

OSTRALE

Biennale für zeitgenössische Kunst

12.

INTERNATIONALE
AUSSTELLUNG

HISTORISCHE TABAKFABRIK f6

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For the first time outside Iran:

Iranian artist group BORJASS presents group exhibition in Dresden in person

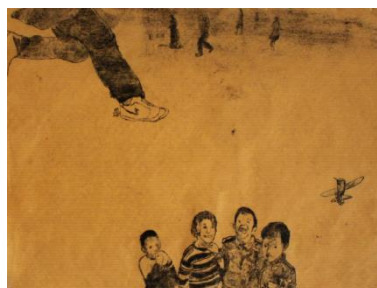
With the support of the Stiftung Kunst und Musik für Dresden, the OSTRALE Biennale is currently exhibiting impressive works by the Iranian artist group Borjass from the city of Amol in the northern Iranian province of Mazandaran. The works can be seen outside Iran for the first time. Due to the current sanctions and the export licensing procedures, the group exhibition could only begin after a certain delay. It was only on the night of Tuesday (6 August) that the organizers were informed that the young artists were now also allowed to enter the country personally. This means that this year's OSTRALE Biennale will be able to host a special international cultural exchange with an extensive supporting programme. Among other things, it is planned that the artists will personally present their works to the visitors during a guided tour. Until 1 September, the OSTRALE Biennale will present over 300 works by around 180 artists from 34 nations in Dresden.

The OSTRALE Biennale is currently presenting a multifaceted special feature with the Borjass Group's exhibition of works, which was created almost secretly: works by a young group of artists from the Iranian city of Amol, a city in northern Iran near the Caspian Sea in the province of Mazandaran, can be seen. The city can be reached from Tehran after a three-hour drive through the gigantic and impressive Elbrus Mountains. The works of these young artists have never before been shown outside Iran – so far they have only been exhibited in their own country, among others in Tehran.

In their works, the artists explore their lives, their surroundings, their society and their own inner thinking. The viewer of the works gets an idea of the power, which is revealed in the artistic work as well as in the result. Stories are to be discovered that here - outside Iran - can receive a different, new interpretation. One member of the group says that artistic work gives the young Iranians a free space, teaches them and fulfills them.

The group exhibition is entitled "The Range":

In addition to oil and acrylic paintings, the exhibition includes drawings by **Akbar Nematirad**, which appear to the viewer as stills from a Fellini film - they tell about love and violence, street scenes are merging with a dream world, perspectives are reversed.



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There is also a powerful collection of photographs taken on a street market in Iran, telling us the universal story of life and death and our habits, as photographer **Hamed Ghasemi (21)** explains in his own words: *„Human being colonizes anything he does not understand, so that he replaces others-loving with others-devouring. While this turns to a habit in lifestyle, human get used to it. Therefore the tradition of animal-eating became a habit. The blood streams that follow down from the animal's neck, his wondering eyes, his last scream as a suppressed sympathy, they all have become routines in our life. And falling to a habit is the greatest death that human being can face.“*



In the group exhibition, drawings can also be seen that tell of the young artist Zeinab Fatemi's disagreements within the family. Here, themes are explored that are also highly relatable in our society.



Bettina Renner, who arranged the contact with the artist group and curated the group exhibition: *"I am very happy that the entire group is now allowed to come to Dresden to present their own artworks at the OSTRALE and to get to know all the people who are so eagerly waiting to meet them. I look forward to all the encounters and discoveries that are now possible".*

Martina de Maizière, Chairman of the Stiftung Kunst und Musik für Dresden: *"I'm looking forward to getting to know the young Iranian artists and am excited about their world. It will be an enormous enrichment for the people of Dresden to experience their perspective, as they come from a country in which you have to deal with personal restrictions all the time".*

