

Press information O21, Nr. 10 / 7. May 2021

Contemporary Art / Dresden / Saxony / Germany

BREATHTURN – OSTRALE Biennale O21:

Concept, Curatorial Team, Artworks

Despite all current restrictions, the OSTRALE Center for Contemporary Art plans to hold its biennial in Dresden from July 1 to October 3. The 13th OSTRALE will mainly take place in an Eastern Modernist pavilion in the center of Dresden, the former Robotron canteen, which is currently in a state of decay. The curatorial concept of director Andrea Hilger, co-director Antka Hofmann and the four-member international curatorial team is co-financed by the Creative Europe Program of the European Union and, under the title "Flowing Connections," will also include presentations in Budapest, Croatia and in the European Capital of Culture 2022, Kaunas/Lithuania, after the OSTRALE Biennale. In Dresden, 557 works from all genres of contemporary arts by 138 artists from 34 countries will be shown initially. This year's biennial is entitled "BREATHTURN". It was curated from works by invited artists and from 1,114 submitted applications.

International curatorial team and curatorial approach

„In the rivers north the future / I cast the net“ (Paul Celan, transl. by Pierre Joris) – connected to this quote of the writer Paul Celan, the curators have given the title BREATHTURN to the "O21". The curators invited under the artistic direction of the OSTRALE director Andrea Hilger and the 2nd board member, Antka Hofmann, are: Natasa Bodrozic and Ivana Meštrović (Croatia), Patricija Gilyte (Lithuania) and Krisztián Kukla (Hungary). Their joint statement explains the curatorial theme under which they have put together the exhibition:

„Being human is not enough, and already too much. Sometimes we act like robots, but want to feel like animals. How can we breathe and rethink work and pleasure, art and industry, politics and poetics, when everything flows into each other, like streams into a river? Is the whole planet our home or just the square meters we occupy?“

Between disorientation and reorientation, to find new directions and avoid dead ends, we need to breathe differently. We have to change our perspective and pay attention to those at the borders of our field of vision: the misfits, the oppressed, and the unknown, but also biospheres, buildings and social spaces. At the gate of a new, post-pandemic era, exhausted but hopeful, curious and ready for a change, the OSTRALE in 2021 explores the ways we coexist with our fellow humans, animals and our complex environment.“

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The cooperation "Flowing Connections" (FLOC), co-funded by the Creative Europe Program of the European Union, plays a crucial role in the creation of the OSTRALE Biennale O21, as the project enables European-intercultural cooperation, especially in the curatorial process. The exhibition, jointly developed by the curators, will first be shown as part of the OSTRALE Biennale O21 in Dresden. Subsequently, a selection of the artworks will be presented in cooperation with Art Quarter Budapest (Hungary), Slobodne Veze (Croatia) and ECO Office Kaunas 2022 (Lithuania) respectively in Budapest, Rijeka/Split/Zagreb and finally in the European Capital of Culture Kaunas 2022 (Lithuania).

Andrea Hilger, Director of the OSTRALE Center for Contemporary Art: "Thanks to the support of the real estate company Gateway, the OSTRALE Biennale has an exhibition space of approximately 3,500 m² in the Robotron Canteen for the first time in the center of Dresden. The building is a valuable witness of the Eastern Modernism and, as an often overlooked part of the architectural and social history of the city of Dresden, is unfortunately currently in a state of decay. With the current interim use together with the Kunsthau Dresden and subsequently through the OSTRALE Biennale, we are also testing the Robotron canteen for its suitability for a new life as a cultural venue. We invite the public to come and see for themselves."

As already in 2019, the OSTRALE Biennale O21 will also take place at other locations in the city area. In addition to the Deutsches Hygiene-Museum Dresden, these include the Bautzner Straße Memorial, the Stadtentwässerung Dresden and the Ostrale Zentrum in Dresden-Übigau, where the artists in residence of the FLOC project will work and communicate with visitors during the Biennale.

Tickets: 15 Euro, reduced price 10 Euro

Booking options, access restrictions, etc. coming soon here:

<https://boxoffice.etix.com/ticket/e/1019132?cobrand=ostrale>

PRESS LOGIN to the artwork list in the Databank

Access through: www.ostrale.org

User name: Press Login

Password: celansblauestunde247!

