

## JANUARY 2018

### MUSEUM 2.0 – FORMS OF VIRTUAL AND AUGMENTED REALITY AS INTERACTIVE WAYS TO ENGAGE WITH ART

The first guests of the International Visitors Programme in 2018 immersed themselves in the idea of 'Museum 2.0' and what virtual and augmented reality can offer as an interactive way to access art.

1 In January a group of six visitors made up of museum directors, curators, and docents from Belgium, France, Georgia, Great Britain, Romania and Turkey, went to see the exhibition 'MIRÓ – Welt der Monster' at the Max Ernst Museum LVR for which the museum, in collaboration with the Cologne Game Lab (CGL) and the Institute for Game Development & Research of the Technische Hochschule Köln, designed an augmented reality app 'Miró 2.0'. There was also a two-day international workshop as part of an accompanying programme to the exhibition, focusing on how virtual and augmented reality can ensure interactive access to the fine arts and broaden the ways museums traditionally present and mediate their collections.

As well as the workshop and meeting the exhibition organisers, our guests also visited the Academy of Media Arts Cologne (KHM) and met with Zil Lilas, professor of Media Arts and 3D Animation, and Ute Dilger, PR director of the Academy, to discuss the possibilities for implementing digital media in a cultural context as well as pertinent projects at the academy. They also took part in 'TimeRide', a historical virtual reality tour of Cologne as it was in Imperial Germany, and had the chance to talk to its creator, Jonas Rothe.

The guests were:

**Alexandru Berceanu**, director and researcher: International Center for Research and Education in Innovative Creative Technologies – CINETic, National University of Theatre and Cinema Arts Bucharest (UNATC), Bucharest/ROMANIA and independent theatre director and cultural manager: Bucharest/ROMANIA

**Asst Prof Dr Güven Çatak**, assistant professor: Bahçeşehir University (BAU), Istanbul/TURKEY, founder: Bahçeşehir University Game LAB (BUG), Istanbul/TURKEY, and board member: VR First at Bahçeşehir University, Istanbul/TURKEY

**Nancy Ireson**, curator: Tate Modern, London/UK

**Bruno Samper**, co-founder and director (head of VR/AR-department): nedd, Paris/FRANCE

**Vakhtang Urushadze**, international cooperation project coordinator, curator and researcher: Creative Georgia, Tbilisi/GEORGIA

**Isabelle Vanhoonacker**, head of audience: Royal Museum of Fine Arts, Brussels/BELGIUM

FEBRUARY 2018

CLOSE UP – DUESSELDORF PHOTO 2018 AND BEYOND

The photography festival DUESSELDORF PHOTO took place for the first time in February 2018, providing a platform for the most important practitioners on the Dusseldorf photography scene as well as nationally and internationally established artists, showcasing a broad range of historical and contemporary photography over ten days.

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At the invitation of the International Visitors Programme a group of seven festival directors and curators from Ethiopia, Australia, Croatia, Palestine, Poland, Switzerland and the United States travelled to North Rhine-Westphalia.

Participants met with Dr Doris Krystof, curator for contemporary art at Kunstsammlung NRW K21, the director of the photography collection at the SK Stiftung Kultur KölnBonn, Gabriele Conrath-Scholl, as well as attending a networking event with journalists, gallerists, curators and artists at the Philara collection. In order to gain the most comprehensive insight into the Düsseldorf photography scene the group also visited several galleries, including the Museum Kunstpalast and the Polish Institute. As well as seeing exhibitions in museums, galleries and private collections, our guests attended the Fotobuchsalon 'Düsseldorf Photo Books' at the University of Applied Sciences (HSD) and met with curator Professor Mareike Foecking.

Our guests also met with prominent figures from Cologne's photography scene such as Inga Schneider, curator and art mediator of Internationale Photoszene Köln festival, Dr Robert Moos, director of the Forum für Fotografie, and Robert Danch from Dusseldorf Cologne Open Galleries, who gave a tour of some of Cologne's galleries.

