

Press Information

NordArt 2018 at Kunstwerk Carlshütte • 9 June – 7 October 2018

May 2018

A World Tour through the Art

NordArt celebrates its anniversary: For the 20th time, the Carlshütte opens its doors to give painters and sculptors, photographers and installation artists from all over the world a huge stage for their work. 200 selected artists will participate in 2018's show, conceived by Chief Curator Wolfgang Gramm and one of the largest annual exhibitions of contemporary art in Europe.

Year after year, the exhibition is redefined, setting other priorities. NordArt sees itself as a scope for cultural development and source of inspiration for internationally renowned artists as well as for newcomers. Here, where different perspectives of individual cultures meet, but also the shared dreams of East and West and North and South, here, where the exhibits develop their own atmosphere against the backdrop of the historic iron foundry, visitors go on an incomparable world tour through the art. And this journey will touch different strings inside each individual, moving everyone to a very personal conversation with art.

To deepen its insights, NordArt devotes a specific pavilion to a different country every year and introduces a focus artist.

FOCUS ARTIST NordArt 2018: Jan Koblasa

NordArt bows to a man who has encouraged us, especially in the early years, to turn dreams into reality: Jan Koblasa (1932–2017). Born in the Czech Republic, the sculptor left his country in 1968 and later founded the sculpture class at Muthesius Academy of Fine Arts. What he gave his students was not only technical skills, but also the constant invitation to do soul searching, to develop and implement their own perspectives. He himself wanted from sculptures: "That people have something that pleases their eyes and soul, something to linger and think about – something that can support them." We are delighted to be able to show Jan Koblasa's works, which reflect no less than European history.

COUNTRY FOCUS NordArt 2018: Czech Pavilion • "At the Border of Infinity and Future"

The jump from Jan Koblasa's sculptures to the subsequent generation of artists seems large at first, but at a second glance, the development can be discovered. For the Czech Pavilion, the two Prague curators Lucie Pangrácová and Michal Gabriel selected works by 13 artists exploring "Dematerialized Statues and Materialized Paintings". The exhibition "At the Border of Infinity and Future" presents artists involved in digital sculpture, a relatively new art form that eliminates dependence on mass and material limitations, and – as a counterweight – painters who emphasize the material aspects of a painting, making the painting medium itself the main theme. The collection is supplemented by photographs that reveal the hidden forms of faces and their mirror images.

Ambassador of the Czech Republic, S.E. Tomáš Jan Podivínský, has taken on patronage of the Czech Pavilion. He says: "I think culture is a powerful part of diplomacy ... communication through the arts can naturally contribute to the understanding and rapprochement between people and peoples around the globe."

Cooperation partner is "Sculpture Line" festival in Prague, so this summer some of NordArt's sculptures can also be seen in public space in Prague and Bratislava.

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SPECIAL PROJECTS from CHINA

Close contacts to the Chinese art scene – and the long-standing cooperation with the Chinese Embassy in Berlin and Chinese cultural institutions – have repeatedly enabled NordArt to show spectacular works. We want to continue this in 2018.

15 Chinese artists, including five NordArt Prize winners, will participate in our anniversary exhibition. Xu Bing not only re-staged his „Phoenix Birds“, who won last year's Public Choice Award, but also presents his "Background Story" – a six-meter-long frosted glass pane reflecting an idyllic landscape, but at the rear, refuse and rubbish. Artist Xiang Jing shows her sculpture installation "The River Flows East" and sculptures from the series "Naked Beyond Skin".

Awardees of NordArt

The audience can look forward to a reunion with many of the artists who have received Public Choice Awards in recent years or the NordArt Prize, donated by Hans-Julius and Johanna Ahlmann and endowed with 10,000 euros. One of them is Jörg Plickat, one of Germany's outstanding sculptors who received the 2017 NordArt Prize.

Hans-Julius Ahlmann: "NordArt's global ambassador from the beginning – it was high time for the NordArt Prize!" The award ceremony will take place at the opening of NordArt 2018.

KUNSTWERK CARLSHÜTTE

Since the 14th century, the extensive grounds in Rendsburg/Büdelndorf in Schleswig-Holstein had been serving Rendsburg Castle as a supply. With the establishment of the iron foundry Carlshütte in 1827, the first industrial settlement of the duchies Schleswig and Holstein took place here instead. Following the final decommissioning of the industrial plant in 1997, the site with its huge foundry halls was taken over by Hans-Julius Ahlmann, a shareholder of the internationally active ACO Group.

The Kunstwerk Carlshütte was founded in 1999 and is a non-profit cultural initiative of the internationally operating ACO Group and the towns of Büdelndorf and Rendsburg – a special location for exhibitions, concerts, readings, theatre and film screenings. The focal point is NordArt, which takes place annually in the summer months, with selected artists from all over the world. The exhibition is staged in the huge aisles of the historic iron foundry with its 22,000 square metres of floor space and an 80,000 square metres sculpture park.

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

NordArt cooperates with cultural institutions, embassies and curators from different countries.

SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN MUSIC FESTIVAL

Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival and NordArt, good neighbours on the site of the Kunstwerk Carlshütte, are not only united by their intensive nurturing of a worldwide network of artists, they also successfully promote the crossover of visual arts and music.

Since 2011 the Kunstwerk Carlshütte has been home to the International Festival Orchestra (www.shmf.de/oa). The ACO Thormann Hall was specially rebuilt as a rehearsal and concert room seating 1200 listeners. In 2015, the festival moved into NordArt for the first time. After "The Big Six", "The Big Seasons" and "The Big Organ", "The Big Bernstein" will follow on 18 and 19 August. Information and further concerts at Kunstwerk Carlshütte: www.shmf.de

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VISITORS INFO

NordArt 2018: 9 June to 8 October 2018

Public Opening Ceremony on 9 June, 5 pm • Entrance in the sculpture park and catering from 3 pm, the halls are open 6 pm – 8 pm
On 9 June free admission

Opening times: Tue–Sun 11am – 7pm

Entrance fee: 14 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

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

Catalogue: 29,7x21 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
www.nordart.de

Artists list of NordArt: www.nordart.de/en/die-kuenstler.html

Download Poster and Flyer: www.nordart.de/en/infomaterial.html

FOR THE PRESS

May: Installation of the exhibition (dates by agreement)

4.–7. June: Press Preview NordArt (dates by agreement)

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