Interface Language: German

PDF Artwork list O21 (158 MB):

www.ostrale.org/transfer/O21--Kunstwerke---generierte--Uebersicht---Presse.pdf

Exhibiting Artists

The 2021 edition of the OSTRALE Biennale presents 138 artists from 34 countries, Germany, Lithuania, Croatia, Hungary, Sweden, Serbia, Turkey, India, North Macedonia, Singapore, Italy, France, Togo, Netherlands, Russia, USA, Poland, Austria, China, Ukraine, Slovenia, Moldova, Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Finland, Bangladesh, Luxembourg, Azerbaijan, Peru, Kosovo, Ireland, Norway, Switzerland, United Kingdom.

[Nils Agdler & Timo Menke](#) (SE), [Emil Andersson](#) (SE), [Sanja Anđelković](#) (RS), [Katharina Andress](#) (DE), [Aleksas Andriuškevičius](#) (LT), [Aurelija Maknytė](#) (LT), [Seçkin Aydin](#) (TR), [Devadeep Bani Sarmah Gupta](#) (IN), [Gildo Bavčević](#) (HR), [Dávid Biró](#) (HU), [Bojan Mrđenović](#) (HR), [Jana Borsche](#) (DE), [Viktor Brim](#) (DE), [Janos Brückner](#) (HU), [Gaby Burckhardt](#) (DE), [Daniel Burkhardt](#) (DE), [Nadia Buttendorf](#) (DE), [Elena Chemerska](#) (MK), [Daniel Chong](#) (SG), [István Csákány](#) (HU), [Mauro Cuppone](#) (IT), [Márta Czene](#) (HU), [Etienne de France](#) (FR), [Abdoul-Ganiou Dermani](#) (TG-DE), [Tibor Dieters](#) (NL), [Alexei Dmitriev](#) (RU), [Katerina Duda](#) (HR), [Gabriele Engelhardt](#) (DE), [Lucy Cordes Engelman](#) (US), [Anna Fabricius](#) (HU), [Zsolt Ferenczy](#) (HU), [Mona Freudenreich](#) (DE), [Márk Fridvalszki](#) (HU), [Áron Galambos](#) (HU), [Nadia Galbiati](#) (IT), [Mindaugas Gapševičius](#) (LT), [Gabrielė Gervickaitė](#) (LT), [Bronė Sofija Gideikaitė](#) (LT), [Harald Gnade](#) (DE), [Goran Škofić](#) (HR), [Igor Grubić](#) (HR), [Michael Grudziecki](#) (PL-DE), [Marko Gutić Mižimakov](#) (HR), [László Györfy](#) (HU), [Péter Tamás Halász](#) (HU), [Willem Harbers](#) (NL), [Michael Heindl](#) (AT), [Roland Hermanns](#) (DE), [Di Hu](#) (CN), [Ana Hušman](#) (HR), [doplgenger](#) (Isidora Ilić & Boško Prostran, RS), [Alexander Jakimenko](#) (UA-DE), [Yuki Jungesblut](#) (DE), [Nikita Kadan](#) (UA), [Eginhart Kanter](#) (DE), [Anuschka Kilian-Buck](#) (DE), [Neža](#) (SI), [Eugenijus Kolmogorcevas](#) (LT), [KOLXOZ](#) (Maxim Polyakov, Anton Polyakov & Viktor Vejvoda, MD & CZ), [Vikenti Komitski](#) (BG), [Endre Koronczí](#) (HU), [Volker Kreidler](#) (DE), [Áron Kútvolgyi-Szabó](#) (HU), [Marcus Lerviks](#) (FI), [Irma Leščinskaitė](#) (LT), [Glorija Lizde](#) (HR), [Larion Lozovoy](#) (UA), [Dean Maassen](#) (DE), [Éva Magyarósi](#) (HU), [Firoz Mahmud](#) (BD), [Casey McKee](#) (US), [Toni Meštrović](#) (HR), [studio ASYNCHROME](#) (Marleen Leitner & Michael Schitnig, AT), [Niko Mihajević](#) (HR), [Péter Lichter](#) (HU), [Ivan Milenković](#) (RS), [Judit Lilla Molnár](#) (HU), [Sarvenaz Mostofey](#) (IR), [Petra Mrša](#) (HR), [Christoph & Sebastian Mügge](#) (SE), [Sali Muller](#) (LU), [Csaba Nemes](#) (HU), [Thomas Neumaier](#) (DE), [Klára Orosz](#) (HU), [Andrea Palašti](#) (RS), [Lav Paripović](#) (HR), [Predrag Pavić](#) (HR), [Julija Pociūtė](#) (LT), [Renata Poljak](#) (HR), [Ghenadie Popescu](#) (MD), [Marko Rodics](#) (HU), [Ivan Ramljak](#) (HR), [Farid Rasulov](#) (AZ), [Jens Rausch](#) (DE), [Melanie Richter](#) (DE), [Jana Rinchenbachová](#) (CZ), [Fátima Rodrigo](#) (PE), [Sandra Rosenstiel & Hanne Lange](#) (DE), [Nika Rukavina](#) (HR), [Neli Ružić](#) (HR), [Catherine Sanke](#) (DE), [Remis Ščerbauskas](#) (LT), [Philipp A. Schäfer](#) (DE), [Jan Sebesta](#) (CZ), [Driton Selmani](#) (XK), [Stipan Tadić](#) (HR), [Lana Stojićević](#) (HR), [Kamen Stoyanov](#) (BU), [Attila Szabó](#) (HU), [Ottó Szabó](#) (HU), [Eszter Szabó](#) (HU), [Zsuzsanna Szegedi-Varogay](#) (US), [Kamilla Szij](#) (HU), [Hajnalka Szolga](#) (HU), [József Szolnoki](#) (HU), [Casper ter Heerd](#) (NL), [Ivana Tkaličić](#) (HR), [Laura Erika Urbanski](#) (DE), [Philipp Valenta](#) (DE), [Arturas Valiauga](#) (LT), [Daina Vanagaitė-Belžaikienė](#) (LT), [Vangjush Vellahu](#) (AL), [Xueying Wang](#) (GB), [Guido Weggenmann](#) (DE), [Anette Wörner](#) (DE), [xtro realm](#) (Gideon Horváth & Rita Süveges & Anna Zilahi, HU), [Dia Zékány](#) (HU), [Yinglin Zhou](#) (CN), [Die Zukunft - Students of the Art Academies of Dresden and Wrocław](#) (Ida Sielska, Jarosław Słomski, Taina L. Bemmerlein & Veronika Pfaffinger, PL & DE)