The guests were:

**Agnieszka Dwernicka**, director: Krakow Photomonth Festival, Krakow/POLAND and president of the board: Fundacja Sztuk Wizualnych (Foundation for Visual Arts), Krakow/POLAND

**Sarah Girard**, director: Bieler Fototage, Biel/SWITZERLAND

**Samar Martha**, director: Gallery.One, Ramallah/PALESTINE

**Moshe Rosenzweig**, director: Head on Photo Festival, Bondi Beach/AUSTRALIA

**Maheder Haileselassie Tadese**, founder and director: CPE - Center of Photography in Ethiopia, Addis Abeba/ETHOPIA

**Leila Topić**, curator: Zagreb Museum of Contemporary Art, Zagreb/CROATIA

**Gary van Zante**, curator: MIT Museum, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge/USA

MARCH 2018

DANCELAND NRW – NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA  
AS A CENTRE FOR DANCE CULTURE

“Tanzplattform Deutschland” is an annual forum for presenting current developments and innovations in contemporary dance in Germany. It returned to North Rhine-Westphalia for the first time in 14 years in March 2018, which was the inspiration behind a themed visit on dance culture in the Rhineland and Ruhr area.

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The programme was attended by international festival directors, dance producers and curators from India, Ireland, Colombia, Nigeria, Taiwan, the Czech Republic, the Philippines and the United States. In addition to the events and performances of Tanzplattform, the programme offered an insight into the work of independent companies and artists in North Rhine-Westphalia and how they see themselves and their work.

Participants also visited institutions, educational establishments and dance centres in North Rhine-Westphalia, such as the Pina Bausch Foundation in Wuppertal, the tanzhaus nrw in Düsseldorf, and the Centre for Contemporary Dance at the Hochschule für Musik und Tanz.

The guests were:

**Arnab Banerjee**, head of programmes and education: Attakkalari Centre for Movements Arts, Bangalore/INDIA and Attakkalari Biennial, Bangalore/INDIA

**Shoshona Currier**, director: Bates Dance Festival, Lewiston (ME)/USA

**Iris Ping-Chi Hung**, managing director: Bamboo Curtain Studio, New Taipei City/TAIWAN

**Adedayo Liadi**, director: Ijodee Dance Company and Centre, Lagos/NIGERIA, founder and CEO: Ijodee Foundation, Lagos/NIGERIA, artistic director: TRUFESTA International Dance Festival, Lagos/NIGERIA and national president: Guild of Nigerian Dancers (GOND), NIGERIA

**Honza Malík**, producer and manager: Pulsar Association, Prague/CZECH REPUBLIC and freelance dancer, producer and curator: CZECH REPUBLIC

**Juan Pablo Lopéz Otero**, artistic director: Bienal Internacional de Danza de Cali, Cali/COLOMBIA and consultant to the minister: Ministerio de Cultura de Colombia, Bogotá/COLOMBIA

**Sabrina Tan**, artistic director: Bunga Arts Link, Manila/PHILIPPINES and project coordinator for the Order of National Artist: National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), Manila/PHILIPPINES

**Jenny Traynor**, director: Dance Limerick, Limerick/IRELAND

MAY 2018

**JAZZFEST BONN – CONTEMPORARY CREATIVE JAZZ IN NRW.  
INTERNATIONAL SCENE AND REGIONAL TALENTS**

The ninth edition of the Jazzfest Bonn in May brought a group of international journalists and jazz experts on a press trip to North Rhine-Westphalia.

Seven guests from England, Nigeria, Austria, Slovakia, the Netherlands, and the US were invited by the International Visitors Programme and had the opportunity, in addition to festival events, to get to know some of the major figures and institutions of the jazz scene along the Rhine.

