

## Press Information

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### NordArt 2016 – A Forum for the Art World

May 2016

### Hotspot for International Art in Büdelsdorf/Schleswig-Holstein

**The NordArt, at home in the town of Büdelsdorf in the middle of Schleswig Holstein, is one of the largest exhibitions of contemporary art in Europe, presenting each summer works by around 250 selected artists from around the world. The 18th NordArt puts the focus on contemporary art from Israel and introduces for the first time a focus artist. Hosts of Kunstwerk Carlshütte are the husband and wife entrepreneurs Hans-Julius and Johanna Ahlmann.**

#### Focus Country of NordArt 2016: ISRAEL

For several years now, the NordArt has been focusing on the fine arts of a country with its own pavilion. After China, Russia, the Baltic States and Mongolia, a particular emphasis is placed on Israel this summer. Entitled „The Circle of Life“, the Israeli pavilion shows contemporary art from a country that has, like no other, influences from dozens of nations integrated into its culture.

Curator of the Israeli pavilion is Carmit Blumensohn from Tel Aviv. The exhibition „The Circle of Life“ consists of works by 28 Israeli artists, presenting a wide range of artistic explorations with different means of expression: painting, sculpture, photography, video and installation.

Carmit Blumensohn says about the spectrum of subjects: *“It is about the role of the artist in society, multiculturalism, private versus collective identity, history and future, anxieties and hopes, beauty, ugliness and death, and the exalted aspiration to create. They are 28 different presences that add up to a paradoxical, contradictory, rich and complex whole. The contrasts are a statement, a cultural and political stance that allows the artists to hold the story that carries private and national memories, and create the secret that makes up the work of art.”*

The Israeli pavilion is co-operating with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs / Israel and the Embassy of Israel in Berlin.

The Israeli Ambassador in Berlin, S.E. Yakov Hadas-Handelsman, comments: *“The diversity, creativity and dynamism of art also reflects a country’s diversity. The heterogeneity of our population makes us stand out, and many different cultural influences transform into a unique Israeli mix. Showing this aspect of Israel, which is not always easy to spot from a distance, is an opportunity. It expands the view of our country and will hopefully be conducive to dialogue and mutual understanding. And so, the Israeli accents of NordArt also make a major contribution to the Israeli-German relations.”*

#### FOCUS ARTIST of NordArt 2016

Chinese artist Liu Ruowang introduces himself as main artist of NordArt 2016. With his large-scale sculpture groups „Wolves Coming“ (110 cast iron wolves) and „Original Sin“ (36 three and a half meter tall ape-men), which seem to leave a comment on the current world situation, he proves downright visionary power.

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Liu Ruowang: *„Ape-man looking up into the sky symbolizes the springing up of ancient civilization; today, high civilization brings advanced material culture, yet the nature we live in is being damaged unceasingly. The perplexed eyesight and innocent face of ape-man reveal the desire to correct all of this and to step towards a bright future. The title of Original Sin originated from my sense of social reality. I express my upset towards the deviated part in the ocean of civilization we are living in with this series of works, and appeal for more attention to beautiful things.“*

Entitled „The Overseas Exhibition Tour of Liu Ruowang’s Works of Art“, Liu goes on a three-year tour of Europe and America with his works – the NordArt being his first stop. Curators of the exhibition tour are: Yin Shuangxi (Professor at Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing and Vice President of China Sculpture Institute); Wolfgang Gramm (Chief Curator of NordArt) and Vincenzo Sanfo (President of the Italian Art and Cultural Center). The project is realized in cooperation with: Centre of International Cultural Exchange, Ministry of Culture; Beijing Overseas Cultural Exchange Centre; Fujen Academy in Beijing.

### Artists from MONGOLIA

After the great success of the Mongolian pavilion 2015 – the largest group show of contemporary Mongolian art in Europe – the NordArt continues its cooperation with curators Oyuntuya Oyunjargal and Bodibaatar Jigjidsuren. Under the title „Tradition and Modernity“, the curators present 17 contemporary painters, sculptors and photographers.

The Mongolian artworks show that tradition and modernity are very close to each other also in Mongolia. Many artists connect animistic rock art, Buddhist iconography and traditional Mongolian painting with the socialist realism and western abstraction, thus creating a new unique style.

Gantumur Luvsannyam, Minister of Education, Culture and Science of Mongolia: *„Art and culture are part of every country’s identity. They establish pride and confidence in one’s own nation. But even if the cultures of the world differ, yet we are all people under the same blue sky. Our commitment to bring Mongolia closer to the world is based on this thinking – allowing exchange and relations at an international level.“*

### NordArt AWARDEES

The 10,000 euro NordArt Prize is sponsored since 2010 by Hans-Julius Ahlmann and Johanna Ahlmann. Also the visitors of NordArt have the opportunity to vote for their favourite artist. Three Public Choice Awards are worth 1,000 euros each. All awardees are invited to attend the following year’s NordArt.

