. V. Oskar-von-Miller-Ring 18, 80333 München

(re)OPEN MINDS 2026

Welcome to (re)OPEN MINDS: Adapting to the Future 2026, a year-long cultural program examining the role of arts and culture in fostering resilience at the intersection of art, technology, and well-being.

Ten years ago, at the first OPEN MINDS: Adapting to the Future project in Toronto in 2016, I was a speaker on “Art as an Early Warning System”, and the learnings have reverberated in my work since then. We looked at how we can imagine our future through the arts -- a future out there in the wild, ready to be shaped. With its experimental power, critical visions, and social manifestations and impact, culture helps us re-imagine alternative and more resilient futures.

Since then, the world has changed in ways few could have predicted, and many of the certainties we once held have vanished. Rising populism, devastating wars, rapid technological disruptions, and an accelerating climate crisis now threaten the very fabric of our shared existence. We are left to ask: How do we want to live together on this planet?

Faced with these overlapping challenges, it's more important than ever to keep our minds open and to open each others' minds, recognizing how arts and culture uniquely empower societies to respond and adapt. As President of the global Goethe-Institut, I see this capacity every day. That's why I am proud to support (re)OPEN MINDS 2026 under my auspices. With this initiative, the Goethe-Institut Toronto is working to build lasting networks for social resilience, mutual care, and cross-cultural collaboration—helping us keep our minds open to a hopeful future.

Prof. Dr. Gesche Joost
President of the Goethe-Institut

Die Präsidentin

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