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The Wendel Collection is probably the world's largest collection of Franco-Cantabrian cave art made by a single photographer. From 1964 up to his death in 1980 Heinrich Wendel was the lead setting designer at the Deutsche Oper in Düsseldorf and one of Germany's most famous stage designers. Designing space via light and projection was the core of his creative work. Driven by his artistic interests he travelled the Franco-Cantabrian region several times between 1964 and 1970, in search of inspiration from prehistoric cave art. All the time he proceeded in a highly professional way and worked with scientific precision following a uniform conception. He also took pictures in the non-public areas of the caves. In the course of time he generated an extensive photo library of about 3000 pictures. This photo library not only documents the state of preservation of the cave art in about 50 caves but also shows cave art from the perspective of the stage designer: Cave art 'mise en scène' by transforming a natural space into architecture, into a stage. More than 20 years after Heinrich Wendel's death this photo library was endowed on the Neanderthal Museum for scientific revision and conservation.

More information about Heinrich Wendel

[Biography Heinrich Wendel](#)
[Heinrich Wendel the Artist](#)
[Heinrich Wendel and the Cave Art](#)
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For further information

The Neanderthal Museum offers the following articles based on the Wendel Collection:
[Interactive CD "Cave Art of the Ice Age"](#) (german/english)
[DVD "Cave Art of the Ice Age"](#) (german)

Pastors, Andreas; Weniger, Gerd C. (2004): La collection Wendel: Archive en images de l'art pariétal paléolithique. The Wendel collection: A picture archive of ice age cave art. In: International Newsletter of Rock Art 40: 24-27. " (PDF)

MultiViews

Have a look at prehistoric cave art in detail with our MultiViews. Click here to get a list with all available sites in France and Spain.



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Photo Heinrich Wendel
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