

FEBRUARY 2017 – EVENT TRIP: DUESSELDORF PHOTO WEEKEND – CONTEMPORARY  
PHOTOGRAPHY IN NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA

From 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> February as part of the Duesseldorf Photo Weekend 2017, the International Visitors Programme offered a group of curators and directors the opportunity to dive into contemporary photography in North Rhine-Westphalia. Participants came from Italy, Cuba, Malta, Poland, Sweden and the Czech Republic.

The guests visited numerous events and exhibitions that were part of the Photo Weekend. For its sixth edition more than 50 galleries, museums, institutions and the so-called *off-scene* in Düsseldorf opened their doors for the weekend; the guests were also able to visit other institutions and museums across North Rhine-Westphalia. In Essen the group met up with Florian Ebner, head of the photographic collection at the Folkwang Museum, and together they went around the “The Rebellious Image: Kreuzberg’s ‘Werkstatt für Photographie’ and the Young Folkwang Scene in the 1980s” exhibition. In Cologne the programme included the photographic collection of the SK Stiftung Kultur (SK cultural foundation) and a conversation with director Gabriele Conrath-Scholl.

The guests were:

**Nelson Ramirez de Arellano Conde**, director: Fototeca de Cuba, Havana/CUBA  
**Alessandra Klimciuk**, head of art and culture: Fondazione Stelline, Milano/ITALY  
**Adam Mazur**, freelance curator and editor-in-chief: Magazyn Szum, Warsaw/POLAND  
**Michal Novotný**, director and curator: FUTURA, Prague/CZECH REPUBLIC  
**Alexandra Pace**, founder and director: Blitz, Valletta/MALTA  
**Johan Sjöström**, curator: Konstmuseum, Göteborg/SWEDEN

FEBRUARY 2017 – EVENT TRIP: HELLWACH – THE INTERNATIONAL THEATRE FESTIVAL FOR  
YOUNG AUDIENCES IN NORTH-RHINE WESTPHALIA

“hellwach” is North Rhine-Westphalia’s international theatre festival for young audiences. It took place for the seventh time in Hamm and six other cities of the cultural region of “Hellweg” and was the cause for a group of international guests from Egypt, Brazil, China, El Salvador, India and Romania to visit North Rhine-Westphalia from 12<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> February. The extensive festival programme consisted of discussion forums, conversations and workshops which enabled the visitors to share thoughts and to establish new contacts.

On top of that, the programme was expanded to include networking opportunities with organisers, experts and other multipliers from the North Rhine-Westphalian scene. The group met up with the artistic directors of Alarm Theatre in Bielefeld, Dietlind Budde and Harald Otto Schmid, as well as with the artistic team heading up Helios Theatre in Hamm Michael Lurse and Barbara Kölling. Further meetings took place with Martina van Boxen, artistic director of Junges Schauspielhaus Bochum, and Annette Dabs, artistic director of FIDENA (Figure Theatre of the Nations), as well as with the team heading up Consol Theatre in Gelsenkirchen (Christiane Freudig, executive director, Georg Kentrup, dramaturge and Andrea Kramer, artistic director).

The guests were:

**Aída María Bernal Castro**, director: Comisión para la Fundación del Instituto Superior de las Artes de El Salvador, San Salvador/EL SALVADOR

**Forrina Chen**, founder and artistic director: The A.S.K. - Art Space for Kids, Shanghai/CHINA

**Ruchira Das**, founder and arts administrator: Think Arts, Kolkata/INDIA

**Mohamed Elghawy**, founder and director: AFCA for Arts and Culture, Cairo/Egypt

**Adrian Tibu**, manager: Theatre GONG, Sibiu/ROMANIA

**Soledad Yunge**, director and manager: Companhia Artur-Arnaldo, São Paulo/BRAZIL

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## FEBRUARY 2017 – EVENT TRIP: VIDEONALE.16 – VIDEO AND TIME-BASED ART FORMS IN NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA

A group of international guests came to North Rhine-Westphalia from 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> February to attend the 16<sup>th</sup> edition of Videonale in Bonn, which has developed into one of the most important festivals for video arts and time-based arts in Germany and Europe since its inception in 1984.

