

## Press Information

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March 2021

### NordArt 2021 at Kunstwerk Carlshütte

In the northernmost corner of Germany, sandwiched between the seas, an art exhibition has established itself that is unparalleled in Europe. For the 22nd time, NordArt will open its gates, inviting you from 5 June to 10 October to take a trip around the world of art. There shouldn't be another summer without art: That's why an online ticketing system directs the flow of visitors to make sure that every single guest can enjoy a carefree stay at the Kunstwerk Carlshütte. The booking system will be installed on the NordArt website in April.

The Kunstwerk Carlshütte in Büdelsdorf in Schleswig Holstein is an anchorage for artists from all over the world and a home for international art. Here, in the huge halls of the of the historic iron foundry, one of Europe's largest annual exhibitions of contemporary art takes place – the NordArt.

The break in 2020, says the chief curator Wolfgang Gramm, impressively demonstrated how indispensable art and artists are for spirit and soul, for human coexistence. Therefore, the Kunstwerk Carlshütte now continues to tell its story, literally burning with desire to fill the halls and the sculpture park with life again.

Today, the Carlshütte, where iron was smelted for many decades, is a melting pot of a completely different kind. Between June and October, paintings and sculptures, photographs and installations by **more than 200 selected artists from all over the world** come together as a monumental piece of art. Each work stands for itself and at the same time in a dialogue with the others. In synergy with the imposing backdrop, a unique atmosphere develops, inviting you on a journey of discovery. Besides the foundry halls with their 22,000 square metres, the exhibition grounds include a 80,000 square metres of sculpture park and the charming ACO Wagenremise building.

The NordArt 2021 will of course take up the script from the previous year, but many of the planned projects have been updated and complemented by new ideas. Every single work of art and all combined are linked to a narrative of human existence. This time, one topic in particular emerges: the examination of our ethical principles and the quest for ways to preserve lost values in modern age.

This applies, for example, to this year's country focus, which is dedicated to contemporary art in Ukraine. Under the title **The Limits of Reality**, the curators of the **Ukrainian Pavilion** Evgen Karas and Darina Momot from Kyjiw are presenting works by 22 Ukrainian artists and the ‚A4 ballpoint project‘.

What does it mean to be human beyond the limits of reality? We can watch art explore and compare new lessons from previous legacies of civilization to develop a new conceptual apparatus for navigating a world, says the curators duo.

The Ukrainian ambassador to Germany, H.E. Dr. Andriy Melnyk, has taken patronage over the pavilion.

Likewise, the special exhibition **Identity • Contemporary Art from Central Asia**, which shows paintings from Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan, focuses on the search for orientation. Curator Dr. Manuchehr Kudratov explains the common perspective as follows:

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The search for traces of one's own identity is based on mythopoetic traditions and Sufism, which are at the same time questioned. The artists demonstrate their individual mythologies and original ways of dealing with the cultural heritage of the region.

Behind the doors of the **ACO Wagenremise**, the world of fantasy will unfold. It's a world of strange and chimerical creatures, part-animals, part-humans, a world full of self-discovery and mythological, political and ironic innuendos.

There will be a reunion with all **prize winners of NordArt 2019**. These include the three Public Choice Award winners David Černý from the Czech Republic, Deng Guoyuan from China and Xi Jianjun from Great Britain as well as Ochibold Ayurzana from Mongolia – winner of the NordArt Prize endowed with 10,000 euros and sponsored by Hans-Julius and Johanna Ahlmann.

### Virtual offers of NordArt:

• **NordArt Digital – Guided Tours** on NordArt's YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/c/NordArt\\_channel/videos](http://www.youtube.com/c/NordArt_channel/videos)

Hosted by NordArt guides, Conrad Pfüller's film series presents works of art from previous exhibitions in an informative and entertaining manner, thus shortening the time to the current NordArt. Further tours will be published until 5 June.

• **Virtual tours:** [www.nordart.de/en/virtuelle-rundgaenge.html](http://www.nordart.de/en/virtuelle-rundgaenge.html)

A journey through time: 360-degree views of NordArt since 2009

The **Kunstwerk Carlshütte** is a non-profit cultural initiative of the international ACO Group and the cities of Büdelsdorf and Rendsburg and a special place for exhibitions, concerts, readings and film screenings. The main focus is on NordArt, which has been taking place annually in the summer months since 1999. More than 3000 artists from all over the world apply to participate every year.

The exhibition thrives on the different perspectives of individual cultures, but also makes it clear that East and West, South and North have many common hopes and dreams. In order to allow deeper insights, NordArt dedicates an individual pavilion to a different country every year and also presents special projects, cooperating with embassies, cultural institutions and curators from various countries.

NordArt attracts more than 100,000 visitors every season.

The curators of NordArt are Wolfgang Gramm and Inga Aru.

The hosts at the Kunstwerk Carlshütte are the entrepreneurial couple Hans-Julius and Johanna Ahlmann.

**NordArt 2021: 5 June – 10 October** • [www.nordart.de](http://www.nordart.de)

Opening times: Tue – Sun 11 am – 7 pm • Detailed visitor information will be published on the NordArt website at the beginning of April

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