

OSTRALE

Biennale for Contemporary Art

11th
INTERNATIONAL
EXHIBITION
28.07.-01.10.2017
DRESDEN

Press release No. 1, 19th of February 2017

Contemporary Art in Dresden

OSTRALE from now on Biennale, 28.7. – 1.10.2017, Dresden

OSTRALE “re_form” takes form

Concept – Selection of the Artworks - Further Internationalization - Strengthening Dresden's application as European Capital of Culture

Germany has a new biennial for contemporary art. The Dresden-based international art exhibition OSTRALE, third largest temporary art exhibition in Germany, will from, now on take place every two years. The Centre for Contemporary Art, OSTRALE e.V. wants to further enhance the quality and the charisma of the exhibition. As an international art exhibition, and with numerous foreign projects throughout Europe, OSTRALE is of particular importance for Dresden, not only because the city will apply as European Capital of Culture in 2025. The theme of this year's OSTRALE is "re_form".

Invitation to Exhibition

The newly designed OSTRALE Biennale is already taking form. The municipal subsidy was slightly increased, the rehabilitation of the decaying stables is held prospect after this year's event. Negotiations with partners are ongoing, the networking in all directions is being pushed forward.

Together with the artistic director Andrea Hilger, the curators (Mykola Dzhychka, Oliver Kratz, Detlef Schweiger, Holger Wendland) have created the overall concept; according to this, OSTRALE will take place as an invitation exhibition this year. First artists and objects have already been defined. The curatorial meeting to select the works of art will take place on 23 Thursday and 24 Friday in February, then all objects will be positioned.

re_form

The new conception of the successful exhibition itself, as mentioned in the concept, provides the hook for this year's title "re-form". Furthermore artistic work and art in general live on reforms - the changing confrontation with the past, homages, references, quotations and appropriations. With "re_form" OSTRALE also wants to deal with questions of identity. According to the artistic concept, it is seen *“as one of the central themes of the European capitals of culture in view of past and present migrations flows, a general steering towards nationalism as well as the disintegration of the community of values.”* **OSTRALE Directress Andrea Hilger: "The contemporary art that is presented at OSTRALE is supposed to be a mediator between identities that overlap, but do not always merge."**

OSTRALE

Biennale for Contemporary Art

11th
INTERNATIONAL
EXHIBITION
28.07.-01.10.2017
DRESDEN

Current: Contemporary Art – Chance for Dresden

Just recently Dresden has witness the great potential of contemporary art by build-up of three omnibuses by the German-Syrian artist **Manaf Halbouni** in front of the Frauenkirche and of the strident reactions of a minority of citizens. **Andrea Hilger: "In the ideal case, art has the power to change people. The most important moment is probably, when people - even in advanced age - have their eyes open for the first time. This is why Dresden must devote itself more intensely to contemporary art, and that is why we absolutely support the application of Dresden as European Capital of Culture. We have already contacted the Capital of Culture office and submitted several suggestions, e.g., to provide OSTRALE as a forum for a symposium."**

After the presentation of 65 artistic positions from Dresden in the European Capital of Culture Wrocław last year (there alone 17,000 visitors), the OSTRALE will then be present in the European Capital of Culture La Valletta / Malta in 2018. In recent years there have already been fourteen foreign projects of OSTRALE in nine countries, but these have always taken place in the same year as OSTRALE itself. *"Both, OSTRALE here in Dresden as well as the guest performance at other locations will gain further quality and importance by concentrating on a yearly highlight. We also gain more time to further network the city - in Dresden and outside."* says Hilger.

Curators 2017: Mykola Dzhyhchka, Oliver Kratz, Detlef Schweiger, Holger Wendland

MORE INFOMATIONS / CONTACT:

OSTRALE Centre for Contemporary Art

OSTRALE / Office, Messering 20, 01067 Dresden, Tel +49 351 653 37 63, post@ostrale.de

www.ostrale.de, OSTRALE: / Exhibition: Zur Messe 9, D-01067 Dresden, Support: www.ostrale-freunde.de