As part of the programme, participants met with Peter Materna, artistic director of the Jazzfest Bonn, Dr Anke Steinbeck, the festival's PR and project manager, Rainer Michalke, the artistic director of the Stadtgarten Köln, and Dr Benedikt Müller, co-owner of LOFT in Cologne. A networking lunch with Peter Materna, and Professor Niels Klein, artistic director of the Bundjazzorchester, and pianist Julia Hülsman provided further opportunity for our guests to talk one-on-one and exchange ideas.

The guests were:

**Henning Bolte**, journalist: Allaboutjazz.com, Amsterdam/NETHERLANDS

**Herbert Höpfl**, CEO: CONCERTO-Magazin, Waidhofen/Thaya/AUSTRIA

**Yinka Freda Olatunbosun**, senior correspondent: Arts and review section, ThisDay Newspapers, Lagos/NIGERIA

**Thomas Rees**, writer: Jazzwise magazine, London/UK

**Sebastian Scotney**, editor: London Jazz News, London/UK, journalist: e.g. BBC Radio 3, London/UK

**Patrick Spanko**, editor-in-chief: skjazz, Bratislava/SLOVAKIA

**Josef (Joe) Woodard**, writer, musician and freelance journalist: Santa Barbara/USA

MAY 2018

64TH INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM FESTIVAL OBERHAUSEN –  
FILM AND VIDEO ART IN NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA

The International Short Film Festival Oberhausen is the world's oldest short film festival and one of the biggest international platforms for the format. It is unique in the breadth of forms and genres that it shows, as a discoverer of new trends and talent, as well as a forum for controversial debate. In May 2018, eight international guests were invited to attend the festival's 64<sup>th</sup> edition to get to know film and video art in North Rhine-Westphalia better and to make contacts with important figures on the local scene.

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Alongside the events and competitions of the short film festival, there was a varied programme for our group of curators, journalists, festival directors and producers from Argentina, Brazil, Denmark, France, India, Russia, Uruguay and the United States. As well as discussions with the festival director Dr Lars Henrik Gass and the director of the International category, Hilke Doering, guests also visited the Zollverein UNESCO world heritage site and the Ruhr Museum in Essen.

Other highlights of the programme were a visit to the Museum Ludwig in Cologne, where the group attended the exhibition 'Günter Peter Straschek: Emigration – Film – Politics' about the famous filmmaker and historian. There was also a visit to the Julia Stoschek Collection in Düsseldorf, an international private collection of contemporary art with a focus on time-based media, where the group had a private tour of the anniversary exhibition '10 YEARS JULIA STOSCHEK COLLECTION – GENERATION LOSS'.

The guests were:

**Henriette Bretton-Meyer**, curator: Kunsthal Charlottenburg, Copenhagen/DENMARK

**Diego Faraone**, journalist: Semanario Brecha, Montevideo/URUGUAY

**Gabriela Golder**, artistic director: BIM – Bienal de la Imagen en Movimiento, Buenos Aires/ARGENTINIA and director: CONTINENTE – centro investigación y desarrollo de proyectos vinculados a las artes audiovisuales, Universidad National Tres de Febrero (UNTREF), Buenos Aires/ARGENTINA

**Claire Lasolle**, director: Videodrome 2, Marseille/France

**Jonathan Marlow**, producer, curator and author: Brisbane/USA

**Lilia Mikhailnova Nemchenko**, director: Festival Kinoproba, Yekaterinburg/RUSSIA

**Ana Siqueira**, programming coordinator and curator: Festcurtas BH - Belo Horizonte International Short Film Festival, Belo Horizonte/BRAZIL

**Anand Varadaraj**, artistic director: BISFF - Bengaluru International Short Film Festival, Bangalore/INDIA

MAY 2018

FIDENA 2018 – 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIGURENTHEATER  
DER NATIONEN (PUPPET THEATRE OF THE NATIONS)

In May 2018 a group of eight puppet theatre experts visited the international festival 'FIDENA - Figurentheater der Nationen' in Bochum, a biennial festival steeped in tradition which was celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> year.

