



Press release of OSTRALE.freunde of 23th May 2018

Dresden / international: contemporary arts

STATEMENT of OSTRALE.freunde:

Franz Leyser, chairman:

Through the press briefing, published by the cultural administration of the city Dresden dated 17th May in 2018 and the statements of single aldermen, which claim the approach of the OSTRALE as “oblique”, we see ourselves forced to rectify the following:

The OSTRALE Biennale had to search for alternatives, of course discreet, without the involvement of third parties and parallel to its efforts to stay in Dresden.

Future location:

It is absolutely legit, to parallel search for a solid future solution, after circa 17 months past the city councils decision from 3rd November 2016, ever since the administration did not declare a mandatory statement pro-OSTRALE.

The OSTRALE has not been informed, until the release of the press briefing by the cultural administration (17th May in 2018), that the administration will uphold to the abovementioned city councils decision, instead of continuously trying to present the high-grade refurbished “Schweinedom”, probably as a conference center, as the only option of choice, which is improper concerning the OSTRALE.

Since urgent requests concerning this matter, which have been send to the cultural administration by the OSTRALE, remained unanswered. The OSTRALE had to assume that the cultural administration would not uphold, under the motto: “Schweinedom or nothing”, to the city councils decision.

Concept concerning the exploitation of the “feeding stables” through the OSTRALE

Besides OSTRALE already presented concepts concerning the redevelopment and usage of the “feeding stables” at the beginning of August in 2017. **Interestingly this happened despite, a “perennial economic usage” of this property in this dimension realized by the OSTRALE. e.V., as requested in the press briefing by the cultural administration, was never a requirement of the city councils decision!** This demand, requested within the press briefing by the cultural administration cannot be seen as a concession; instead, it is currently another obstacle for the OSTRALE. Especially since constructive conversations have been chocked off from the beginning with the hint “Schweinedom or nothing”.

Interim-location – 2019

Until now, there is a basic offer concerning a shortened execution of the OSTRALE in the fair halls, also. Despite of multiple requests there have not been a quotation neither a declaration of cost absorption by the city. Consequently, there is no acceptable offer so far. The lease costs, even with a concession of the fair, are probably higher as the OSTRALE could pay, under the current financial state. In addition, the school concept would be immensely restricted and the costs for construction and dismantling would increase immensely as well, through the shortened operation time. Furthermore, it is difficult or even inexecutable to implement important parts of the OSTRALE (Artist in Residence, sociocultural education program) in the fair. The offer cannot be accepted because the OSTRALE has not the appropriate funds and by current information, it will last until November 2018 to make a decision over an application for subsidization (ca. 2 years after the city councils decision!). The OSTRALE pointed that out several times to the administration and to the Fair Dresden.

Removal-demand by STESAD



The OSTRALE has not received an answer from the cultural administration concerning the question how it should proceed with the removal- and demolition demand by the city company (STESAD) and how it should proceed with the “Wiesenrampe” which is a disability-friendly entrance, which is also connected to a funding and should be in usage until 2019, even after the redevelopment. Those demands are in a distinct contradiction concerning a continuation of the OSTRALE within the feeding stables.

Reasonable transparency towards the city council

Even if the OSTRALE legitimately discussed alternate location off stage for now and therefore of course did not inform over single alternative possibilities, **the OSTRALE informed the city council and the city administration about the threat of its existence for years. Most recently, it was formulated as “otherwise the OSTRALE will not be bearable” (27th February in 2018).** Requests concerning this matter remained unanswered by the city administration.

Especially the OSTRALE.freunde always tried to enable and ensure the location of the OSTRALE in Dresden. Simultaneously they pointed out the need of certainties. In their request to the city councils factions (26th April in 2018) the OSTRALE.freunde wrote literally: *“We inform that a continuous work and a further development of the OSTRALE Biennale requires that the administration costs are covered.” [...] From our point of view, it is essential to develop solutions soon, to save the existence of the OSTRALE Biennale for the future. Long term and mandatory solutions are necessary in this context. This counts even more since a consultation showed that even a decision of the city council Dresden implicates no security for the organizer if parts of the administration set different preferences. (up to a removal-demand). With that said, we are still willing for conversations that are more intensive. Yet we inform, that conversations about the future of the OSTRALE Biennale will be done with third parties as well, which possibly demand a prompt decision from the OSTRALE about its own future:”*

This means it is absolutely not “oblique” but rather absolutely legit, that the OSTRALE shows itself open against other very constructive offers from other locations, by now.

Beyond that candor remains for constructive conversations. The organizers are of course not able to make a decision, concerning the future location of the international exhibition for contemporary art OSTRALE Biennale, until a binding perspective is given.

The OSTRALE Biennale should take place as the 12th OSTRALE from 28th June till 29th September in 2019 under the lead motif “-ism”.

Current appointments:

February to 22nd July: sociocultural education program “Kinderblicke kunterbunt – WIR, die Friedrichstädter”: presentation of the results and workshops: from 17th till 22nd July and from 17th till 23rd September in 2018

14th April till 27th May: German Maltese Circle, Valetta/Malta, exclusively Saxon artists:
(room 1) Antka Hofmann, Katrin Süß, Nina Holzweg
(room 2) Jonas Lewek, Detlef Schweiger, Michael Goller
(room 3) Ekkehard Tischendorf, Katerina Belkina, Karen Gäbler, Henri Deparade, Marcin Owczarek
(hallway) Gaspar Risko, Luc Saalfeld
(gallery) Philipp Gloger, Sabine Ostermann

1st June till 29th July: Fondazzjoni Kreattività in St. James Cavalier, Valetta/Malta, saxonian and international artists:
(Space A) Karen Gäbler (DE), Anka Leśniak (PL), Feng Lu (CN), Antka Hofmann (DE), Else Gold (DE), Gery De Smet (BE), Martin Müller (DE), Ran Slavin (IL), Katrin König (DE), Philipp Gloger (DE)



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(Space B) Tobias Köbsch (DE), Annelise Bully (FR), Frenzy Höhne (DE), Arne Kalkbrenner (DE), Stefan Plenkers (DE), Steffen Otto (DE), Dmytro Petryna (UA)
(Space C1) Marcin Owczarek (PL), Otto Berndt Steffen (DE), Henri Deparade (DE)
(Space C2) Dani Nordt (DE), Carolin Koss (DE)
(Space C3) Nevet Yitzhak (IL)
(Space C4) Melanie Kramer (DE), Peter Makolies (DE), Rose Stach (DE), Till Ansgar Baumhauer (DE), Faig Ahmed (AZ), Małgorzata Myślińska (PL), Martyna Jastrzebska (PL), Stephanie Marx (DE)
(Spot A) Paolo Assenza (IT), Nathalie Bertrams (DE), Daniel Kiczales (IL), Ulrike Mundt (DE), Ekkehard Tischendorf (DE), Katerina Belkina (RU)
(Spot B) Urban Grünfelder (AU), Mavi Garcia (ES), Shahar Marcus (IL)
(Cinema) Kay Kaul (DE)

July till September: Artist in Residence, project phase locally and participants,
presentation of the results and workshops: from 17th to 23rd September in 2018

We kindly ask to refrain from further interview requests.

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OSTRALE

Biennale for Contemporary Art

ENDORSED

by