The extensive festival programme gave the guests a comprehensive insight into both contemporary artistic practise as well as current debates around video arts and the development of the art market. Apart from attending festival events the participants from United Kingdom, Japan, Lithuania, Palestine, Rumania and Taiwan met with experts and organisers of the local video art scene. The programme was rounded off with visits to key institutions, for example the Bundeskunsthalle in Bonn, the Julia Stoschek Collection and the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf (Arts Academy of the city of Düsseldorf).

The guests were:

**Nisreen H. Naffa'**, head of the unit for arts and literature: A.M. Qattan Foundation, Ramallah/PALESTINE

**Lesley Taker**, producer and curator: FACT - Foundation for Art and Creative Technology, Liverpool/UNITED KINGDOM

**Dr Roxana Trestioreanu**, associate professor: National University of Arts Bucharest/ROMANIA

**Nobua Takamori**, curator: Kuandu Museum of Fine Arts, Taipei/TAIWAN

**Sonata Baliuckaitė**, art project manager: ARTVILNIUS, Vilnius/LITHUANIA

**Ko Nien-Pu**, independent curator and researcher: Taipei/TAIWAN

## APRIL 2017 – EVENT TRIP: PLURIVERSALE VI – CURRENT GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS AND THEIR RESONANCE IN THE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE OF NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA

From 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> April, the guests of the International Visitors Programme turned their attention to current global developments and their resonance on the cultural landscape of North Rhine-Westphalia. The reason behind the visit to North Rhine-Westphalia was PLURIVERSALE VI, a programme of the Academy of the Arts of the World which looked at post-democratic developments observed globally as well as regressive tendencies in political, social and cultural systems.

As part of the programme guests from France, Poland, South Africa, the Netherlands and the USA attended a two-day conference entitled “The Extreme Centre – A Symposium on the Future of Politics in Times of Populism” at Academy of the Arts of the World in Cologne. Furthermore, the visitors had the opportunity to visit key institutions and projects in North Rhine-Westphalia that focus on these political, social and cultural challenges.

The guests were:

**Grégory Castéra**, founder: Council, Paris/FRANCE

**Fawz Kabra**, editorial correspondent and curator: Ibraaz, New York/USA

**Jennifer Krasinski**, writer and journalist: e.g. Artforum.com, Art in America, Spike Art Quarterly, New York/USA

**Malgorzata Ludwisiak**, director: Centre for Contemporary Art Ujazdowski Castle, Warsaw/POLAND

**Alexander Provan**, writer, editor and curator: Triple Canopy, New York/USA

**Josien Pieterse**, director: Framer Framed, Amsterdam/NETHERLANDS

**Mike van Graan**, Richard von Weizsäcker Fellow: Robert Bosch Academy Berlin, GERMANY/SOUTH AFRICA

### MAY 2017 – EVENT TRIP: TANZ NRW 17 – THE CONTEMPORARY INDEPENDENT DANCE SCENE IN NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA

A the invitation of the International Visitors Programme a group of seven international dance producers, dance critics and festival curators engaged with the contemporary independent dance scene in North Rhine-Westphalia by visiting “tanz nrw” biennial dance festival from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> May. The guests, who came from Argentina, Brazil, China, Greece Indonesia and Lithuania, visited the festival’s performances and events in Düsseldorf, Essen, Cologne and Viersen.

The group also met up with the festival organisers, held conversations with the heads of several pertinent dance institutions (including PACT Zollverein in Essen, tanzhaus nrw in Düsseldorf, the Institute for Contemporary Dance at the Folkwang University of the Arts in Essen, TanzFaktur and the German Dance Archive in Cologne). They also got together with representatives of the free dance scene – including the Düsseldorf-based Theater der Klänge – to share experiences. Also on the programme was a meeting with Klaus Dilger, one of the initiators of tanzweb.org.

