

Press Information

March 2023

NordArt 2023 at Kunstwerk Carlshütte

At the site of the historic iron foundry in Schleswig Holstein, a prestigious international art exhibition NordArt has developed into one of the largest annual contemporary art shows in Europe in less than a quarter of a century. Hundreds of artworks from all over the world will collaborate once more to form a collective narrative that maps the current dreams and concerns of humanity. From 3 June to 8 October 2023, NordArt will host the curated works by 200 artists.

With its foundry halls, Wagenremise (coach house) and expansive sculpture park, the Kunstwerk Carlshütte presents a unique atmosphere which allows intimate contact with the art and, remarkably, leads the works of art into conversation with each other and the visitors. Wolfgang Gramm, the Principal Curator of NordArt sums it up: „Art seeks answers to everything that rouses and touches people, while people seek answers in art.“

Against the background of the world in disarray, it is completely understandable that the paintings and sculptures, photographs and installations don't just shed light on personal and social relations and developments, but are carried by the collective desire to uncover the truth, rediscover lost values and bring people together for a better world.

This year, a deeper insight is given into the art of Türkiye. Under the special project **Country in Focus 2023**, Turkish Pavillion presents works by 17 artists. Kemal Tufan, the curator of the Turkish Pavillion, says: „Türkiye was selected as a country in focus before the terrible earthquake disaster happened. We believe that in this context, the exhibition has gained even more significance. Together, let us rely on the constructive and healing power of art.“

Michał Jackowski, winner of the Public Choice Award at NordArt 2022, will be returning this summer with a work conceived specifically for the exhibition. The curator of the **special project „Antique Games“** is Prof. Jan Wiktor Sienkiewicz. The project is a visual account of a contemporary culture dominated by consumerism. In a curious game of morality, juxtaposing ancient art forms with 20th-century pop culture, Jackowski raises questions about universal values and laws.

One of NordArt's trademarks is **contemporary art from China**. Long-standing contacts with the Chinese art scene have repeatedly allowed the presentation of esteemed artists from China. Among others, works by YUE Minjun, XIANG Jing and ZHOU Song can be enjoyed this year.

NordArt Prize 2022 was awarded to LIU Ruowang. Since 2016, many of his principal works have found a home at NordArt and have frequently travelled as „ambassadors“ for NordArt to collaborative art events in Europe. His „Original Sin“ ape-men and „Mr. Pinocchio“ sculpture group are well known to the core audience. WU Guoyong is amongst the Public Choice Award winners at NordArt 2022. This year, he is presenting his new photo series „Whitehouse & Blockhouse“.

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The audience at NordArt 2022 also honoured Dejo Denzer for his series of striking characters made from shoes. The artist is fascinated by the phenomena of perception, both visually and figuratively. This year, he is showing his fantastical fish reliefs made from repurposed musical instruments.

In the special project **To Be a Muse**, photo artist Lilya Corneli presents interpretations of famous paintings. Her images are imaginative and playful renditions of old masterpieces. The muses, admired by generations of art lovers, are reflected in living women.

As always, the visitors will certainly come across their particular favourites at NordArt 2023. The mystery of art lies in surprises, discoveries and finding answers to the questions you didn't know how to ask.

List of all artists at NordArt 2023: www.nordart.de/en/the-artists

The NordArt 2023 catalogue will be published on the opening day of the exhibition.

The Kunstwerk Carlshütte is a non-profit cultural initiative of the internationally active ACO Group and the towns of Büdelsdorf and Rendsburg. It is an exceptional venue for exhibitions, concerts, readings and cultural events. The centrepiece of this cultural enterprise is NordArt, taking place annually during the summer months since 1999. In addition to the foundry halls with 22,000 square metres of exhibition space, the premises include 80,000 square metre sculpture park and the ACO Wagenremise. Every year, around 3000 artists from all over the world apply to participate in this event.

The Principal Curator of NordArt is Wolfgang Gramm and the Senior Curator is Inga Aru.

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

NordArt 2023: 3 June – 8 October

Opening hours: Tue – Sun 11 am – 7 pm, closed on Mondays

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