

Press release O21 Nr. 11 from 27. May 2021 / Contemporary Art

The Dresden Art Biennale After the Lockdown

Nika Rukavina is working on her piece „Manual for House Repairs for Women“. OSTRALE director Andrea Hilger and team refurbish the Robotron canteen for interim use. Swedish artists Christoph and Sebastian Mügge complete the first site-specific artworks of the OSTRALE Biennale O21.

Until June 6, the Robotron-Kantine, under the direction of the Kunsthau Dresden, is the backdrop for artistic interventions by André Tempel, Ina Weise, Henning Haupt and Stephanie Lüning, among others. Inside, the OSTRALE - Center for Contemporary Art has been working in parallel for weeks on the upcoming OSTRALE Biennale O21, which is scheduled to open on July 1. The brothers Christoph and Sebastian Mügge have just completed the first of the artworks that will be created on site for the "O21" on an exterior wall of the Eastern modernist pavilion. In preparation for the OSTRALE Biennale, the Croatian Nika Rukavina has also just begun her artistic work on the Robotron-Kantine.

"With the currently empty Robotron canteen, we are alternately playing on one of the last objects in Dresden that is still available for use by contemporary art practitioners. We hope that we can secure this wonderfully suitable object for permanent use," said Christiane Mennicke-Schwarz, artistic director of the Kunsthau Dresden and Andrea Hilger, director of the OSTRALE - Center for Contemporary Art in a joint statement.

Already since May 11, the Swedish brothers **Mügge** (born Christoph 1983/Bonn and Sebastian 1981/Bonn, living in Sweden) have been working on their detailed work "Hope for the best but expect the worst". On 38 x 3 meters they created art in public space: their wall painting is applied with charcoal, wall paint and fixative on the robust wooden boarding with which the OSTRALE team had previously secured destroyed glass surfaces of the Robotron canteen. During the OSTRALE Biennale, Christoph and Sebastian Mügge will also be represented with a work in the Kaditz sewage park of the Stadtentwässerung Dresden. The sculptural composition "Not a Dog Shelter" planned for this purpose will be created there until June 12, using hair from Dresden hair salons, among other things.

Nika Rukavina (*1980, Croatia) is also currently staying in Dresden to work on a contribution to the OSTRALE Biennale at the Robotron Canteen, namely her work "Manual for House Repairs for Women 2018/2021" (2x10m). Also the staff of the OSTRALE Center still have some "house repairs" to do as well before they can reopen the vacant former canteen to the public.

Most of the artworks that will then be on display will be loaned to Dresden for the OSTRALE Biennale from a total of 34 countries, including Bangladesh, Togo and Singapore. The first art transporters are already rolling through Eastern Europe.

www.ostrale.de

gefördert durch
das Amt für Kultur und
Denkmalschutz



Dresden.
DIEZGEUR



Kofinanziert durch das
Programm Kreatives Europa
der Europäischen Union



Corona-bedingte Investitionen:
Kulturzentren
Literaturhäuser
Soziokulturelle Zentren

arte

Transfer Partners
Management & Acquisitions | Corporate Finance | Strategy

SCHNEIDER
PARTNER
Beratergruppe

Funding bodies, sponsors and partners: arte, art quarter budapest, Bundesregierung – Staatsministerium für Kultur und Medien, Bundesverband Soziokultur e. V., Deutsches Hygiene-Museum Dresden, Deutsch-Tschechischer Zukunftsfonds, Dorint Hotel Dresden, Freistaat Sachsen, Gedenkstätte Bautzner Straße Dresden, Heinrichsthaler Milchwerke GmbH, Kaunas 2022 – European Capital of Culture, Kreatives Europa – Europäische Union, Kulturstiftung des Freistaates Sachsen, Landeshauptstadt Dresden, Neustart Kultur, OSTRALE.freunde e. V., Ostsächsische Sparkasse Dresden, PIGMENTPOL Sachsen GmbH, Sächsische Zeitung, Schneider + Partner Beratergruppe GmbH, slobodne veze, Stadtentwässerung Dresden GmbH, Stiftung Kunst und Musik für Dresden, Ströer Deutsche Städte Medien GmbH, Transfer Partners GmbH. Die Maßnahme wird mitfinanziert durch Steuermittel auf Grundlage des vom Sächsischen Landtag beschlossenen Haushaltes.

