

Press Information

NordArt 2017 at Kunstwerk Carlshütte • 10 June – 8 October 2017

May 2017

A World Tour through Art

Already for the 19th time, the NordArt is inviting you to get inspired, amazed, and completely captivated by the paintings, sculptures, photographs and installations of selected artists from all over the world. The NordArt is one of the largest annual exhibitions of contemporary art in Europe. Again for 2017, Chief Curator Wolfgang Gramm promises many surprising moments in the historic iron foundry and the spacious 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.

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 kilometers apart.“

COUNTRY FOCUS of NordArt 2017: DENMARK • „Three Generations of Historicity“

For a number of years, the NordArt has been focusing on a country with its own pavilion, cooperating with embassies, cultural institutions and curators of the respective countries. After focusing on China, the Baltic States, Russia, Mongolia and Israel, this year's view turns toward our closest neighbours – to Denmark.

Curator Jette Gejl (Aarhus) has oriented herself in the selection of the artists to the Danish peculiarity of artist collectives, presenting works by 21 artists from three generations, who devote themselves entirely to different topics, but derive their commonality from the artistic approach to the theme and dealing with the materials.

Jette Gejl: „I have been inspired by this historical kinship in which artists across generations seem to work together from a similar agenda, and not just on each other's shoulders, but mutually inspire and challenge each other or independently have the same tone of the zeitgeist. The artists in the Danish Pavilion at NordArt 2017 represent a great range of generations, mediums, genres and geographic affiliations.“

H.E. Friis Arne Petersen, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark, has taken on patronage for the Danish Pavilion.

FOCUS ARTIST of NordArt 2017: David Černý

In 2016, David Černý received the NordArt Prize remunerated with 10,000 euros, donated by Hans-Julius and Johanna Ahlmann. Černý, who created, among other things, the golden four-legged Trabi at the German Embassy in Prague, is one of the best-known contemporary Czech artists. A bustling world citizen, he is looking very closely wherever he is, deliberately provoking with his works and stimulating most productive debates. Černý was represented for the first time at the NordArt in 2004: with two oversized babies, who are also crawling up the Prague TV tower.

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SPECIAL PROJECTS from CHINA

The long-standing cooperation with the Chinese embassy in Berlin and Chinese cultural institutions – as well as close contacts with the Chinese art scene – has already made many spectacular performances by Chinese artists possible at NordArt. To mark the 45th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations between Germany and China, a larger space is dedicated again to art from China.

Co-operation partners: Chinese Ministry of Culture; Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Federal Republic of Germany; Volkswagen AG; Xu Bing Studio; Culture, Sports and Tourism Administration of Shenzhen Municipality; Shenzhen Shangqi Cultural Diffusion Co., Ltd

PHOENIX by XU Bing

This year's highlight is the spectacular installation „Phoenix“ by the world-famous conceptual artist XU Bing. After stations in Beijing, Shanghai, New York and at the Venice Biennale, the two mighty sculptures can now be seen in Büdelsdorf. Each 30 meters long, eight tons heavy – and yet the two phoenixes, in various cultures traditionally standing for glory and beauty, seem to be flying with great ease through the aisles of the Carlshütte.

WORLD BY WORLD

China – Economic Wonderland: By the example of the city of Shenzhen, the exhibition „World by World“ illustrates how the economic upturn has influenced life rhythm and also art. 21 artists from Shenzhen show paintings, sculptures, installations and photographs – selected by curator Yang Yong and supported by the city of Shenzhen.

More Artists from China

LI Xiangqun, sculptor and president of LAFA, as well as WANG Yigang, painter and director of the LAFA Museum, are exhibiting in cooperation with the Luxun Academy of Fine Arts (LAFA).

There will be a reunion with LIU Ruowang (Public Choice Award 2016), LIU Yonggang (NordArt Prize 2015) and LV Shun (Public Choice Award 2015), as well as other Chinese artists.

Special Project from CHILE

In cooperation with the Embassy of the Republic of Chile in Germany, an artists' group of twelve young artists will be presented.

KUNSTWERK CARLSHÜTTE

Hosts at the Kunstwerk Carlshütte are Hans-Julius and Johanna Ahlmann.

The Kunstwerk Carlshütte is a non-profit cultural initiative of the internationally active ACO Group and the cities of Büdelsdorf and Rendsburg. Centrepiece is NordArt, which has been held annually in the summer months since 1999, with around 250 selected artists from all over the world. The historic iron foundry's huge halls covering 22,000 square meters of floor space and an 80,000 square meter sculpture park make an impressive backdrop for the exhibition.

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SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN MUSIC FESTIVAL

Since 2011, the Kunstwerk Carlshütte is also home to the international orchestral academy of the Schleswig Holstein Music Festival. The ACO Thormann Hall was specifically converted into a rehearsal and concert space for this purpose, providing room for 1,200 listeners. NordArt and the festival are not only good neighbours, who both cultivate a global network of artists, they are also promoting the crossover of fine arts and music – this year with 17 concerts at the premises of the Kunstwerk Carlshütte. After the highly successful SHMF premiere amidst NordArt 2015 with percussionist Martin Grubinger and The Big Seasons 2016 with Klaus Maria Brandauer, „The Big Organ“ with Cameron Carpenter comes to NordArt this year.

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.“

VISITORS INFO

NordArt 2017: 10 June to 8 Oktober 2017

Public Opening Ceremony on 10 June, 5 pm • Entrance in the sculpture park and catering from 3 pm, the halls are open 6 pm – 8 pm
On 10.06. free admission

Opening times: Tue–Sun 11am – 7pm • **Entrance fee:** 12 Euro • Other conditions under: www.nordart.de/en/besucherinfo.html

Guided Tours: Wednesdays at 3 pm • Saturdays, 11 am and 1 pm • Sundays, at 1 pm • Duration: 1,5 hrs • Price: 8 Euro + Entry

Private Tours by appointment (in German, English, Danish, Dutch or 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

Events within NordArt: <http://www.kunstwerk-carlshuette.de/veranstaltungen.html>

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

Information and booking: Tel +49 4331 354 695, info@kunstwerk-carlshuette.de • **www.nordart.de**

Artists list of NordArt: www.nordart.de/en/die-kuenstler.html • **Download Poster:** www.nordart.de/en/infomaterial.html

FOR THE PRESS

May: International NordArt Symposium and Installation of the exhibition (dates by agreement)

6.–8. Juni: Press Preview NordArt (dates by agreement)

Press kontakt: Inga Aru • iaru@kunstwerk-carlshuette.de • Tel: +49 151-241 888 90