The guests were:

**Inta Balode**, editor, freelance dance writer and curator: JOURNAL.DANCE.LV, Lādezers/LATVIA

**Amaury Cacciaccaro**, general director and producer: Festival Contemporâneo de Dança, São Paulo/BRAZIL

**Karen Cheung**, head of: China Dance Development Project, City Contemporary Dance Company, and programme director: Beijing Dance Festival, and City Contemporary Dance Festival, CHINA

**Katerina Kasioumi**, artistic director: Kalamata Festival, Kalamata/GREECE

**Alina Ruiz Folini**, artistic director: ARQUEOLOGIAS DEL FUTURO, Buenos Aires/ARGENTINA

**Rama Thaharani**, independent arts producer: Jakarta/INDONESIA

**Johanna Tuukkanen**, artistic director and senior producer: ANTI - Contemporary Art Festival, Kuopio/FINLAND

**MAY 2017 – EVENT TRIP: 63. INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM FESTIVAL OBERHAUSEN – FILM AND VIDEO ART IN NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA**

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An international group of visitors travelled to North Rhine-Westphalia on occasion of the International Short Film Festival Oberhausen. From 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> May, the eight festival directors, curators and producers had an opportunity to understand more about the film and video arts scene in North Rhine-Westphalia. Alongside the comprehensive programme, the guests from Egypt, Japan, Latvia, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Vietnam and the USA visited museums and galleries dedicated to video and media arts and met up for dialogues with experts and multipliers from the video and film branch.

The programme also comprised a conversation with Ute Dilger, PR manager of the Academy of Media Arts in Cologne, and students from the academy; an exchange with Renate Buschmann, head of imai - inter media arts institute in Düsseldorf; and a meeting with Silvia Sonnenschmidt and Thomas Volkmann, project managers for the C.A.R Contemporary Art Ruhr. A visit to the latter, a trade fair for contemporary media arts which takes place annually at the UNESCO World Heritage Site Zeche Zollverein in Essen, was also on the programme, along with a tour of the Kunstsammlung NRW K21 art collection in Düsseldorf.

The guests were:

**Mohamed Beshir**, board member CIC, Cairo and cofounder: Cimatheque, Cairo/EGYPT

**Paul Brobbel**, curator: Govett-Brewster Art Gallery/Len Lye Centre,  
New Plymouth/NEW ZEALAND

**Keiko Okamura**, curator: Tokyo Photographic Art Museum, Tokyo, and festival director:  
Yebisu International Festival for Art & Alternative Visions, Tokyo/JAPAN

**Anomaa Rajakaruna**, director: Agenda 14 Short Film Festival, Colombo, director:  
International Cinema Festival, Jaffna, curator: European Film Festival, Colombo, and  
programmer: International Film Festival of Colombo, Colombo/SRI LANKA

**Corey Tong**, producer and media consultant: Larsen Associates, San Francisco/USA

**Tuan Le Anh**, lecturer and producer: Academy of Theatre and Cinema, Hanoi/VIETNAM

**Maris Prombergs**, founder and board member: Kino BIZE, Riga/LATVIA

**Odysseus Shirindza**, operations manager: Gallery MOMO,  
Johannesburg/SOUTH AFRICA

## MAY 2017 – INDIVIDUAL TRIP: ROUNDTABLE ON INCLUSION AND CULTURE IN COLOGNE

**Jo Verrent**, senior producer for Unlimited and a freelance author, consultant and project manager from London, was a guest in Rhineland from 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> May for the “Round Table on Inclusion and Culture” organised by the Cologne-based association “Inklusion und Kultur e.V.”. Not only did Jo Verrent take part in the roundtable, her visit included dialogues with numerous fellow specialists in Cologne, as well as a visit to the Sommerblut Festival.

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## JUNE/JULY – EVENT TRIP: IMPULSE THEATRE FESTIVAL 2017

The International Visitors Programme organised a joint visitors’ programme with the Goethe-Institut’s Be My Guest-programme and invited nine festival directors, curators, artists, authors, producers and theoreticians to visit North Rhine-Westphalia from 27<sup>th</sup> June to 2<sup>nd</sup> July as part of this year’s Impulse Theatre Festival.

The international guests from Brazil, France, Indonesia, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey and the USA attended many performances and events in Cologne as part of this vitally-important festival for the independent German-language theatre scene. The programme consisted of conversations with organisers and artists from the festival (including Swoosh Lieu and Monster Truck), as well as discussions with representatives from the local scene (for example, Forum Freies Theater Düsseldorf (FFT) und Ringlokschuppen Ruhr, Mülheim).