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The OSTRALE Biennale is one of the largest temporary exhibitions of contemporary art in Germany, with a recent total of over 300 artworks by approximately 180 artists from over 34 nations. It is not a sales exhibition per se, which gives it the freedom to discuss socially relevant issues away from the marketplace. The guiding principles of the OSTRALE, such as peaceful coexistence, acceptance of the foreign or unknown, respectful interaction, religious diversity and internationality, among others, are reflected in the content of the exhibitions. The OSTRALE team has already designed large parts of the contemporary arts program of European Capitals of Culture several times, such as in 2010 in Pécs, 2016 in Wrocław, 2018 in Valletta/Malta, in the Rijeka/Croatia (2020), where, however, due to the Covid-19 pandemic could only be presented [digitally](#), and in the presentation of a selection of OSTRALE works in the European Capital of Culture 2022 Kaunas/Lithuania. In 2021-2022, OSTRALE is the lead partner in the Flowing Connections project (<https://vimeo.com/487428285> <https://vimeo.com/544940287>), which is co-funded by the Creative Europe Program of the European Union. In collaboration with Art Quarter Budapest (Hungary), Slobodne Veze (Croatia) and ECOC Office Kaunas 2022 (Lithuania), the project includes the OSTRALE Biennale O21 in Dresden and OUT of OSTRALE exhibitions in Budapest, Rijeka/Split/Zagreb and Kaunas in 2022, complemented by an artist in residence program and several workshops on digital cultural management, post-industrial cultural spaces, art education and the inclusion of people with disabilities.

F.d.R.d.A. Tobias Blaurock

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