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Guests came from China, France, Japan, Lithuania, Palestine, South Africa, and Hungary to attend a variety of performances as part of the broad-ranging festival programme in Bochum, Herne, Hattingen and Essen, and also to meet with the festival director, Annette Dabs and other festival participants.

Other visits included the training institute Figurentheaterkolleg in Bochum, the Düsseldorf Marionettentheater, and the HELIOS Theater in Hamm. Guests also took part in a networking lunch with theatre directors and artists from all over North Rhine-Westphalia, not only to foster connections but also to discuss and share experiences in a friendly atmosphere.

The guests were:

**Caroline Chatelet**, theatre critic and freelance journalist: e.g. Regards, Paris/FRANCE, TRANSFUGE, Paris/FRANCE, NOVO/FRANCE, Théâtre(s), Paris/FRANCE, Analyse Opinion Critique (AOC)/FRANCE

**Judit Cziráki**, international relations manager and dramaturg: Budapest Puppet Theatre, Budapest/HUNGARY

**Ashraf Johaardien**, executive producer: National Arts Festival, Grahamstown/SOUTH AFRICA

**Fairouz Nustas**, freelance scenographer and puppeteer: Bethlehem/PALESTINE

**Agne Pulokaitė**, international relations coordinator: Klaipėda Puppet Theatre, Vilnius/LITHUANIA and programmer: Puppet Theatre Festival Materia Magica, Vilnius/LITHUANIA

**Anne Raimbault**, producer: Compagnie La Salamandre, Monclay/FRANCE and director: Festival Saperlipuppet, La Chapelle-sur-Erdre/FRANCE

**Chong Wang**, director: Théâtre du Rêve Expérimental, Beijing/CHINA

**Dr Yoko Yamaguchi**, producer: International Liaison of Puppet Theatre PUK, Tokyo/JAPAN and researcher: Tokyo University of Arts, JAPAN

MAY 2018

WESTWIND – 34TH THEATRE FESTIVAL FOR A YOUNG AUDIENCE  
IN NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA

For the annual WESTWIND Festival in May 2018, the theatre convention in North Rhine-Westphalia for young theatre goers, the International Visitors Programme invited seven festival directors and theatre makers from Chile, England, Ireland, Lithuania, Croatia, Spain, and Mexico to Cologne. The renowned festival showcased a selection of NRW-productions as well as international guest productions and offered a diverse accompanying programme of workshops and talks.

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Organisers and participants of the festival, including Jutta M Staerk, the artistic director of Cologne-based COMEDIA, and director Manuel Moser, met with our visitor group. A networking meal with Theater Marabu (Bonn) and performance group pulk fiction (Cologne) was an opportunity to get to know each other and discuss theatre. The group were given a reception at the Consol Theater in Gelsenkirchen by the executive director, Christiane Freudig, and artistic director, Andrea Kramer. The group also met with Gabriele Kloke and Frank Hörner of theaterkohlenpott. The final stop took the group to Mühlheim to meet with the organisers of the Mühlheimer KinderStücke festival, director Stephanie Steinberg and her colleague Janna Röper.

The guests were:

**Jolita Balandytė**, director: Menų spaustuvė- Arts Printing House, Vilnius/LITHUANIA  
and International festival for children and youth KITOKS, Vilnius/LITHUANIA

**Olivia Furber**, theatre maker: ivo theatre, London/UNITED KINGDOM

**Micaela Gramajo**, co-founder: Proyecto Perla, Mexico City/MEXICO and Bola de carne,  
Mexico City/MEXICO and director, actress and author: Mexico City/MEXICO

**Layla Raña Kanacri**, board member: ASSITEJ Chile – Te Veo, Santiago de Chile/CHILE

**Lovro Krsnik**, freelance director: Zagreb/CROATIA

**Jaume Nieto**, freelance performing arts producer and booking agent: Barcelona/SPAIN

**Aislinn O'hEocha**, artistic director: Baboró International Arts Festival, Galway/IRELAND

JUNE 2018  
NEW IMPULSES – IMPULSE THEATRE FESTIVAL  
BREAKING NEW GROUND

In June 2018 eight international festival directors, curators, theatre critics and makers came to North Rhine-Westphalia for the Impulse Theatre Festival.

