

Press Release/Information Nr. 4/2017 (26.7.2017)*Dresden/International: Contemporary Arts***re_form - Biennale of Contemporary Arts Dresden**
11th OSTRALE opens Friday (28.7)

Dresden. The 'OSTRALE International Contemporary Arts Festival' continues a tradition of casting a critical and constructive look at social developments, this year under the motto 're_form'. OSTRALE combines works from well-known artists in all categories with works by unknown artists. Between 28.07 and 01.10, OSTRALE - Biennale will present a carefully compiled group of 1.118 works by artists from Saxony and around the world, as well as from 164 artists and artists' groups in Dresden. For the first time OSTRALE, Germany's third largest art exhibition, takes place as a biennale. Next year the team will arrange for the presentation of contemporary art on behalf of the European Capital of Culture Valletta / Malta 2018.

OSTRELE is not a sales based exhibition. More important is that it gives everyone the freedom to discuss socially relevant topics in a place away from the market. Since its inception, it has been continually developed by a small group artists and idealists not affiliated with particular institutions. The success has come despite a comparatively small budget, a success not least reflected by the previous year's record of around 25,000 visitors. Strong networking and close cooperation with international curators, biennales and cultural institutions has been a major part of OSTRALE's concept from the outset, a concept based on a combination of very diverse horizons and international participation. There is also close cooperation with several Dresden institutions, above all with collectors and galleries.

're_form': thematic emphasis in OSTRALE 2017

OSTRALE stands and has always stood for peaceful coexistence, for the acceptance of others, for curiosity about the unknown and respectful dialogue; with religious diversity and a strong view towards the international in its conception and in its artistic statements. Following this line of thought, the organisers have presented this year's OSTRALE under the theme "re_form".

The main theme of this year's OSTRALE - Biennale is in one with the planned transformation of existing cultural policy and cultural systems in Europe, Germany and especially in the city of Dresden, Dresden itself being on the way to promoting itself as the 'European City of Culture 2025'.

"The aim of reform is to improve the current situation by means of a well-planned and nonviolent transformation of existing conditions without breaking the essential spiritual and cultural foundations. Art is particularly suited to contributing to this

transformation with questions and suggestions for solutions. It also creates a new future for itself with tributes, references, quotations and appropriations from the past”, as the director **Andrea Hilger** said.

With "re_form", OSTRALE once again tackles the question of the identity of people and new spaces in the face of past and present refugee and migratory movements. Into what can 'Europe' be reformed by a disintegration of its values? "Contemporary art, presented at the OSTRALE, is also meant to be a mediator within a Dresden that is a mixture of overlapping identities which do not always fuse," as **Andrea Hilger** continues. In the anniversary year of the Reformation, a part of the exhibition is devoted to the question of how we should deal with freedom of conscience in religious matters, as propagated by Martin Luther. This is something on the one hand unique and on the other something not without tradition in the history of the exhibition. Finally, the concept of reform is belongs also to OSTRALE itself, as it is in transition from being an annual exhibition to being a biennale, and is thus, even in the face of an important change of location, in a state of being reformed.

The exhibition is divided into strong literary topics in six 'Chapters:

- '500 years after 2017' (Future)
- '500 years before 2017' (Religion)
- 'Art History'
- 'Identity'
- 'War and Crisis'
- 'New forms of state'

For the time, a invitation exhibition

The artistic concept of the invitation exhibition was created by the curators Mykola Dzhychka, Oliver Kratz, Detlef Schweiger and Holger Wendland together with the artistic director Andrea Hilger. The artists who have been invited to attend this year come from 25 nations, mainly from **the Czech Republic, Poland, Asia, Latin America, Ukraine and the Mediterranean.**

Artists - young newcomers meet the long established

Once again young and established artists from different genres such as painting, sculpture, photography, sound-light video, installation and performance from Germany and the throughout the world in Dresden will be guests in Dresden. For a number of weeks already, artists have been working in residencies in the historic stables of the Ostragehege in Dresden, either on works created specifically for OSTRALE or on the presentation of their individual artistic approaches.

Among the newcomers is **Jonas Lewek** (born 1984) from Dresden, an artist is represented by a subtle, ironic-subversive installation ("private collection"). Other

newcomers include Berlin-based **Katerina Belkina** (born 1974) presenting media with art historical themes ("For Klimt", 2006, part of the "Paint" series). Christian Manss (born 1978) from Dresden presents, with the group "RUHEPULS", the interdisciplinary project "wanderlust" (2017, 5 texts - 5 songs - 5 videos - 5 pictures - 1 space, installation, 3x3x3m) Music comes from English producer Stephen Abrehart, who lives in Prague.

Of the already established artists represented at OSTRALE, one can count **Urban Grünfelder** (Vienna / Italy, * 1967) who works in painting, installation and sculpture in "Pictograms of mankind". ("It's the last time" painting, "Looking for nothing" painting, "Pingponghead", digital art). Here, too, **Pawel Napierala** (Poznan, born 1983), who works in painting and installation with sacred and social themes ("untitled", 2015, painting acrylic on canvas and wood holder, 280 x 200 x 8 cm). **Piotr Korzeniowski** (born 1970), until 2016 Dean of the Faculty of Painting at the Academy of Fine Arts in Cracow, is represented with "MORPHEM RESTART" (2014, multi-element composition with lacquered parts on the floor, MDF panel, 13 x 13) X 1 cm, 2014 series). **Paolo Assenza** (born 1974), graduate of the Academy of Fine Art in Rome in the Department of Scenic Design and co-founder of the experimental art space SpazioY ebendorf in 2014, shows his installation "del corpo senza peso" (Steel, Travertine, Prayer sheet) From the sacred staircase in Rome, 600 x 800 x 150 cm 2016). These represent an ideal 'stairway to heaven' that, deprived of its body, is indicated only by essential lines allowing the viewer to rise into an intimate space of reflection. The internationally renowned Gebr. Lehmann Gallery (Dresden) presents a work by Düsseldorf painter **Daniel Schubert** (born 1984, "untitled (Indian Triptych)", 2015, paintings, ink on canvas, 105 x 75 x 2 cm, series). The old master **Keiichi Tanaami** (Japan, born 1935) is here whose work has been and still is the key to the development of Japanese pop art ("Crayon Angel", film, 1975).

