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Art and Culture in Dresden, Saxony, Germany

„Venue Pioneers“ on the hunt for a new space for 2021: OSTRALE Biennale 2019 closes with success

The interim year 2020 between Biennales with tours in Rijeka, Kampala and Nairobi

This year's OSTRALE Biennale, the international exhibition of contemporary arts in Dresden, closes its doors on Sunday evening after a good nine weeks. As a temporary solution, it took place this year at the historical cigarette factory f6 provided by a private real estate developer, and also in several other locations all over the city. Although this year it was eleven days less open than last year, and this time the entire summer holidays were during the exhibition period (2017: only 2 holiday weeks), this year's OSTRALE Biennale, with around 28,000 visitors, had almost as many as the last time (2017: around 30,000). Towards the end, up to 1,500 art lovers could be counted on some days despite the heat. In the only two weeks after the holidays, about 5,000 pupils (225 school classes) from all over Saxony came to visit the exhibition in frame of their art classes. Since the OSTRALE no longer has a fixed venue, the OSTRALE Zentrum für zeitgenössische Künste e. V. is already looking for a new building in Dresden for the next Biennale year, 2021. The event there will again be supplemented by several decentralised exhibitions. In the coming year of 2020, the OSTRALE will present some of the works that have just been shown in Dresden in other cities as well, among others the European Capital of Culture Rijeka (Croatia). The city of Dresden is also applying to become the European Capital of Culture in 2025.

According to the organizers, the Dresdeners and their guests have once again very well accepted the exhibition and its extensions through symposia, workshops and the Artist in Residence programme. The same applies to the satellite exhibitions scattered throughout the city, such as the Ausländerat, the former Bautzner Straße prison and the Goethe-Institut Dresden. In this Biennale year, a total of over 300 works by 180 artists from over 34 nations were on show. Once again, their spectrum covered all genres of contemporary art.

"As ‚venue pioneers‘, we would love to continue to present a show of contemporary international art that is curated as comprehensively as possible in a Dresden district where art would otherwise not be so strongly represented. For this, we would need around 8,000 square meters of buildings plus open-air grounds. It would be great if we could revitalize a temporarily vacant building again", says Biennale Director Andrea Hilger.

2020: Biennale interim year with shows in Rijeka, Kampala and Nairobi

Emina Višnić, Director of Rijeka 2020, announces: "*The OSTRALE has already enriched several European Capital of Culture programmes in recent years, as in Pécs (Hungary, 2010), Wrocław (Poland, 2016), Valletta (Malta, 2018) and other partner cities. This time, in Rijeka, under the title 'Watergate', it will integrate its current concept '-ism' into our three main themes 'Work, Migration and Water'.*" "*We are extremely delighted that in the coming interim year of the Biennale we will again be able to help shape the programme for a European Capital of Culture. 'Watergate' will combine elements of this year's exhibition themes 'Isms', 'Womanism' and 'MigARTion'*", **Andrea Hilger** is also pleased to report.

OSTRALE

Centre for Contemporary Art

The presentation in Rijeka will not be the only OSTRALE tour abroad in 2020. Antka Hofmann, one of the curators of the OSTRALE Biennale: "With our project 'Womanism' we will make guest appearances in Uganda and Kenya, working together with exciting partners such as the Goethe Centre in Kampala and the Circle Art Gallery in Nairobi". Womanism is supported by the TURN Fund of the German Federal Cultural Foundation and by the "ifa" Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations.

Some OSTRALE-artworks can still be seen until 8 September at the Bautzner Strasse Memorial Museum in Dresden (daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday to 8 p.m.). Admission is free on presentation of an OSTRALE ticket, without ticket: 6 Euro or 3 Euro reduced.

Free to use picture material can be downloaded from here:

www.ostrale.de/de/Presse/Pressefotos.html

www.ostrale.de/de/Presse/pressefotos_iran.html

The OSTRALE Biennale has an excellent international network and is currently the third-largest temporary exhibition of contemporary art in Germany with over 300 works of art by around 180 artists from over 34 nations. It is not a sales exhibition per se, which gives it the freedom to discuss socially relevant topics away from market developments. The guiding principles of the OSTRALE, such as peaceful coexistence, acceptance of the stranger/unknown, respectful interaction, religious diversity and internationality are reflected in the exhibitions. The team of the OSTRALE Centre for Contemporary Arts has already organized several large-scale events contributing to the contemporary art programmes of European Capitals of Culture, such as 2010 in Pécs, 2016 in Wrocław and 2018 in Valletta/Malta. In the European Capital of Culture 2020 Rijeka/Croatia, the OSTRALE will also contribute by shaping parts of the programme.

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Die OSTRALE wird gefördert durch die Landeshauptstadt Dresden, die Kulturstiftung des Freistaates Sachsen (Diese Maßnahme wird mitfinanziert durch Steuermittel auf der Grundlage des vom Sächsischen Landtag beschlossenen Haushaltes), der Ausstellungsfokus „Womanism“ wird gefördert im Fonds TURN der Kulturstiftung des Bundes, die „all sense app“ wird gefördert durch AKTION Mensch / Weitere Förderer: EU, Deutsches Kinderhilfswerk, der Freistaat Sachsen, Stiftung Kunst und Musik für Dresden / Hauptsponsoren: USD Immobilien GmbH, Ostsächsische Sparkasse Dresden, Bplus. Infra Log GmbH, Heinrichthaler Milchwerke GmbH, Spedition Detmers Transport GmbH, Schneider + Partner GmbH