

OSTRALE

Biennale für zeitgenössische Kunst

12.

INTERNATIONALE
AUSSTELLUNG

HISTORISCHE TABAKFABRIK f6

3. Juli – 1. September 2019

dezentral ab 11. Juni in Dresden

Press Information Number 26 / 01.07.2019

Dresden international: OSTRALE Biennale O19

One of the biggest temporary exhibitions of international contemporary arts in Germany will open on 03.07 in Dresden. It aims to bring together Dresdners and guests of this city of culture with works and artists from all over the world.

The 2nd Biennale and 12th OSTRALE will take place between 04.07 and 01.09. Under the curatorial motto 'isms', OSTRALE presents over 300 artworks over a total of 6000 square metres of exhibition space, by 180 contemporary artists from 34 countries. Works from all artistic genres will be shown. For the first and only time, this year O19 will use parts of the empty historical tobacco factory f6 in Striesen in Dresden. For the first time also, the OSTRALE Biennale will show works in decentralised exhibition spaces in different parts of the town as well.

As in the past with the historical Futterställe (feeding stalls) at the Ostragehege in Dresden, with the historical tobacco factory, the OSTRALE Biennale opens up a historically rich building to art-loving visitors. The OSTRALE Biennale once again offers its guests exciting dialogues between the artworks and the history and functions of the buildings. The majority of the works (250) will be shown from July 4 on three floors and in the exterior of the Historische Tabakfabrik f6, of which the administrative, production and storage rooms offer a delightful setting.



Anya Janssen: people say I'm different 4

OSTRALE has already opened its decentralized exhibition venues a few weeks ago, where the presented artworks are deliberately chosen to reflect on the function and history of each building. Thus in the former Stasi prison at the Gedenkstätte Bautzner Strasse memorial museum (11.6.-8.9.), the Goethe Institute Dresden (12.6.-1.9.), the Ausländerrat Dresden (13.6.-1.9.), and the Alte Feuerwache Loschwitz (28.6.-18.8.), as well as in the SAP'art Dresden (26.4.-1.9.), exciting artistic experiences await the visitors.

During symposiums and a several weeks long 'Artist in Residence' program, but also at the exhibition itself in general, international exchange will thrive. In this way, the OSTRALE Biennale continues to build networks between Dresden, a candidate for the status of European Capital of Culture, and the international cultural scene. The team of OSTRALE around director Andrea Hilger has already contributed to the presentation of contemporary art in European Capitals of Culture such as Pécs, Wrocław and Valletta in their respective years.

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Die OSTRALE wird gefördert durch die Landeshauptstadt Dresden, der Ausstellungsfokus „Womansism“ 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, Ostächsische Sparkasse Dresden, BplusL Infra Log GmbH, Heinrichsthaler Milchwerke GmbH, Spedition Detmers Transport GmbH, Schneider + Partner GmbH

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'We are convinced that once again we will be able to make a major contribution to the application of the city of Dresden as European Capital of Culture, and we are delighted that the city of Dresden is also among the funding bodies of the OSTRALE Biennale', says Andrea Hilger.

Main curatorial principle of this year's exhibition

OSTRALE Biennale O19 has been curated under the motto 'isms'. All curated works fall into the following eight thematic areas: Ideologism, Terrorism, Territorialism, Naturalism, Womanism, Animism, Consumerism and Dystopianism. The exhibition makers explain: "-isms" are usually used as a demarcation of different world views. The subject and its collective perception are inextricably linked to ongoing, subjective discourses. The new media are increasingly making it possible to test limits, sometimes beyond ordinary standards. While the boundaries between reality and fiction become increasingly blurred in the course of digital transformation, traditional 'isms' are being used again to assert values and views of the world. The five itineraries through the historical tobacco factory open up works of art which are strategically placed to interact both with the other works and with the premises.

Curators

Syowia Kyambi (Kenya), **Drorit Gur Arie** (Israel), **Toni Sant** (Malta/England), **Yik Chow** (Hongkong), **Antka Hofmann** (Germany)

Selected artists and works

The conceptual artist **Peter Kees** (GER) will contribute to the opening of the OSTRALE Biennale with a performance on 03.07 at 18:00.

'Lands V2 and Foreign Bodies' by Israeli-Italian artist **Yuval Avital** (IT / IS) creates a journey between two immersive installations. These combine sound and multiple projections, the visual and material aspects having been enriched with new elements produced during an OSTRALE Artist-in-Residence stay in Saxony. With these installations, Avital explores the relationship between man and nature, nationalism and exile. At the opening of the exhibition, he will direct the large-scale performance 'Grades of Foreignness' with numerous dancers and singers of various origins, and the other artists present at the opening.