Under the banner “(RE)PRESENTING DIVERSITY”, the visitors group took part in a networking event with Guy Dermosessian (Zukunftsakademie NRW, Bochum), Fabian Saavedra-Lara (Interkultur Ruhr), Aneta Rostkowska (Academy of the Arts of the World, Cologne), Stephanie Thiersch (Globalize:Cologne, Cologne) as well as Florian Malzacher (Impulse Theater Festival), Dr. Christian Esch (NRW KULTURsekretariat), Susanne Traub and Julia Hanske (Goethe-Institut). The visitors rounded off their trip by attending the festival conference on 1<sup>st</sup> July entitled “Decide or Else: Decision-making in society, politics and art”, which took place in Cologne. Here theoretical associates, participating artists, advisory panels as well as guests – old and new – of Impulse festival came together to discuss decisions made in society, art and politics.

The guests were:

**Antônio Araújo**, artistic director: International Theatre Festival, São Paulo/BRAZIL

**Pelin Basaran**, curator and producer, TURKEY

**Anne Breure**, artistic director: Veem House for Performance,  
Amsterdam/NETHERLANDS

**Ifeoma Fafunwa**, founder and creative director: iOpenEye, Lagos/NIGERIA

**Malik Gaines**, artist and writer: New York/USA

**Yi-Wei Keng**, artistic director: Taipei Arts Festivals, Taipei/TAIWAN

**Helly Minarti**, independent dance curator: Jakarta/INDONESIA

**Antanas Mockus**, politician and philosopher: Bogotá/COLOMBIA

**Judha Su**, writer: Bangkok/THAILAND

## JULY 2017 – PRESS TRIP: OPEN SOURCE FESTIVAL 2017 – DÜSSELDORF’S VIBRANT ART AND MUSIC SCENES

At the invitation of the International Visitors Programme, a group of journalists came to Düsseldorf from 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> July to attend the Open Source Festival which has taken place annually since 2006. The guests, from Greece, United Kingdom and the Ukraine, had plentiful opportunity to learn about the pulsating art and music scene of the state’s capital city. Alongside the events of this huge one-day musical festival, the guests went on a site-tour of the former postal sorting centre in Düsseldorf thanks to the artistic director of the festival, Philipp Maiburg. Now called “postPost – Grand Central”, it functions as a performance space for the makers of the Open Source Festival.

At the Julia Stoschek Collection the group visited the anniversary exhibition “10 YEARS JULIA STOSCHEK COLLECTION – GENERATION LOSS”. This international private collection of time-based media art, was looking back over its first ten years. A tour through the underground stations of the new “Wehrhahn-Line” was also part of the programme. Here they met up with artist, musician and producer Stefan Schneider.

The visit was rounded off by a meeting with students from the Academy of Media Arts Cologne as well as Düsseldorf-based artist and professor Mischa Kuball: For the eighth time works by students of the Academy of Media Arts were represented at the Open Source Festival. The visitors also met with NRW-based bands that had been chosen to perform this year on the festival’s Young Talent Stage.

The guests were:

**Oleksandr Hashchyshyn (Sasha Tessio)**, blogger and DJ: Krossfingers, Kiev/UKRAINE

**Sofia Ilyas**, journalist and PR-agent: Float\_pr, London/UNITED KINGDOM

**Chris Kontos**, chief editor: Kennedy Magazine, Athens/GREECE

**Jools Stone**, journalist, blogger and social influencer: London/UNITED KINGDOM

## AUGUST 2017 – RESEARCH TRIP: 5<sup>TH</sup> SKULPTUR PROJEKTE MÜNSTER – SCULPTURE IN THE PUBLIC SPACES OF NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA

At the invitation of the International Visitors programme, seven curators from Brazil, Japan, Lithuania, Rumania, Russia and the Czech Republic visited North Rhine-Westphalia from 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> August to focus on sculpture in public spaces.

At the heart of the visit were the 5<sup>th</sup> Skulptur Projekte Münster, which have developed into a globally-renowned event for sculptural art since its inception in 1977, and which take place once every ten years. The city of Marl, which lies 60 km west of Münster in the Ruhr region, together with the sculpture museum Skulpturmuseum Glaskasten Marl, played a key role in this year’s realisation of the Skulptur Projekte.