Guests from Brazil, Chile, Indonesia, Jordan, Cuba, Poland, Thailand, and Hungary attended festival performances in Mühlheim an der Ruhr as well as events at the new Impulse Academy (“Academy of the Precarious #1 – Between Village Square and World Market”) in Cologne and took part in a workshop entitled ‘POLITICIZING INTER/NATIONAL PRODUCTION’ led by Professor Bojana Kunst (Justus-Liebig-Universität, Gießen)

Haiko Pfof, artistic director of the Impulse Theatre Festival for 2018-2020, met with the group, and Impulse dramaturg Wilma Renfordt led a tour of the Düsseldorf city project ‘Wenn die Häuser Trauer tragen’ at Wilhelm-Marx-Haus.

At the Academy of the Arts of the World in Cologne our guests met with executive director Elke Moltrecht, artistic director Madhusree Dutta, and curator Anetta Rostkowska, and visited the exhibition ‘Global Positioning System Not Working’ at the Academy Space. They also met with representatives of the ensemble network Freihandeszzone and the executive director of the Zukunftsakademie NRW, Inez Boogaarts, in Bochum.

The guests were:

**Claudio Fuentes**, founder and director: Festival Internacional Santiago Off, Santiago/CHILE and founder: La Fulana Teatro & Gestión/CHILE

**Tomasz Kireńczuk**, programme director: Dialog - International Theatre Festival, Wrocław/POLAND

**Dr Beatrix Kricsfalusi**, assistant professor and drama expert: Institute of German Studies, University of Debrecen, Debrecen /HUNGARY

**Pawit Mahasarinand**, director: Bangkok Art and Culture Centre (BACC), Bangkok/THAILAND, president: International Association of Theatre Critics (IATC), Thailand Centre/THAILAND and member: National Artist Selection Committee, Ministry of Culture/THAILAND

**Karina Pino**, artistic director: Casona Teatral Vicente Revuelta, Havana/CUBA, assistant director: El Mirón Cubano, Matanzas/CUBA and curator and theatre critic: Havana/CUBA



JULY 2018  
OPEN SOURCE FESTIVAL – DÜSSELDORF’S  
VIBRANT ART AND MUSIC SCENES

At the invitation of the International Visitors Programme a group of journalists travelled to Düsseldorf in July to attend the Open Source Festival where guests from Berlin, Great Britain, and Lithuania could explore the pulsating music and arts scene of North Rhine-Westphalia’s capital.

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As well as visiting the annual one-day music festival - held since 2006 at Düsseldorf’s racecourse - the group also met with artistic director, Philipp Maiburg. The group attended talks and podium discussions at the inaugural Open Source Festival Congress, and a preview of Open Squares, the festival’s creative marketplace that has established itself as a “pop-up gallery for young creatives from North Rhine-Westphalia”. Since 2009, the Open Source Festival has invited students of the Academy of Media Arts Cologne (KHM) to show their latest work and the group were given a guided tour by artist and professor at the KHM, Mischa Kuball.

To round off the trip, our guests were given a guided tour by director Monika Kerkmann of the anniversary exhibition, ‘10 YEARS JULIA STOSCHEK COLLECTION – GENERATION LOSS’ at the Julia Stoschek Collection in Dusseldorf.

