

Press Information O21, Nr. 6 / 19. November 2020

Art / Culture / Dresden / Saxony

OSTRALE Biennale O21

Socially critical showcase from the East with „Flowing Connections“

Dresden. The international exhibition of contemporary arts OSTRALE Biennale O21 will again take place from 01.07. to 03.10.2021 at several locations in the Dresden city area. It sees itself as a socio-critical "showcase of the East" and aims to put established and lesser-known artists from the eastern parts of Europe in an international context. In addition to works by approximately 160 artists, which will be curated by an international jury from Lithuania, Hungary, Croatia and Germany from October to February, the OSTRALE Biennale O21 will also present the project "Flowing Connections", which is co-financed by the EU.

„Showcase of the East“ and a contribution to social education through art

As a socio-critical "Showcase of the East", the OSTRALE Biennale focuses on placing artists from the eastern parts of Europe in an international context. The exhibition will present established artists as well as offer a podium to unknown newcomers. In the field of contemporary visual art, it also makes an important contribution to cross-generational social education. Visiting the OSTRALE Biennales, which are seen by up to 9,000 pupils per year, is part of the curriculum of numerous Saxon schools.

Jury

The jury of the OSTRALE Biennale O21 is composed of renowned art scholars, curators and art historians from three Eastern European countries as well as the OSTRALE management. The curators are Patricija Gilyte (Lithuania), Krisztián Kukla (Hungary) and Ivana Meštrov and Nataša Bodrožić (Slobodne veze / Croatia). Andrea Hilger and Antka Hofmann (OSTRALE, East Germany) will sit on the jury.

The first meeting of the curatorial team took place in October. The curators visited the already established locations of "O21" and carried out the first selection round. From the total of about 1,000 applications from all over the world, this time about 160 artists will be selected and invited by the curators and the OSTRALE.



Jury members Patricija Gilyte (Lithuania), Ivana Meštrov (Croatia), Antka Hofmann (Germany), Krisztián Kukla (Hungary), Nataša Bodrožić (Croatia) (from left to right), Photo: PR.

Flowing Connections

During the OSTRALE Biennale O21 the OSTRALE Centre for Contemporary Art will also present the project "Flowing Connections", co-financed with funds from the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union. It will explore the artistic, ecological and cultural questions of life on the waterfront in Dresden, Budapest/Hungary, Rijeka/Croatia (EKH 2020) and Kaunas/Lithuania (EKH 2022).

OSTRALE

Zentrum für zeitgenössische Kunst

In cooperation with the Art Quarter Budapest (Hungary), Slobodne Veze (Croatia) and the ECOC office Kaunas 2022 (Lithuania), the project includes OSTRALE Biennale O21 in Dresden as well as OUT of OSTRALE exhibitions in Budapest, Rijeka/Split/Zagreb and Kaunas in 2022, complemented by an Artist in Residence Programme and several workshops on digital cultural management, post-industrial cultural spaces, art education and the inclusion of people with disabilities.

-> [Teaserfilm](#), Website: <https://flowingconnections.eu/>

Main venue and „decentralized locations“

Next year once again an attractive main location, this time the ostmodern building of the Robotron Kantine (see press release of the same day), will be supplemented by decentralised locations in the city area following the principle of the O19. These include spaces and outdoor areas in Dresden-Übigau, which are kindly provided by Stadtentwässerung Dresden. Discussions are already underway on the use of a further, empty hall with the generous support of the Office for Culture and Tourism. Other institutions in the city area will again provide "decentralised locations".

New Home Base in Dresden-Übigau

The move of the OSTRALE - Centre for Contemporary Art itself into the former culture house at Rethelstraße 45 in Dresden-Übigau has been completed – partly thanks to a successful crowdfunding campaign. The Übigau "Uferhalle" will soon be partially available for public use again. Once final details have been clarified, it is to be transformed into an innovative art centre open all year round, with smaller events and artist residencies.

www.ostrale.de

The OSTRALE Biennale is one of the largest temporary exhibitions for contemporary art in Germany, with a total of over 300 artworks by approximately 180 artists from over 34 nations in its last edition. It is not a sales exhibition per se, which gives it the freedom to discuss socially relevant topics outside of the market developments. The main ideas of the OSTRALE, such as peaceful coexistence, acceptance of the foreign / unknown, respectful interaction, religious diversity and internationality are reflected in the content of the exhibitions. The team of the OSTRALE has already designed large parts of the contemporary art programmes in European Capitals of Culture on several occasions, for example in Pécs in 2010, in Wrocław in 2016 and in Valletta/Malta in 2018. Also in the European Capital of Culture 2020 Rijeka/Croatia the OSTRALE has co-designed parts of the programme, which however could only be presented [digitally](#) due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

In the years 2021-2022 the OSTRALE is involved in the project Flowing Connections (<https://flowingconnections.eu>, [Teaserfilm](#)), which is co-financed by the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union. In cooperation with Art Quarter Budapest (Hungary), Slobodne Veze (Croatia) and the ECOC office Kaunas 2022 (Lithuania), the project includes the OSTRALE Biennale O21 in Dresden and OUT of OSTRALE exhibitions in Budapest, Rijeka/Split/Zagreb and Kaunas in 2022, complemented by an Artist in Residence programme and several workshops on digital cultural management, post-industrial cultural spaces, art education and the inclusion of people with disabilities.

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