The work 'Me and My Favorite Insect - Displacement series' by **Patrick Fenech** (MT) shows portraits of African refugees in Malta holding pictures of endangered insects. Fenech is concerned with the uprooting of people from their country of origin, people who put themselves in a threatening situation, while dramatically exposing themselves to natural threats. The work can be seen at the Goethe-Institut Dresden.

The everyday objects that **Usha Seejarim** (ZA) works with are usually used by women in their daily chores. Many women in African countries work as domestic workers in order to support their families. Seejarim uses the beauty of banality to express her thoughts on gender, women in her society and women's work, making her art the 'keeper' of recent changes in the role of women, pointing out and questioning tendencies. Her works can be seen at the Ausländerrat Dresden and the Goethe-Institut Dresden.

In 'Yoke to Harness' (f6), 'Chair no. 33' (Ausländerrat Dresden), **Sonia E Barrett** (JM / DE / GB) makes artistic objects from transformed everyday objects, creating poetic juxtapositions. Three mostly large-scale paintings by **Anastasia Obaregbe** (D) show contrasts - the tension between right and wrong, good and evil, desire and disgust. The OSTRALE Biennale also presents numerous installations, such as the 'Finder' by **Rolf Blume** (DE) and the work 'Fomm ir-Riġ' of **Vince Briffa** (MT), who is currently represented with another work at the Venice Biennale. Also worthy of mention are the 'Plaidoyer pour les animaux' by **Laure Boulay** (FR / CH) and works by **Christian Holtmann**

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(DE), **Roman Zaslouov** (BY / FR, 2017 Venice Biennale) and **Guy Goldstein** (IL), whose works are also exhibited at the same time in Venice.

There was a lengthy uncertainty as to whether the members of the artist group Borjass (Iran) could participate in the OSTRALE Biennale O19. Happily, in a group exhibition, selected works (paintings, drawings, mixed media, photographs and video installations) by Iranian artists and a video work created in collaboration with the artist group by **Bettina Renner** (D) will be shown.

As for art in public space (Taschenberg / Schlosstraße on 04.07), the performance 'The Honey Project', curated by **Drorit Gur Arie** (director and chief curator of the Petach-Tikva Art Museum in Israel), will be presented by Israeli artist **Shahar Marcus** (Israel) and the Turkish artist **Nezaket Ekici**, who lives in Germany. The performance is dedicated to the topic of existing linguistic, cultural and religious differences. The participating artists show a utopia in which there is no longer any difference between cultures, languages and religions: thus this utopia has peace. The premiere of the performance took place during the Baustellenfest (Berlin) on August 25, 2018 at Haus am Waldsee, with director and curator Katja Blomberg.

Invited by curator **Yik Chow** (Hong Kong), six artists from Hong Kong, Japan and Lebanon present their work. The Japanese artist **Masanori Matsuda** has been working for quite some time as an artist in residence in Dresden, realising his site-specific installation. In addition, the South Korean dance group Yu Dans (under the artistic direction of **YeonA Yu**) is participating in the Artist in Residence program and will work together with German dancers to make a dance performance on 10.08.

Focus on Womanism

In frame of the OSTRALE Biennale, the German-African project **Womanism** includes exhibitions, workshops, artist residencies and artistic collaborations. The aim is to examine and promote dialogue on women's rights, their position in the art world and in society, focusing on the artistic perspective on women and on women of further marginalized groups in the context of German women. *'The exciting content of the Goethe-Institut Dresden and the Ausländerrat Dresden correlates with the controversial social issues that are the focus of Womanism. As a result, the work jointly made by African and German artists in the Artist in Residence program will be reinforced in its effect,'* says Andrea Hilger. The project was jointly curated and organized by **Syowia Kyambi** (Nairobi, Kenya), **Teesa Bahana** (32 ° EAST / Ugandan Arts Trust in Kampala, Uganda) and **Antka Hofmann** (OSTRALE Center for Contemporary Art, Dresden). Curator Antka Hofmann adds: *'In 2020, we will be working on this project in Uganda and Kenya and working together with some exciting collaborators, such as the Goethe Center in Kampala and the Circle Art Gallery in Nairobi.'* Womanism is funded by the German Federal Cultural Foundation and the ifa Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations.