Uwe Gaul, State Secretary of the Saxon state ministry for science and art (SMWK): *"The exhibition of the Iranian artist group BORJASS is a win for the OSTRALE and for the art-interested public in Dresden. I am particularly pleased that the artists themselves can come here to make new contacts and take home lasting impressions of our society. I am already very excited about the conversation with them. Through them, we gain insight into the thinking of young artists who live in a country that is currently on everyone's lips in terms of world politics, but of which most of us know far too little. How do the artists work there, what moves them? What artistic traditions do they refer to? What does the world look like from their point of view - and not just the big world, but that of real everyday life? Through the encounters in Dresden, Bautzen and Germany as a whole, we and they can learn a lot about each other. Concrete experiences with each other help to break down prejudices that almost always arise from ignorance. Here we have the opportunity to get to know interesting personalities and at the same time establish a universal connection across cultural and linguistic borders. The artists do not come from the big metropolises, but from the smaller city of Amol, and I find that particularly interesting, because in Saxony, too, great attention is currently paid to what we call "rural space" and its possibilities."*

Andrea Hilger, Director of the OSTRALE Biennale: *"Together with the Stiftung Kunst und Musik für Dresden and the Saxon State Ministry of Science and Art, we fought for a long time for the travel permit - many thanks to all our fellow combatants! Personally, I felt reminded of earlier times and based on earlier experiences I always believed that we would still receive the permit*



Die OSTRALE wird gefördert durch die Landeshauptstadt Dresden, die Kulturstiftung des Freistaates Sachsen (Diese Maßnahme wird mitfinanziert durch Steuermittel auf der Grundlage des vom Sächsischen Landtag beschlossenen Haushaltes); der Ausstellungsfokus „Womanism“ wird gefördert im Fonds TURN der Kulturstiftung des Bundes, die „all sense app“ wird gefördert durch AKTION Mensch / Weitere Förderer: EU, Deutsches Kinderhilfswerk, der Freistaat Sachsen, Stiftung Kunst und Musik für Dresden / Hauptsponsoren: USD Immobilien GmbH, Ostsächsische Sparkasse Dresden, Bplus, Infra Log GmbH, Heinrichsthaler Milchwerke GmbH, Spedition Detmers Transport GmbH, Schneider + Partner GmbH

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at very short notice. Together with the guests of the OSTRALE we can look forward to really exciting encounters".

The artists themselves guide through their exhibition

For Saturday, August 10th, at 3 p.m., the OSTRALE Biennale invites interested visitors to guided tours with a special focus on the group exhibition. The artists **Hamid Asadzadeh, Zeinab Fatemi, Ali Fazeli, Hamed Ghasemi, Banafsheh Motevalli, Akbar Nematirad, Foroozan Soleymani**, accompanied by director Andrea Hilger and the curator of the group exhibition, Bettina Renner, will present their works. Participation in the guided tour costs 5 Euro (admission 15, reduced 10 Euro).

This year's OSTRALE Biennale is open until 1 September. A venue for the 2021 OSTRALE Biennale in Dresden is still to be found.

Main location of the OSTRALE Biennale: Historische Tabakfabrik f6 Striesen, Dresden

Entry from Schandauer Straße 68, Public transport: Gottleubaer Straße, Tram lines 4, 10 Open from 4 July until 1 September 2019: Wed. to Fri. 10-19h, Sat.-Sun. 11-20h

Decentralized exhibitions: **Gedenkstätte Bautzner Straße** (11.6.-8.9.), daily between 10-18h, Fr. until 20h, **Goethe-Institut Dresden** (12.6.-1.9.), Mo-Fr 8-16h, **Ausländerrat Dresden e.V.** (13.6.-1.9.), Wed.-Sun. 10-18h, **Kunst-und Kulturverein Alte Feuerwache Loschwitz** (28.6.-18.8.), Mo, Tue, Thurs 10-16h / Tues 10-18h / Sun 14-18h, **SAP'art Dresden** (26.4.-1.9.)

Entry fees: 15 Euro, reduced price 10 Euro, Family ticket and 5-day ticket 30 Euro, reduced price 25 Euro

Picture material can be downloaded from here: https://ostrale.de/de/Presse/pressefotos_iran.html

Further picture material and press appointments through blaurock@team-blaurock.de.