Alongside visiting works on display across Münster and Marl, visits were made to look at other forms of art in the public spaces of North Rhine-Westphalia’s cities: such as at the Lehmbruck Museum in Duisburg, at the Sculpture Park Waldfrieden in Wuppertal and the UNESCO World Heritage Site Zeche Zollverein in Essen with its Forest of Sculptures by artist Ulrich Rückriem.

The programme was complemented with theme-specific meetings and conversations with homegrown experts, cultural operators and artists.

The guests were:

**Ioana Ciocan**, CEO and curator: Art Safari – Bucharest Art Fair, Bucharest/ROMANIA

**Sergey Fofanov**, researcher and curator: Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow/RUSSIA

**Marcio Harum**, curator: São Paulo/BRAZIL

**Sumi Hayashi**, curator: The National Museum of Art, Osaka/JAPAN

**Lolita Jablonskienė**, chief curator: National Gallery of Art, Vilnius/LITHUANIA

**Terezie Petišková**, director and curator: The Brno House of Arts, Brno/CZECH REPUBLIC

**Felix Toro**, freelance curator: Salvador Bahia/BRAZIL

#### AUGUST 2017 – EVENT TRIP: C/O POP CONVENTION – BRAND NEW CONNECTIONS!

Eight international guests, including music critics, journalists and festival directors, travelled to North Rhine-Westphalia at the invitation of the International Visitors Programme for the c/o pop Convention 2017 which took place on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> August. Label heads, music managers, festival organisers, media experts and agents met with top speakers and decision-makers from large European, South and North American labels at the conference in Cologne. Keynote speeches, panel-discussions, presentations and training sessions passed on practice-relevant know-how. Alongside the “Brands & Music Day” – a conference day dedicated to collaborations between the music industry and brands – this year for the first time there was a designated “New Talent Day”, an event organised in cooperation with the grant programme popNRW, dedicated to emerging musical talents.

Visitors from China, Finland, United Kingdom, Italy, Colombia, Mexico, Uruguay and the USA took part not only in the extensive c/o pop Convention programme, but they also attended events of the c/o pop Festival and the award ceremony of the popNRW prize 2017. The programme was rounded off by conversations and meetings with the responsible organisers and head team of c/o pop, as well as by a discussion round with local experts on the theme of cultural and music funding in North Rhine-Westphalia.

The guests were:

**Guilherme de Alencar Pinto**, music critic: Semanario Brecha, Montevideo/URUGUAY

**Elif Aydoğdu**, head of: Slush Music, Helsinki/FINLAND

**Ni Bing**, founder: Martial Artists Management, Beijing, founder: Drum Rider Records, Beijing, and managing director: Lychee Productions, Beijing/CHINA

**Anastasia Connor**, freelance journalist: Gigwise, Drowned in sound, freelance PR: Song, by Toad Records, Edinburgh/UNITED KINGDOM

**Alejandra Gomez**, sales executive: Vice Colombia (Noisey, THUMP), and director: Biche, Bogotá/COLOMBIA

**Dan Koplowitz**, founder: Friendly Fire Licensing, San Francisco/USA

**Leonardo Lupelli**, general manager: Elita Company, Milano/ITALY

**Alfonso Muriedas**, festival director: Festival Nrmal Mexico, Mexico City/MEXICO

## SEPTEMBER 2017 – PRESS TRIP: FORUM EUROPE RUHR – CULTURE 360°

At the invitation of the International Visitors Programme, a group of journalists from Belgium, Greece and Turkey, travelled to North Rhine-Westphalia from 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> September for the Forum Europe Ruhr in Essen

The Forum Europe Ruhr emerged from the former Forum d'Avignon Ruhr in Essen, which ran annually from 2012 to 2016 on the basis of the German-French cultural partnership. The Forum Europe Ruhr is a new platform for acteurs and organisations from culture and politics, economics and science. It aims to initiate themed dialogues and collaborations around shaping the future in the area of culture and cultural politics and to build and consolidate bridges between Europe and the Ruhr region. As a European platform and experimental laboratory for culture and cultural politics, Forum Europe Ruhr aims to continue to bring together different cultural positions, so that people can learn from each other within the European context. The guests not only attended the Forum Europe Ruhr but visited pertinent institutions and local acteurs in the field, including the Unperfekthaus in Essen, the artists' colony Halfmannshof in Gelsenkirchen and gained a detailed insight into the Kreativ.Quartier Gelsenkirchen-Ückendorf. Finally, they met up with the responsible team members of Urbane Künste Ruhr for the exhibition "Truck Tracks Ruhr – The Compilation" at UNESCO World Heritage Site Zeche Zollverein.