The guests were:

**Tayyab Amin**, editorial board: Truants/UK

**Anika Meier**, journalist: KuBaParis – Zeitschrift für junge Kunst, Berlin/GERMANY

**Vivian Yeung**, digital assistant: Crack Magazine, Bristol/UK

**Ramunas Zilnys**, journalist: Lietuvos rytas, Vilnius/LITHUANIA

AUGUST 2018  
RUHRTRIENNALE AND URBANE KÜNSTE RUHR –  
NEW PERSPECTIVES, NEW VISIONS

This August at the Ruhr Triennale and Urbane Künste Ruhr, the International Visitors Programme welcomed an international group who wanted to engage with a fresh perspective and vision for the Ruhr area and to make connections with the local scene.

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Eight artists, curators, directors, and programme managers from the fine and performing arts sector came from Bulgaria, India, Japan, Portugal, South Africa, Iran, the Congo, and the United States. They were given not only an insight into specific productions at the Ruhrtriennale in Bochum, Essen and Gladbeck, but also into how Urbane Künste Ruhr position themselves within the public arena. They also met with their new artistic directors, Stefanie Carp and Britta Peters.

Also on the programme were meetings with local experts and visits to relevant institutions, encompassing theatre and performance as well as art in public and urban spaces. Guests visited the Museum Island Hombroich, Rocket Station Hombroich, and the Langen Foundation in Neuss. In Münster they met with Dr Marianne Wagner, director of the Skulptur Projekte Archive at the LWL Museum Kunst und Kultur and had a guided tour of the public sculpture interventions that are still in place from the previous year. In Duisburg the group visited the exhibition 'Peggy Buth: Vom Nutzen der Angst – The Politics of Selection' in the former church of St Barbara curated by Urbane Künste Ruhr, and saw the exhibition 'Kunst und Kohle' at the DKM Museum.

The guests were:

**Valerie Imus**, projects and exhibitions programme director: Southern Exposure, San Francisco/USA

**Vessela Nozharova**, curator: Credum Bonum Gallery, Sofia/BULGARIA, co-founder: Art Affair and Documents, BULGARIA and Freelance curator: BULGARIA

**Rucera Seethal**, programme manager "Performing Arts": Pro Helvetia Johannesburg, Swiss Arts Council, Johannesburg/SOUTH AFRICA

**George Senga**, member: ASBL Picha, Lubumbashi/CONGO, photographer: Lubumbashi/CONGO and artist in residence: Jan Van Eyck Academy, Maastricht/NETHERLANDS

**Azade Shahmiri**, freelance director, writer and performer: Tehran/IRAN

SEPTEMBER

FAVORITEN THEATRE FESTIVAL 2018 –  
INDEPENDENT THEATRE IN NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA

In September five curators, theatre makers, programme managers and journalists from Ethiopia, Estonia, Israel, Canada and Mexico were our guests in North Rhine-Westphalia at the biennial FAVORITEN theatre festival in Dortmund, which showcases independently-produced work. The group were able to experience the festival and to discuss its scope and content with the artistic directors of the 2018 edition, Fanti Baum and Olivia Ebert.

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The group saw productions by independent companies from North Rhine-Westphalia showing as part of the festival, they also visited pertinent institutions and met for discussions with organisers, artists and experts.

In Mülheim, the group attended presentations by Omar Mohamad on the Silent University Ruhr and by Fabian Saavedra-Lara on his Interkultur Ruhr concept. The programme included a visit to the Academy of the Arts of the World in Cologne, discussions about the structure of the independent theatre scene in North Rhine-Westphalia with Harald Redmer from the NRW Landesbüro Freie Darstellende Künste and Janina Bedunski from the Bundesverband Freie Darstellende Künste.

The guests were:

**María Fernández Aragón**, journalist, lecturer and theatre expert: Torreón/MEXICO

**Marion Gerbier**, programme manager: Usine C - Centre de création et de diffusion national et international, Montréal/CANADA

**Kristiina Reidolv**, member of the board: Vaba Lava Theatre, Tallinn/ESTONIA

**Nir Shauloff**, curator, theatre maker and performance artist: Tel Aviv/ISRAEL

**Michael Tsegaye**, photojournalist: Addis Ababa/ETHIOPIA

SEPTEMBER 2018

## SOUND OF THE CITIES – CONTEMPORARY MUSIC IN NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA

For the themed visit to ‘Sound of the Cities’ in September 2018, six international guests gained an in-depth look at new and improvised music in the Rhineland and Ruhr area and met some of the scene’s practitioners.

