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Contemporary Art / Exhibitions / Germany / Saxony / Dresden

OSTRALE Biennale - 15th International Exhibition of Contemporary Art, 7.6.-5.10.2025

For: OSTRALE - Center for Contemporary Art

OSTRALE Biennale 2025 begins on Saturday - Those who think in black and white, will be horrified by the nuances.

Hundreds of

**art lovers are expected to attend the opening on Friday
evening - Open from 7 June to 5 October**

Thurs. to Sun. from 11 am to 7 pm

**Dresden: The international exhibition of contemporary art OSTRALE Biennale
2025 begins on Saturday (7 June) and will take place daily on Thursdays
to Sundays until 5 October, 2025. For the 15th time, the OSTRALE will bring
together international artistic**

**positions in Dresden - for the third time in the robotron canteen, a pavilion
building of Eastern Modernism in the center of the
city of culture that is still**

**unrenovated and used on an interim basis. This year's title NEVER GREY calls
for the dissolution of black and white**

thinking towards an open perception of the colorful diversity of our reality.

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The motto of this year's Biennale refers to an aphorism by Jürgen Wilbert (*1945):
“Those who think in black and white dread shades of gray.”

The curators' thematic focus lies in a differentiated examination of complex and current social issues, such as war, identity, consumer behavior and dealing with nature. At the heart of the curatorial approach of “O25” is the idea of color as a material, symbol and dialogue, in the context of movement, poetry, spirituality and science. Colors are an expression of identity, of a cultural and political space. Color as a means of activating and strengthening perception and promoting discourse is therefore the “colorful” thread in the dramaturgy of the exhibition, explains Andrea Hilger, Director of the OSTRALE Biennale. She demands: “We must allow change, perceive better, understand nuances, preserve, keep and give time for and around each other for all life.”

“Sculptural hanging” promises a special exhibition

The approach to this year's exhibition, which was curated by **Dr. Veronika Krülle Kotoucova** (CZ - OSTRALE curator), **Antka Hofmann** and **Andrea Hilger** (artistic management team), **Drorit Gur Arie** (Israel) and **Evelyn Drewes** (Hamburg, Berlin), arouses curiosity. **Andrea Hilger**: "What's special this year is the hanging of the works.

We are deliberately breaking up the classic structure, combining art history and science with the perspective of visual and performing arts. The O25 breaks up conventional patterns and narrative strands, poetic text modules are combined with visible color boundaries. The sculptural hanging in the robotron canteen dissolves spaces and sets visual axes to new perspectives - whereby the color always serves to provoke or pacify and, deliberately set, interacts with the content."

Selection of artistic positions

Around 300 works by 106 artists from 32 nations will be on display.

Opening performance

The OSTRALE Biennale kicks off with the latest performance by the **Psychedelic Choir** under the direction of **Zorka Wollny (PL)**. The work entitled “**All the languages of the world**” was created especially for this occasion with the kind support of the foundation **Stiftung Kunst und Musik für Dresden**. Chairwoman **Martina de Maizière** emphasizes: "We are delighted that the OSTRALE Biennale is once again taking place in the robotron canteen and that this location can once again be publicly perceived. With the performance by Zorka Wollny at the opening of the exhibition, our anniversary prizewinner is returning to Dresden and is transforming the area around the canteen into a lively resonating space. We are particularly looking forward to this!" The performance in the form of a soundscape is dedicated to the diversity of life. It aims to transport the audience to other, alternative realities that exist parallel to our own human reality, but are unknown to us and therefore invisible. It aims to strengthen visitors' sensitivity, broaden horizons and convey other worlds.

The walk-in **light sculpture “infinite BLUE”** by artists **Lucas Oertel (DE)** and **Jan Danzig (CZ)** can be experienced in the outdoor area of the robotron canteen. They pose the question: “What role does blue play in our society?” As a resonance space flooded with light and color, the sculpture is intended to bring an existential, physically tangible dimension of color and light into the urban space, making the effect of color directly tangible.