The guests were:

**Evrin Altuğ**, journalist and art critic: Istanbul/TURKEY

**Michalis Goudis**, freelance journalist: Brussels/BELGIUM

**Vasiliki Grammatikogianni**, journalist: Athens Voice, Athens/GREECE

## OCTOBER 2017 – EVENT TRIP: MÜNSTERLAND FESTIVAL – CULTURE FESTIVALS AND THE PROMOTION OF CULTURE IN RURAL AREAS OF NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA

The Münsterland Festival, which takes place every two years in autumn, was the occasion for a group of international visitors to look at cultural festivals and cultural sponsorship in the rural areas of North Rhine-Westphalia. The festival, which in its 2017 edition had Greek and Icelandic art and culture at its core, invites its guests not only to join concerts and exhibitions, but also to get in touch with various sites of cultural and historic significance for the Münsterland region. For the four guests from Iceland, Moldova, New Zealand and Uruguay, including festival organisers and cultural managers, visiting the festival and holding conversations with the organisers was key to the visit from 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> October.

The group also met up with Andrea Hankeln, head of the Department for Regional Cultural Policy at the Ministry for Culture and Science of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia. Furthermore the programme included a talk with Dr Josef Spiegel, CEO of the artist's village Künstlerdorf Schöppingen, as well as a meeting with Gerd Andersen, director and curator of DA, Kunsthaus Kloster Gravenhorst.



In Münster the guests held discussions with Lars Krolik, project manager of the Münsterland Festival, Andre Sebastian, project manager at the Cultural Bureau of Münsterland (Kulturbüro Münsterland), Dr Yasmine Freigang, head of “Culture in Westphalia” at the Landschaftsverband Westfalen-Lippe (LWL), and Judith Schäpers, project manager for the Regionale 2016 Agency. Up for discussion were challenges and strategies for producing culture and networking in rural areas.

The guests were:

**Sigtryggur Baldursson**, managing director: Iceland Music Export, Reykjavík/ICELAND

**Rusandra Alexandru Curca**, artistic director: Center for cultural projects Azart, Hirtop/ MOLDOVIA

**Philip Tremewan**, artistic director: Festival of Colour, Wanaka/NEW ZEALAND

**Valentín Trujillo**, cultural affairs manager: Intendencia de Maldonado, Maldonado/URUGUAY

#### OCTOBER 2017 – THEME TRIP: AFRO-TECH FEST DORTMUND - AFRO-TECH AND THE FUTURE OF RE-INVENTION

Three curators from Namibia, Nigeria and Senegal were guests of the International Visitors Programme from 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> October and travelled to North Rhine-Westphalia to take part at Afro-Tech Fest in Dortmund, a conference weekend and a week of projects organised by medienwerk.nrw in cooperation with HKMV – Hardware MedienkunstVerein. The conference weekend comprised lectures, panels and film screenings, and was accompanied by the exhibition “AFRO-TECH AND THE FUTURE OF RE-INVENTION” at HKMV – Hardware MedienkunstVerein. The event looked at artists and cultural producers from African countries who think about, imagine, propagate, develop and use technologies according to other, non-Western means.

Aside from the extensive programme of Afro-Tech Fest, which took place at “Dortmunder U” and other places across Dortmund, the guests met and shared thoughts with Inke Arns (HKMV – Hardware MedienkunstVerein), Fabian Saavedra-Lara (Interkultur Ruhr) and Klaas Werner (medienwerk.nrw).

