

Press Release Number 6

Dresden / International: Contemporary Art

OSTRALE once again beats its record Midterm Statement OSTRALE Biennale 017 Midterm Statement / Overview / Upcoming Events

Dresden. The international exhibition of contemporary art OSTRALE, which celebrated a visitor-record earlier this year, once again makes a record. Accompanied by an increase in international recognition during the first half of this year's exhibition period, OSTRALE again sees an increase in visitor numbers. On Monday evening (28.08) circa 13,000 had already seen this year's biennale including 4000 schoolchildren, more than at the same point last year. Last year OSTRALE had in total circa 25,000 visitors (in 2015 circa 20,000). This year the exhibition is open until the 1st of October. Whether OSTRALE can take place again, and whether in 2019 appropriate spaces will be available, remains unclear, in spite of slightly increased support from the state capital Dresden.

OSTRALE's director **Andrea Hilger** celebrates: 'Although the event duration this year is 21 days shorter than the previous year, we can already count this Monday evening (28.8) 13,000 visitors, more than half of the total number of visitors last year.' This year OSTRALE takes place over 66 days. In the previous year, 2016, was open for 87 days.

'We are especially pleased that this increase in the number of visitors from far and wide is accompanied by numerous statements made by ordinary visitors as well as by professionals from the cultural sector, all of which praise the great improvement in the quality of the exhibition,' added **Andrea Hilger**. The new exciting quality of OSTRALE was also confirmed by the numerous art teachers from all over Saxony and beyond, who visited the Biennale with their classes within the framework of their school lessons. **Katrin Velebil (BA Education)**, a teacher at the Georg-Schwarz-Strasse highschool in Leipzig said: 'I was once again really excited. it is a truly outstanding presentation of art in many guises.... this year is devoted in large part to themes which occupy us all, War, Escape, Death, Suppression... That is already a grand fare but it also shows a great maturity in the young artists.'

The future is uncertain because of underfunding

The achievements of the makers of OSTRALE are all the greater because it is organised by a small team of idealists not by institutional art exhibitors and, in spite of slightly increased support from the state capital Dresden, it is clearly underfunded, making any long term planning for the Biennale impossible. The cultural foundation of the Free State of Saxony does not support OSTRALE Biennale at all, and there are no grants from the State either.

An alternative location has not yet been found

Next to finance, the biggest question facing OSTRALE and remaining thus far unanswered is the question of the location for the 2019 Biennale. This un-clarified situation makes additional problems for the planning requirements of an exhibition of this quality and size, as the organisers have already stated.

'The future of OSTRALE is, in spite of disbursements of support from the private sector, is unfortunately thus far uncertain', said **Dr. Bernd Kugelberg**, Schneider and Partners Economic research company, Tax advise company, and speaker for OSTRALEfreunde.de.

Extract from the events program

Daily

OSTRALE presents art in a playful way. It could even be described as 'An art course of a special ART/KIND.' It will be visited, within the framework of art lessons again this year, by more than a hundred school classes. Also for children who visit OSTRALE with their parents, there is a daily offer of '**Creative Space**' - **A workshop for the public**'. Here children can let their imaginations run free and create their own artworks.

Every Friday in September, at 18:00:

Derevo Dance Performance 'Try walking in my shoes' - Language of the Body *Especially appropriate for the deaf mute!*

DEREVO present their dance piece 'Try walking in my shoes' at Gate 7 at the OSTRALE biennale. Through the language of the body, the senses will be sharpened. Dancer Elena (DEREVO) explores outside with a daily improvisation in the Biennale area. For more information, programs, support and collaborators please log onto www.OSTRALE.de

Every Saturday and Sunday at 15:00
Guided tours through the exhibition (€5 per person)

Sunday, 03.09
Sonntag, 17.09.2017, from 11:00 - 12:30:

Curator guided tours and Artistic conversation OSTRALE Biennale

In a given time span of 1000 years, 500 years before and after 2017 visitors can expect a 'form' building tour with literary accompaniment, led by Laszlo F. Földenyi: 'Life is a glimpse of light between two eternities.'

In addition to the mediation of the works of art, the curators are also focusing on the overall planning and the curatorial concept of this year's Biennale. Accompanying them will be selected artists who will present their works in greater detail in the course of the tour. Groups are of a maximum 20 people. Contact us at post@ostrale.de for the special €15 price, €10 reduced.

Thursday, 07.09.
Thursday 21.09. 2017 at 16:00

For all the senses - see in the dark

Approaches to art for the sighted and the visually impaired with an exchange of ideas and horizons approached through joint tours.

The 11th OSTRALE International Exhibition of Contemporary Art offers to all visitors for the first time this year the chance to explore the Biennale with the ALLSENSE-APP which has been developed with the support of Aktion Mensch. A digital tour of 27 art works, available from the App Store and from Google Play, enables the blind and the sighted to experience these works, indeed all who want to sharpen their perception of arts beyond the visual. A free mobile Guide is also available from the ticket office.

Further information about ALLSENSE-APP is available on <http://www.ostrale.de/> and also on Play Store and the App Store.

Saturday, 23./Sonntag, 24. September

Family Weekend

Ostrale for colour blurs and old masters -

Entry: €15 Adults / €10 reduced

Special price for Friedrichstadters and the socially disadvantaged €5

23.09 and 24.09 is the OSTRALE Family Weekend. With the special children and young people's tours the works are brought to life, and not just by explanations. The young visitors are also invited to interpret the works with their own drawings. A related program in the public workshop offers the opportunity otherwise to try out new materials and to realise their own creative ideas.

Next to the family program common tours for the sighted and visually impaired re on offer. New ways of understanding art can be experienced with the ALLSENSE-APP.

The torch guided tours with interpreters for the deaf and hearing-impaired also allow visitors to experience the exhibition from a new perspective.

Opening times

Closed Mondays, Tuesday to Thursday

10:00 - 19:00

Friday to Sunday

11:00 - 20:00

The ticket office closes one hour before the exhibition closes

Entry

€15 Normal price / €10 reduced

€30 Family ticket / €25 reduced

€10 Group ticket for ten or more people

Guided tours €5 per person

Payments made with a SparkasseCard receive a €1 reduction

Guided Tours

Saturday and Sunday, 15:00

Getting here

Public transport: Linie 10 stop 'Messe Dresden', Cars: Dresden, Zur Messe 9, Parkplatz P2 (Messering 8)

Further Information / Contact

Graphic materials

Please inform us if you need printable graphic materials, ostrale@team-blaurock.de

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