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The programme included attendance at two concerts of the state-wide concert series for improvised music sponsored by the NRW KULTURsekretariat, ‘Soundtrips NRW’, as well as discussions with participating musicians and curators. As part of the 10-year anniversary of the ‘ON Neue Musik Köln’ Network, our guests from Kazakhstan, New Zealand, Romania, Russia, Slovenia and Spain attended several concerts at the Hochschule für Musik und Tanz in Cologne, LTK4 – Klangbasierte Künste Köln and the Institute for Computer and Electronic Music (ICEM) of the Folkwang Universität der Künste in Essen. To round the visit off, the group met with the Ensemble Musikfabrik, Ensemble Garage and the E-MEX Ensemble and attended rehearsals and concerts.

The guests were:

**Octav Avramescu**, co-founder, managing director, curator and journalist: e.g. Jumatatea plina association, Bucharest/ROMANIA, Sambata Sonora series, Bucharest/ROMANIA, Sound week, Bucharest/ROMANIA, Semi Silent, Bucharest/ROMANIA, PFA Orchestra, Bucharest/ROMANIA

**Jeff Henderson**, director: Audio Foundation, Auckland/NEW ZEALAND and musician, composer, performer, curator, producer: Auckland/NEW ZEALAND

**László Juhasz**, co-curator: Concert Series FriForma, KUD Mreža, Ljubljana/SLOVENIA  
project manager: Improcon – Congress of Free Improvised Music, Arts & Thoughts, Desinić/CROATIA, curator: Inexhaustible Editions, Ljubljana/SLOVENIA and journalist: SLOVENIA

**Raushan Jumaniyazova**, vice-rector for research and international relations: Kurmangazy Kazakh National Conservatory, Almaty/KAZAKHSTAN, co-organiser: International Festival of New Music Nauryz-21, Almaty/KAZAKHSTAN and author, art manager and scientist: Almaty/KAZAKHSTAN

**Kirill Polonsky**, independent music promoter and presenter: Moscow/RUSSIA and organiser: Jazz in Autumn Festival, Moscow/RUSSIA

**Oliver Rappoport**, artistic director and co-director: Festival MIXTUR, Barcelona/SPAIN, professor: Conservatori Superior de Música del Liceu, Barcelona/SPAIN and freelance composer: Barcelona/SPAIN

SEPTEMBER 2018  
CAPTURED – THE INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY  
SCENE IN COLOGNE AND BEYOND

In September 2018, seven curators, festival directors and programme directors came from Australia, Denmark, Finland, France, Israel, Romania, and the Netherlands to attend the International Photoszene Festival in Cologne.

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As part of the festival our international guests visited numerous exhibitions in museums, galleries, and off-spaces in Cologne and had the opportunity to encounter other institutions, meeting with directors or curators from the Museum für Angewandte Kunst Köln (MAKK), the Museum Ludwig, the Rheinische Bildarchiv, the Kölner Stadtmuseum, the Photographische Sammlung of the SK Stiftung Kultur and the Forum für Fotografie.

Further activities included discussions with artists and experts as part of the accompanying programme of the festival, as well as a visit to the Kunstmuseum Bonn.