The guests were:

**Marion Louisgrand Sylla**, founder, director and curator: Kër Thiossane - Villa for Art and Multimedia, Dakar/SENEGALE

**Masiyaleti Mbewe**, independent writer, digital artist and curator: Windhoek/NAMIBIA

**Iheanyichukwu Chukwumerije Onwuegbucha**, associate curator: CCA - Centre for Contemporary Art Lagos, Lagos/NIGERIA

## OCTOBER 2017 – PRESS TRIP: ELECTRI\_CITY CONFERENCE – DÜSSELDORF: CAPITAL CITY OF ELECTRONIC MUSIC

The International Visitors Programme welcomed the penultimate group of visitors for 2017 who travelled to North Rhine-Westphalia for the third ELECTRI\_CITY CONFERENCE in Düsseldorf. Five music journalists from Argentina, United Kingdom and Czech Republic took part in the conference which dealt with all matters concerning electronic music. On the programme were discussion groups, films and concerts as well as meetings with the festival organisers.

The group also met with representatives of further theme-specific projects and institutions, so they could gain an insight into the current music, art and creative scene in Düsseldorf. These included NEW.HEIMAT.SOUNDS, the Hans-Peter-Zimmer-Foundation with the Weltkunstzimmer as well as the Co-Working Space Super7000.

The guests were:

**Dave Allen**, freelance producer and music journalist: The Wire Magazine, UNITED KINGDOM

**Marie Čtveráčková**, journalist and producer: Radio Wave, Prague, project coordinator: Czeching/CZECH REPUBLIC, and founder: Kreaton, Prague/CZECH REPUBLIC

**Stephen Dalton**, music journalist: Electronic Sound Magazine/UNITED KINGDOM

**Pete Mitchell**, freelance journalist: e.g. BBC, Daily Star, UK and radio DJ: Absolute Radio, London/UNITED KINGDOM

**Yamila Trautman**, journalist: La Nación, Buenos Aires and TV editor: Conversaciones, La Nación+, Buenos Aires/ARGENTINA

## NOVEMBER 2017 – EVENT TRIP: NEXT LEVEL FESTIVAL FOR GAMES - GAMES AND DIGITAL CULTURE IN NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA

This year's International Visitors Programme came to a close with a visit by six game-developers and actors from the field of digital culture and gaming. Following on from the arts and expert exchange programme "TRANSFER INTERNATIONAL" at NRW KULTURsekretariat, they attended the "NEXT LEVEL - Festival for Games" in Düsseldorf.

The participants from Belgium, the Netherlands and Serbia not only visited the festival itself but also attended a networking meeting for an intense exchange with actors and experts from North Rhine-Westphalia. Amongst them were Alain Bieber, artistic director of the NRW-Forum Düsseldorf, Torben Kohring from the department for Youth Media Culture NRW, Lars Terlinden from the Competence Center for Creative Industries (KomKuK) at the Office of Economic Development Düsseldorf, the Ministry for Culture and Science of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia represented by Reinhard Krämer, head of international cultural politics, as well as the festival's participating artists, Brigitta Muntendorf and Rochus Aust. The programme also offered the guests an insight beyond the state capital city through meetings with Prof Björn Bartholdy and Federico Alvarez of the Cologne Game Lab, Institute for Game Design and Research (TH Köln) and a visit to the exhibition "Digital Games" exhibition at the Ludwig Forum in Aachen.

The guests were:

**Guillaume Bouckaert**, indie game developer: Brussels/BELGIUM

**Zuraida Buter**, founder: Zo-ii, Amsterdam/NETHERLANDS, and co-founder: Playful Arts Festival, 's-Hertogenbosch/NETHERLANDS

**Youri Loedts**, founder: Gamecrunch, BELGIUM, co-founder and creative director: Carrot on a Stick, Volvoorde, and creative director: JUST.Agency, Volvoorde/BELGIUM

**Bram Michielsen**, co-founder: The House of Indie, Antwerp, game designer and freelance narrative consultant: Antwerp/BELGIUM

**Nana Radenković**, education platform manager: NOVA ISKRA, Belgrade/SERBIA

**Prof Dr Ben Schouten**, professor: Design of Intelligent Systems of Playful Interactions, Department of Industrial Design, Eindhoven University of Technology, Eindhoven/NETHERLANDS