About the artworks:

“Hope for the best but expect the worst”: Taking the “crisis box” as a point of departure, this highly detailed site-specific wall drawing merges the Cold War's arms race and preparedness with contemporary phenomena, and raises questions of who should be included in the safe haven. During the Cold War, the threat of a nuclear attack was omnipresent in society, and since such an attack would have had devastating consequences for a country's food production, strategic depots of certain essential foods were set up. The phenomenon lives on in our times in the so called “prepper” movement, in which people have made it their lifestyles to be prepared for possible emergency events. The crisis box contains everything that is needed for survival if basic supplies have been stopped due to an emergency situation.

Manual for House Repairs for Women 2018/2021 is the title of the artwork created on the outer wall in direction of the Lingnerallee.

“I've been working as a handywoman for years now to round up my artistic budget. Most of the work I do is for my female friends or family members who asked me several times to teach them how to do the small repairs by themselves, so this project is for them. It is primarily addressing women not because a man cannot use it but because of all the ‘pink tools’ (made in ‘girly’ shapes with weird forms, furs and glitter) that are produced especially for women and are in most of the cases useless. The given manual fights this distorted picture of capitalistic empowerment of women that in its way is saying, ‘you are our equal, you can do it yourself, but the tools we're going to give you are worthless’.”, says Nika Rukavina.

www.ostrale.de

www.kunsthauddresden.de

Contact person for public relations:

Tobias Blaurock, blaurock markenkommunikation, Hechtstraße 30, 01097 Dresden, Tel. +49 351 210 98 71, Funk +49 172 793 01 27, blaurock@team-blaurock.de, www.blrck.de

für: **Ostrale – Zentrum für zeitgenössische Kunst**, Andrea Hilger, 1. Vorsitzende, Rethelstraße 45, 01139 Dresden, Tel. +49 351 653 37 63, post@ostrale.de, www.ostrale.de

www.ostrale.de

gefördert durch
das Amt für Kultur und
Denkmalschutz



Dresden.
DIEZIGER



Kofinanziert durch das
Programm Kreatives Europa
der Europäischen Union



Corona-bedingte Investitionen:
Kulturzentren
Literaturhäuser
Soziokulturelle Zentren

arte

Transfer Partners
Management & Acquisitions | Corporate Finance | Strategy

SCHNEIDER
PARTNER
Beratergruppe

Funding bodies, sponsors and partners: arte, art quarter budapest, Bundesregierung – Staatsministerium für Kultur und Medien, Bundesverband Soziokultur e. V., Deutsches Hygiene-Museum Dresden, Deutsch-Tschechischer Zukunftsfonds, Dorint Hotel Dresden, Freistaat Sachsen, Gedenkstätte Bautzner Straße Dresden, Heinrichsthaler Milchwerke GmbH, Kaunas 2022 – European Capital of Culture, Kreatives Europa – Europäische Union, Kulturstiftung des Freistaates Sachsen, Landeshauptstadt Dresden, Neustart Kultur, OSTRALE.freunde e. V., Ostsächsische Sparkasse Dresden, PIGMENTPOL Sachsen GmbH, Sächsische Zeitung, Schneider + Partner Beratergruppe GmbH, slobodne veze, Stadtentwässerung Dresden GmbH, Stiftung Kunst und Musik für Dresden, Ströer Deutsche Städte Medien GmbH, Transfer Partners GmbH. Die Maßnahme wird mitfinanziert durch Steuermittel auf Grundlage des vom Sächsischen Landtag beschlossenen Haushaltes.