The **Foundation for Art and Music in Dresden** supported the work of **Fernando Sanchez Castillo** (born 1970), represented here by a work developed especially for OSTRALE, a new project 'Wall Jumper' (2017, installation, plastic injection, 2,300 individual figures 20 x 300 x 300 cm). Back in 2015, the foundation invited the Spanish artist to Dresden for six months as part of their International Art Fellowship. In this context he had also shown his installation "Tank Man" in the Dresden Albertinum. In his home country, he is one of the most important artists of his generation. With his is project "Tank Man" Castillo honoured the man who held his shopping bags up with his hands in front of a convoy of tanks during the massacre at Tiananmen Square thus blocking the way. Visitors to OSTRALE are invited to stage and post their own photos with one of the 2,300 miniature "Mauerspringer" Castillos.

EU-Cooperation Project

Within the framework of a European cooperation project, a new Polish-Polish artist exchange will take place at OSTRALE, organized in a long-term partnership with Anna Fedorczyk, chairman of the Czapski Art Foundation in Poznan, Poland

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(www.czapski.art.pl). The cooperation began in 2016 with the Mediation Biennial in Posnan. This year, young Polish and German artists were also selected, exhibited at OSTRALE and in parallel in September at the Old Gasometer in Posnan.

Contribution to the education of Saxon pupils

Also this year, hundreds of art teachers, whose schools have included the course in the curriculum, have already registered at OSTRALE for their school classes. In the previous year, the exhibition offered special access to contemporary art (2007: 3 school classes) as part of the extended art education.

Overview of the country OSTRALE Biennale 2017

Woman artists from the following countries will be present at OSTRALE in 2017: Azerbaijan, Belgium, China, Germany, Finland, France, Georgia, Iran, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, the "NSK State", Austria, Poland, Russia, Switzerland, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine, Hungary, USA and Belarus.

For the first time OSTRALE-AudioGuide 'AllSense' for the blind and partially sighted

For the first time, at OSTRALE, promoted by the Action Mensch, blind and visually impaired access to art is offered through a specially programmed, free app. *"The app 'AllSense' is an audio guide with which we present a cross-section of 25 selected works of the exhibition with auto-description. Works of art and other places on the exhibition grounds, such as restaurants, toilets, etc., are equipped with so-called Bluetooth beacons. If the user approaches these points, an audio description is announced,"* describes the Dr. Jan Blüher, himself blind, who programmed the app with his company visorApps on behalf of OSTRALE. In addition to the app, a visual and tactile guidance system will provide guidance for the visually impaired and blind. The app is available for both iOS and Android devices. It is available in the Play Store, App Store, and on-premises equipment.

SparkassenCard gives discount

'OSTRALE gives Dresden a gift! In its 11th edition, too, she presents exciting contemporary art in a unique international atmosphere and invites you to an open discourse. All Sparkasse customers receive an additional gift: if they buy their tickets with a SparkassenCard, they receive a one euro discount on the entry price. As a long-standing partner of this international art exhibition, we are looking forward to seeing many visitors at Ostrale!', Andreas Rieger, company spokesman for the Ostsächsische Sparkasse Dresden.

Opening 28.7 at 18.00 at the Dresden Messe with:

Minister Thomas Früh, Saxon State Ministry of Science and Art Alexander Nym, Diplomatic Service NSK State, Managing Director of Kulturaktiv, Mira Skurdlik, Art Director of Czapska Art Fundacija, Poznan, Poland, Patrick J. Fenech, CEO of Fondazzjoni Kreattivita / St. James Cavalier in the European Capital of Culture 2018 Valletta / Malta as well as numerous artists.

After the opening, the OSTRALE film by Kay Kaul, which documents the OSTRALE

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2016 (20 min), will be shown for the first time. From 19.00 is the opening of the exhibition grounds and feeding stables (reduced admission, open until 24.00 hrs).

2018

This year's exhibition ends on the first of October. Next year, the OSTRALE team will be organising the presentation of contemporary art as a main cooperation partner in the area of Fine Arts with the European City of Culture in Valletta, and will thus present two newly created exhibition venues in Malta. Further international activity and planning: The international networking at OSTRALE and thus in Dresden, which has been active for years, is particularly important from the perspective of the organisers particularly in respect of the Dresden's application for the European City of Culture.

OSTRALE_Biennale 2019

Where, and when the OSTRALE-Biennale will take place in 2019 and under what financial circumstances, is still unclear.

You can find out more about OSTRALE's content, program and cooperation partners at www.OSTRALE.de.

Opening times

Mondays closed.

Tuesday to Thursday 10 - 19

Friday, Saturday and Sunday 11 - 20

Ticket office closes one hour before closing

Entry Prices

€15/€10

€30 Family Ticket/€25 Family Ticket reduced/€10 Group ticket, 10+ per person

€5 Guide per person

Payment with a SparkassenCard receives a €1 reduction

Guided Tours

Saturday and Sunday 15:00

Getting there

Public transport: Line 10 to 'Messe Dresden'

Car: Dresden, Zur Messe9, Parkplatz P2 (Messering 8)

Further Information/Contact

Picture selection

Please let us know which images you need to be printed. Ostrale@team-blaurock.de

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OSTRALE

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Association:

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