The OSTRALE Biennale has an excellent international network and is currently the third-largest temporary exhibition of contemporary art in Germany with over 300 works of art by around 180 artists from over 34 nations. It is not a sales exhibition per se, which gives it the freedom to discuss socially relevant topics away from market developments. The guiding principles of the OSTRALE, such as peaceful coexistence, acceptance of the stranger/unknown, respectful interaction, religious diversity and internationality are reflected in the exhibitions. The team of the OSTRALE Centre for Contemporary Arts has already organized several large-scale events contributing to the contemporary art programmes of European Capitals of Culture, such as 2010 in Pécs, 2016 in Wrocław and 2018 in Valletta/Malta. In the European Capital of Culture 2020 Rijeka/Croatia, the OSTRALE will also contribute by shaping parts of the programme.

F.d.R.d.A. Tobias Blaurock



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The Borjass Art Group

„Along with the couple of artists we settled at the Amol 2010 In city of Iran, possessing the same mindset while independently sharing the same goal toward developing the language of criticism. We decided to create an art group called Borjass (the moving goal in the air), while each individual, based on his/her own competencies, committed to study and investigate on the political, sociological, psychological and spiritual aspects of humans of the current era. We represented the artworks, 2015 establishing the Isoo Gallery in focusing on the common prohibitions and necessities that limit the freedom of life. During the recent years of our personal and professional development, we have shared our ideas and vision with both Iranian and international artists while designing contemporary art projects such as contemporary paintings, video arts, performances, voice arts and assemblages in order to reflect our notions.“

The Borjass Art Group about the exhibition:

RANGE

Everything gets narrower than a strand of hair;

sometimes the most natural need looks so loose on an insecure border between being and not being

which makes it possible to break apart at any moment.

It is exactly when the relationship goes to oblivion,

when the love falls,

when the right of free choice disappears,

when the history seems so unreliable that we lose the past, present and future, and sometimes our cultural geography is forgotten.

Sometimes your fears make you convince to accept who you are,

but sometimes the fears make you try to look for your lost range.

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Quotes from the artists of the Borjass Group

„Art is my mental structure; the only tool I have to express my concerns from past to present. The challenges that are integral parts of my life in my country. At the same time, what I create out of my concerns bridge on me with other artists.“

Ali Fazeli

„We understand ourselves through our reflections in others. The exchange of ideas beyond borders and cross-cultures will bring me an experience that wouldn't achieve within a boundary but beyond. The OSTRALE Biennale made it feasible for us.“

Hamid Asadzadeh

„Art gives meaning to life and the world around us. So creating artworks is one of the most joyful things in my life. I'm happy OSTRALE provides me the platform to share this joy with people in a different country.“

Zeinab Hosseinzadeh

„I am pleased to share my concerns with audiences around the world. That helps a greater understanding of our existence in this world.“

Farzaneh Gholizadeh

„As an Eastern artist, I am happy to have my work at a global art event-OSTRALE. I am glad that our group activities pass across the continent.“

Banafsheh Motefalli

„Images contain life experiences, and I believe that each experience is a teacher. So I learn something with each photography I take. I would love to share these experiences with different audiences.“

Hamed Ghasemi

„It's a pleasure my work will exhibit at international Biennale OSTRALE along with artists from other countries. I always wish to share my art with other countries so that they can have a more realistic image of my country.“

Mostafa Masoumi

„I would love to express through art that how a human being is searching for broader connection. Having an exhibition at OSTRALE is an opportunity to show some of my concerns in this scope.“

Zeinab Fatemi

„Being in OSTRALE Biennale takes us beyond the geographical boundaries. This experience provides us new opportunity to share our concepts and insights at an international level, to enjoy this exchange, and to receive other's experiences.“

Foroozan Soleimani

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„The presence of me and my other friends at OSTRALE Biennale made me happy for several reasons. First of all, I feel proud to represent Iran in the OSTRALE. Secondly, it gives us credit through participation in such a professional event. Last, but not least I'll have a chance to know another country, share ideas and experiences with, and cross-culture exchange.“

Akbar Nemati Rad

BY THE WAY:

Intervention following the guided tour

In keeping with the theme of **the possibilities and limits of international cultural exchange**, a performance will also take place on Saturday at 5 p.m. in which North and South Korea will be artistically united: In the art space of **Lena Lapschina** (Historische Tabakfabrik f6 Striesen Rundgang 1/29), in which a work on North Korea is presented, a dance performance will take place with three dancers from South Korea and two dancers from the Palucca School in Dresden.



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