This year numerous school classes from Saxony and neighbouring states will also come to the OSTRALE Biennale for their art lessons (OSTRALE 2017: approx. 400 classes!).

Our patroness is the **State Minister for Science and Art in Saxony, Dr. Eva-Maria Stange**. From her welcome speech: *'In our time, every incentive for open, appreciative communication which does not level, hurt or exclude, is important. Precisely because in many places, the danger of closing up, of dangerous simplification and aggression against the 'other' is increasing - be it at the highest political level or in the immediate vicinity. In this sense, the OSTRALE locations represent the hope of real utopias that we can all be involved in making.'*

Annekatriin Klepsch, responsible for Culture and Tourism at the City of Dresden: *'It deserves a great*

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deal of appreciation that in 2019 the people behind OSTRALE have succeeded once again in developing an exciting artistic program, this time with a new concept of decentralization. Regarding the question of venues, it was a challenge to find a solution that would especially favor the east of Dresden. I am delighted that in the dialogue between the OSTRALE, the Cultural Administration and the City Council, we have succeeded in developing this solution and have made an additional 150,000 € available.'

With funding from the EU, the Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations, the Federal Cultural Foundation, the Free State of Saxony, the German Children's Fund and Aktion Mensch, the City of Dresden and the Foundation for Art and Music for Dresden, as well as contributions from private sponsors, the OSTRALE Biennale will take place this year for the first time as financially secure as possible. This year's budget is about 600,000 euros. With a generous concession by the developer USD Immobilien GmbH providing the main location through the temporary transfer of the vacant f6 historical tobacco factory in the Dresden district of Striesen, the 12th OSTRALE has been secured for this year. 'We are extremely grateful to USD Immobilien for the generous support and the energetic help, especially with the technical cooperation', says Andrea Hilger.

Audioguide system for visitors with visual and hearing impairment

With the support of Aktion Mensch, the exhibition venues of this year's OSTRALE Biennale will once again provide a specially made guide system for visitors with visual and hearing impairments. By combining the app 'AllSense' with 'Bluetooth beacons', O19 will describe individual artworks via smartphone at all locations. In the f6 Historical Tobacco Factory, 'visorBoxes' also make it possible for visitors to navigate within the building for the first time. The system works both with Android and iOS devices.

The search for a future exhibition venue in Dresden is on!

'From this moment onward, we are looking for suitable premises and resources for the coming years. We hope to be able to keep the current infrastructure of container offices, workshops and warehouses in the Futterställe (feeding stalls at Ostragehege) at least until the end of 2021. Of course, it would also be nice to have the chance to mount an OSTRALE Biennale one day in the Ostragehege again - or at another suitable location in Dresden.' Andrea Hilger

The OSTRALE Biennale is internationally well connected and is the third largest temporary exhibition of contemporary art in Germany with more than 300 artistic positions from about 200 artists from over 30 nations. It is not a sales exhibition as such, giving it the freedom to discuss socially relevant topics at a distance from the market. The guiding principles of the OSTRALE, such as peaceful coexistence, acceptance of the foreign / unknown, treating everyone with respect, promoting religious diversity and internationalism, are reflected in the exhibitions. The team at the OSTRALE Biennale has frequently provided large parts of the contemporary arts program of European Capitals of Culture, such as Pécs in 2010, Wrocław in 2016 and Valletta / Malta in 2018.

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Main location of the OSTRALE Biennale:

Historische Tabakfabrik f6 Striesen, Dresden

Opening: 3. Juli, 18.00,

Open between 04.07 - 01.09.2019, entrance: Schandauer Straße 68, DVB tram stop: Gottleubaer Straße, Trams 4, 10

Decentralised Exhibitions:

Gedenkstätte Bautzner Straße (11.6.-8.9.),

open every day between 10:00 - 18:00, Friday until 20:00

Goethe-Institut Dresden (12.6.-1.9.), Monday to Friday 08:00 - 16:00

Ausländerrat Dresden e.V. (13.6.-1.9.), Wednesday to Sunday 10:00 – 18:00

Kunst- und Kulturverein Alte Feuerwache Loschwitz (28.6. - 18.8.), Monday, Wednesday,

Thursday 10:00 – 16:00, Tuesday 10:00 – 18:00, Sunday 14:00 – 18:00

SAP'art Dresden (26.4. - 1.9.)

Entry fee:

15 Euros, reduced price 10 Euros

Family-ticket und 5 Day-ticket 30 Euro, reduced price 25 Euro

CONTACT:

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