

# **BUILDING-RELATED ART IN THE GDR**

In East Germany, urban spaces were planned holistically. Art should make socialist ideas visible and connect with the people. It was optimistic and showed an ideal image of socialism. The visual language was supposed to be understood by all people. This art movement is called Socialist Realism.

Commissions for construction-related artworks were controlled by the state. The artists had to be members of the Association of Visual Artists and had to get approval for their plans from the state. In the late GDR, building-related artworks became less political. Artists had more creative space and worked more and more abstractly.

## **Quote**

**"If people want to see art today, they have to go to a museum, a gallery, or an exhibition, but that's wrong, in my opinion, because art has to come to the people, to every home, without asking!"**

Josep Renau,  
artist and politician in the GDR, 1980