

**International Art Exhibition in Industrial Architecture****NordArt 2015: The Cultural Highlight of Schleswig Holstein**

**Even if the region between Baltic and North Sea is usually associated with a rural idyll, one of the largest contemporary art exhibitions in Europe takes place right there. From 6 June to 4 October 2015, the now 17th edition of the spectacular show is hosted at Kunstwerk Carlshütte in Büdelsdorf in Schleswig-Holstein. The NordArt 2015 presents works by 250 selected artists from 55 countries. This year's country focus is on Mongolia with its own pavilion.**

Formerly Northern Germany's largest ironworks, the aisles of the decommissioned Carlshütte with 22,000 square metres form an equally huge and fascinating backdrop for 1,000 works of art. In the associated 80,000-square-metres sculpture park, about 100 objects are on display. The steady increase of candidates – about 3,000 artists from 99 countries have submitted their work this year – is an impressive indication of the unusual exhibition's reputation.

Chaired by chief curator Wolfgang Gramm, the jury selects works in the fields of painting, installation, sculpture, photography and multimedia. The initiators' idea is a total work of art, which is located between the poles of the works of established artists and newcomers. Despite their differences, they develop a common language standing in dialogue with the rugged charm of the industrial architecture.

For several years, the NordArt has been putting a country in focus with its own pavilion. After China, the Baltic States and Russia, this year it's Mongolia. A decision characterized by relevance, since in 2015 modern art from Mongolia presents itself in Europe. The debut is at the Biennale in Venice beginning of May, and from 6 June, in cooperation with the Mongolian Embassy, the works of 30 artists of the country can be seen in Büdelsdorf. GANTUMUR Luvsannyam, Minister of Education, Culture and Science of Mongolia, has taken on patronage. OYUNTUYA Oyunjargal and BODIBAATAR Jigjidsuren are curators of the Mongolian pavilion.

Since 2000, the international NordArt Symposium is held prior to the NordArt. For about four weeks in May, up to 20 artists from different generations and countries are going to live and work on the site to create art across borders together. This results in large-scale works exclusive to the NordArt (sculptures, installations, paintings).

## Press Release

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After in 2014 the special project „China Garden - Confronting Anitya“ received the first NordArt Audience Award, in 2015 a new selection of Chinese objects will be seen. Liang Kegang is the curator of „China Garden 2015“.

In addition to the Audience Award, each year an artist is awarded the NordArt Prize. 2014 prize winner, the group AES+F from Russia, is again represented by a video work at the NordArt 2015. The 10,000-euro NordArt Prize has been sponsored since 2010 by Hans-Julius and Johanna Ahlmann (ACO Group). The entrepreneur couple organizes and finances the exhibition in the form of a public-private partnership together with the towns of Büdelsdorf and Rendsburg. The organizers take the ever-increasing number of visitors – in 2014 70,000 guests were counted – as a good sign and incentive to establish Büdelsdorf in Schleswig-Holstein as a hotspot of contemporary art.

The Kunstwerk Carlshütte is a non-profit cultural initiative of the internationally active ACO Group and the towns of Büdelsdorf and Rendsburg. Centrepiece is the NordArt, taking place annually in the summer months since 1999, with about 250 selected artists from all over the world. It is one of the largest exhibitions of contemporary art in Europe, performing against the backdrop of the towering aisles of the historic iron foundry with its 22,000 square metres, and the 80,000-square-metre sculpture park. Since 2011, the Orchestra Academy of the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival found a home at the Kunstwerk Carlshütte – in the ACO Thormann Hall, which has been specially converted into a rehearsal and concert space and can accommodate 1,200 listeners.

Information: [www.kunstwerk-carlshuette.de](http://www.kunstwerk-carlshuette.de) • [www.nordart.de](http://www.nordart.de)

**NordArt 2015: 06.06.–04.10.2015**  
**Opening ceremony on 6 June, 17h**  
**Opening times: Tue-Sun, 11-19h**  
**[www.nordart.de](http://www.nordart.de)**

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