The guests were:

**Daniel Boetker-Smith**, educator, writer, curator, publisher and photographer:

Melbourne/AUSTRALIA, director: Asia-Pacific Photobook Archive,

Melbourne/AUSTRALIA and co-founder: Photobook Melbourne Festival,

Melbourne/AUSTRALIA

**Saskia Bos**, curator, art historian and critic: Amsterdam /NETHERLANDS

**Claire Gould**, curator: HAM Helsinki Art Museum, Helsinki/FINLAND

**Maja Dyrehauge Gregersen**, managing director: Copenhagen Photo Festival,

Copenhagen/DENMARK

**Eyal Landsman**, director: PHOTO IS:RAEL, Tel Aviv/ISRAEL

**Jérôme Sother**, artistic director: GwinZegal, Guingamp/FRANCE

**Ionut Trandafirescu**, founder and director: Bucharest Photofest, Bucharest/ROMANIA

and co-founder: Photographer of the Year, Bucharest/ROMANIA

NOVEMBER 2018

## 12TH SHORT FILM FESTIVAL COLOGNE. CROSSING GENRES - NEW AESTHETICS, NEW NARRATIVES, NEW TECHNOLOGIES

The Kurzfilmfestival Köln (KFFK) has been a yearly feature in the media metropolis of Cologne since 2006, providing a lively platform for independent short film. In November 2018 the International Visitors Programme made it possible for four guests from the Netherlands, Uruguay, Greece and India to take part in the 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the festival and also to enjoy additional visits and opportunities in order to make contacts with the local scene.

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The programme focused on the festival section 'New Aesthetic' and its motto for 2018, 'The End of Utopia?'. Participants engaged with current and pressing questions relating to the influence of technical innovation on cinema and the future of storytelling. Visits to carefully chosen institutions and discussions with experts allowed our guests to gain an in-depth look at media and film in North Rhine-Westphalia.

Our group visited the Academy of Media Arts Cologne (KHM) and the Cologne Game Lab (CGL) the Institut für Game Development & Research at the Technische Hochschule Köln, they had discussions with staff and teachers and even took a trip to Dortmund. There they visited the Hartware MedienKunstVerein (HMKV) and the exhibition 'Computer Grrrls' on the relationship between gender and technology in history and the present day, they met with Edwin Jacobs, director of the Dortmund U-Zentrum für Kunst und Kreativität, who outlined the centre's ethos that places particular focus on incorporating digital media and encouraging creativity.

The guests were:

**Guido Franken**, director: CineSud, Heerlen/NETHERLANDS and film commissioner: Limburg Film Commission, Heerlen/NETHERLANDS

**Alejandra Frechero**, programmer and festival manager: Cinemateca Uruguaya, Montevideo/URUGUAY, management team member: Contemporary Art Foundation Film Lab, Montevideo/URUGUAY, columnist: Sotobosque - Art and Culture Magazine, Montevideo/URUGUAY and freelance photographer: Semenarío Brecha, Montevideo/URUGUAY

**Eirini Olympiou**, curator section "Video Art": Athens Digital Arts Festival, Athens/GREECE

**Dr Uma Vangal Shivakumar**, filmmaker and curator: Chennai/INDIA, adjunct faculty: Asian College of Journalism, Chennai/INDIA and visiting professor: Kenyan College, Ohio/USA

NOVEMBER 2018  
KLAENG FESTIVAL 2018 –  
JAZZ AND IMPROVISATION IN NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA

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In November a press trip went to the KLAENG Festival in Cologne, a festival founded and directed by the KLAENG jazz collective, who all share equal artistic direction. The festival has put on a diverse programme since 2010, offering up a musical experience that allows the audience to witness music-making directly - with no filter - and to experience sounds in their purest form. Improvised music has always played a big part in this festival, although one would be hard-pressed to find one specific focus as KLAENG is not about genres, it is all about the music.

As well as visiting several festival concerts, our guest from the United States had was able to meet local, national, and international journalists and artists as well as the musicians and directors of the festival, Jonas Burgwinkel, Tobias Christl, Pablo Held, Tobias Hoffmann, Niels Klein, Frederik Köster and Robert Landfermann.

Our guest also visited LOFT and the Kölner Stadtgarten, the historic jazz venue in Cologne that hosts the KLAENG festival.

The guest was:

**Tyran Grillo**, journalist: The New York City Jazz Record, New York City/USA