Portraits of young adults, painted by **Anya Janssens (NL)**, are intended to embody a hopeful future in a present characterized by uncertainty. Janssen has redefined her own fear of the future as investigative optimism.

Also on display are figures by **Daniel Paul (CZ)**, who explores the duality of external appearance and inner reality.

The paintings on display by **Inna Artemova (RU)** reflect the dualism of nature and culture as well as the turning away from nature associated with the ecological crisis, and challenge us to rethink our relationship to nature and our dominant role - other perspectives are intended to shift our centrist perception of the self and emphasize the importance of other ways of life.

In his painting, **Leos Suchan (CZ)** transfers the Baroque striving for illusionistic beauty and material opulence to the present and at the same time updates the Baroque turn towards subjectivity, which was motivated on the one hand by amazement at the richness and beauty of the transient world and on the other by a sublime longing for eternity. In **“Bags and Boxes II”**, this heritage enters into a dialog with today's consumer reality - between meditative calm and dynamic, uncontrolled expressiveness, between past and present.

Natalie Perkof (CZ) addresses the social dichotomy of the “male” and “female” world in her haptic, painterly large-scale formats, along with the associated attributions of supposedly gender-typical characteristics. The artist points out that every person as an individual carries within them characteristics - beyond such categories - that emerge from their own nature, their essence and their uniqueness.

Also on display, among many others, are works by **Lee Yanor (Israel)** - in several large-format video installations, she explores the perception of past, present and future. For example, a series of colorful sequences extracted from MRI scans shows dynamically vibrating neurons.

Opening days, guided tours, additional exhibition area

This year, the OSTRALE Biennale will only be open from Thursday to Sunday. Guided tours for the public will take place at the weekends. Due to a large number of applications from school classes, there will be six guided tours (by appointment) on Thursdays and Fridays and two guided tours (without appointment) on Sat/Sun.

From 14 June to 5 October, an additional exhibition area of the O25 will be open in the „Gedenkstätte Bautzner Straße“.

robotron-Kantine / Zinzendorfstraße 5 / corner of Lingnerallee / 01069 Dresden

Opening hours: Thurs. to Sun. from 11 am to 7 pm

Decentralised exhibition venue from 14 June 2025:

Gedenkstätte Bautzner Straße Dresden / Bautzner Straße 112a / 01099 Dresden

Opening hours: daily from 10 am to 6 pm

The OSTRALE Biennale 2025 was curated by

Dr. Veronika Krülle Kotoucova, art historian, curator, OSTRALE / Czech Republic

Drorit Gur Arie, art historian, curator / Israel

Evelyn Drewes Galerie Hamburg, Berlin / Germany

Artistic direction and spatial choreography:

Andrea Hilger, Director OSTRALE / Germany,

Antka Hofmann, OSTRALE

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

Information for media representatives:

Image selection: <https://ostrale.de/de/Presse/Downloads.html>

Artist database:

Name: Kunstvermittlung

Password: \$regenbogenzellen26

Access via: <https://www.ostrale.org>

Background

The OSTRALE Biennale is one of the largest temporary exhibitions of contemporary art in Germany. The guiding principles of the OSTRALE, such as peaceful coexistence, acceptance of the foreign and the unknown, respectful interaction, religious diversity and internationality, as well as the call for sustainability, biodiversity and circular economy, are reflected in the content of the exhibitions. The OSTRALE team often also designs significant parts of the artistic programme of European Capitals of Culture, such as 2010 in Pécs/Hungary, 2016 in Wrocław/Poland, 2018 in Valletta/Malta, 2020 in Rijeka/Croatia (digital due to the pandemic) and 2022 in the European Capital of Culture Kaunas/Lithuania. In the years 2021-2022, the OSTRALE played a leading role in the 'Flowing Connections' project, which was co-financed by the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union. An 'Out of OSTRALE' is planned for 2026 in the Czech Republic.

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