In 2016, there will be a reunion with the following NordArt Prize winners: Chinese artist Liu Yonggang (NordArt Prize 2015) and Russian artist group AES+F (NordArt Prize 2014) participate with new works. Also, 2015 Public Choice Award winners will astonish visitors with new works: Jang Yongsun (South Korea), Lv Shun (China) and Ochirbold Ayurzana (Mongolia).

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Liu Yonggang presents the sculptures trilogy „Standing Character – Embrace of Love“ in black, red, gold.

Hans-Julius Ahlmann, sponsor of the NordArt Prize: „As we have been experiencing the inclusion of more than one million refugees with us last year, a reference urges to the figures of Liu Yonggang. The Chinese characters, exotic for many of us, actually depict couples partly hugging each other. So we could also interpret them as our welcome gesture towards people from a very strange world for us, under the colors black, red and gold ... „

### **NordArt-SYMPOSIUM**

Bringing the world together, sharing and exchanging experiences, is also the basic idea of the annual NordArt Symposium. Prior to the NordArt, up to 20 artists from different parts of the world create their sculptures, installations and paintings at the Carlshütte for the current exhibition.

Dr. Jo Kley, sculptor and supervisor of NordArt Symposium: *„We artists wish nothing more than being able to work at an inspiring place. The NordArt Symposium meets these needs and provides excellent opportunities to give space to inspired fantasies. Nothing seems impossible with the excellent support of the whole NordArt team and the warm hospitality of the Ahlmann family.“*

### **NordArt at KUNSTWERK CARLSHÜTTE**

The Kunstwerk Carlshütte is a non-profit cultural initiative of the internationally active ACO Group and the towns of Büdelsdorf and Rendsburg, and a unique venue for exhibitions, concerts, readings, theatre performances and film screenings. Centrepiece is the NordArt, annually taking place in summer since 1999. The vast aisles of the historic iron foundry serve as its stage, with their 22,000 square meters of floor space, and an 80,000 square meters large sculpture park.

Year after year, the exhibition redefines itself anew, setting new priorities. In synergy with the imposing backdrop of the historic iron foundry, the exhibits of about 250 artists from around the world develop their own unique atmosphere, taking visitors on an unforgettable world trip through art.

Chief Curator Wolfgang Gramm: *„The NordArt is alive. It sees itself as a refuge and source of inspiration for artists from all over the world – this holds true for internationally renowned artists as well as for newcomers. The NordArt has dedicated itself to the task of enhancing mutual understanding through the language of art. Every year, the audience marvels at foreign narrative traditions, but is also amazed by how many common experiences people share, even though they live thousands of kilometres apart.“*

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### SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN MUSIC FESTIVAL

Since 2011, also the Orchestra Academy of the Schleswig Holstein Music Festival (SHMF) is at home at Kunstwerk Carlshütte - in the specially converted rehearsal and concert space "ACO Thormann Hall" that can accommodate audiences of up to 1,200. After the highly successful, phenomenal concert marathon with percussionist Martin Grubinger, also in 2016 the NordArt will again become the venue for a very special concert experience.

On 16 and 17 July, the SHMF will celebrate its 30th anniversary here with ensembles from Schleswig Holstein and Hamburg. The program includes Haydn's oratorio „The Seasons“, which will be accompanied by the great literary Austrian mime Klaus Maria Brandauer. „The Big Seasons“ will resound in two blocks. Between sets, the audience will have a two-hour break and the opportunity to look around the premises of NordArt, to enjoy the international art, or to contemplate in nature on what they just heard - a feast for all senses.

### Visitors info

**NordArt 2016: 4 June to 9 October 2016** • Public Opening Ceremony on 4 June, 5 pm

**Opening times:** Tue-Sun 11am – 7pm

**Entrance fee:** 12 Euro • Other conditions under: [www.nordart.de/en/besucherinfo.html](http://www.nordart.de/en/besucherinfo.html)

**Guided Tours:** Saturdays at 11am and at 1pm • Sundays at 1pm (in German) • Duration: 1,5 hours. Price: 8 Euro per person + Entry

Private Tours by appointment (in German, English, Danish, Chinese). Price: 100 Euro + Entry

**Catalogue:** 21x29,7 cm, colour printing, 288 pages, German/English. Price: 25 Euro

**Exhibition Café „Alte Meierei“:** Tue–Sun 12am–7pm

**Restaurant „CARLS HÜTTE“:** [www.carls-huette.de](http://www.carls-huette.de)

**Address NordArt:** Kunstwerk Carlshütte, Vorwerksallee, 24782 Büdelsdorf, Germany

**Information and booking:** Tel +49 4331 354 695, [info@kunstwerk-carlshuette.de](mailto:info@kunstwerk-carlshuette.de)

[www.nordart.de](http://www.nordart.de)

**Artists list of NordArt:** [www.nordart.de/en/die-kuenstler.html](http://www.nordart.de/en/die-kuenstler.html)

**Download Flyer & Poster:** [www.nordart.de/en/infomaterial.html](http://www.nordart.de/en/infomaterial.html)

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