

NIBE LUNG WORMS RHINE





Teil der Stadt-Worms-Reformation vom 1493 (Ausschnitt) © Stadtarchiv Worms, Akt. 1834-3

WORMS

Like no other city, Worms is affiliated with the cycle of heroic legends that tell the tale of the royal house of the Nibelungs. They have left their marks from the Migration Period through the High and Late Middle Ages into modernity. Countless sagas and legends, from Eastern Europe to Iceland, are set in the world of the Nibelungs. Composed around 1200, the most prominent saga is the *Nibelungenlied* (lit. 'Song of the Nibelungs').

Its artistic representation has a long-standing tradition in Worms. The first prominent artist in this tradition, Nikolaus Nievergalt, painted the city hall with Nibelungs-themed motifs as early as 1493. It is likely that he also designed the first dragon that features prominently on the municipal coat of arms (left).

One of the oldest, today still preserved monuments, is the **HAGEN MONUMENT**, located on the banks of the Rhine in Worms. It was conceived by Johannes Hirth in 1905 for a rose garden that briefly featured as a landscaped garden in a public park that locals call *Wormser Wäldchen*.

As part of Eichfelder's labyrinthine land art project, **KRIEMHILD'S ROSE GARDEN**, the Hagen Monument has once more become part of a rose garden, this time in the form of an artistic examination of the mythical legends of the Nibelungen saga.

Since June 2022, **EINDUTZEND** (lit. 'One Dozen'), a light and sound installation by Birgit Schuh, allows visitors to experience, visually and acoustically, how the Nibelungen hoard was buried beneath the Rhine. At the same time, the installation addresses the futility of trying to find the treasure.



HAGEN MONUMENT

Bronze sculpture by Johannes Hirth

Johannes Hirth's (* 1859 +1917) Hagen monument commemorates the burying of the Nibelungen hoard beneath the Rhine by Hagen von Tronje. It is considered the most important attestation of the artistic reception of the Nibelungen saga that gained momentum in Worms in the early 20th century.

Burying the hoard

The context of this event is provided in the Nibelungen saga: After Siegfried's death, Kriemhild began generously giving away the Nibelungen hoard, with the intent of gaining support for her cause. Hagen feared that Kriemhild might use these funds to raise an army and threaten the Burgundians and thus, Hagen himself, who had previously murdered Siegfried.

The Rose Garden

The bronze sculpture was originally installed in the city park in 1905. It was donated by Cornelius Wilhelm von Heyl zu Herrnsheim, with the intent of placing it in a rose garden that was going to form part of the city park. The monument was moved to the banks of the Rhine in 1932. It is assumed that Johannes Hirth's depiction of Hagen was inspired by a painting by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld (around 1845).



For further information, visit:
www.hagendenkmal.de

KRIEMHILD'S ROSE GARDEN

Land-Art by Eichfelder

The labyrinthine work of art, accessible to the public, refers to the early civilizations of Europe and their traditions of myths and legends – in particular, those associated with the Nibelungen saga – from Brunhild to Sleeping Beauty.

Just like the artwork itself, the heroic poem known as *Rosengarten zu Worms*, which dates from around 1230, is set at the banks of the Rhine in Worms.

The Labyrinth

Unlike a maze, it is impossible to get lost in a classic labyrinth because its path always leads to its center.

The cult associated with labyrinths, whose roots can be traced back to the bronze age, has had a lasting influence on the European mythological world and hence, the Nibelungen saga.

The Linden

The linden tree is linked as inextricably to labyrinths and the Rosengarten song as the Nibelungen saga as a whole.

The three linden trees that feature in Kriemhild's rose garden are planted so closely to each other that they form a common crown and may even form a common trunk in the distant future.



For further information, visit:
www.kriemhilds-rosengarten.de

Rose Labyrinth [1]
The Three Linden Trees [2]
Hagen Monument [3]



EINDUTZEND

Light and sound installation by Birgit Schuh

EINDUTZEND is a light and sound installation that transforms the story of the Nibelungen saga to the present: it makes the gold in the Rhine visible and loud splashes remind us of how the hoard was thrown into the river.

Adventure 19 tells the story of how Hagen brought twelve carts full of rocks and gold to the river banks and buried them beneath the Rhine.

At first glance, it appears that EINDUTZEND provides proof of the Nibelungen hoard's existence: The treasure is clearly visible and the loud splashes suggest that the treasure is really being thrown into the river. However, even today the gold eludes our grasp: depending on the time of day and the weather conditions, it emerges on the water surface to varying degrees.

Moreover, viewing it from different angles changes the way the gold glitters. The closer and the more tangible the gold appears to be, the faster it dissolves right before the viewer's eyes.

Birgit Schuh studied fine arts at the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, the Berlin University of the Arts and the Academy of Fine Arts Dresden. She holds degrees including the German Diplom and Meisterschüler (master scholar).

She has contributed to numerous national and international exhibitions, including public artwork.



www.birgit-schuh.de

www.worms-eindutzend.de

THE NIBELUNG FESTIVAL

Since 2002, the Nibelung Festival has been staged in front of the cathedral as an annual open-air theater event. The festival attracts large audiences every year, putting the city on the Rhine in the spotlight.

But not only the theater performances at the cathedral make the festival a unique cultural event: There are also high-quality fringe events, and the Heylshofpark, one of Germany's most beautiful theater foyers, always draws many visitors.



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