

FEBRUARY 2019

REFRACTED REALITIES: VIDEONALE.17 – FESTIVAL FOR VIDEO AND TIME-BASED ART FORMS

The first international group of visitors of the year came to North Rhine-Westphalia for the 17th Videonale Festival in Bonn.

The eight curators and festival directors from Ethiopia, Denmark, Estonia, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Taiwan and the USA attended the myriad events of this festival for video and time-based artforms that in 2019 headlined under the motto “Refracted Realities”.

The programme also comprised meetings and discussions with organisers and participants of the festival as well as meetings with experts and organisers. It included visits to important institutions working within video and media arts in Rhineland and the Ruhr region such as the Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen (Art Collection of the Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia) and the Julia Stoschek Collection in Düsseldorf as well as the Temporary Gallery – Centre for Contemporary Art in Cologne.

The guests were:

Martina Angelotti, artistic director: Careof, Milan/ITALY

Neringa Bumbliene, curator: Contemporary Arts Centre CAC, Vilnius/LITHUANIA

Marten Esko, managing director and curator: EKKM (Contemporary Art Museum of Estonia), Tallinn/ESTONIA

Natalia Mount, executive director and chief curator: Pro Arts Space, Oakland/USA

Helene Nyborg Bay, artistic director: Nikolaj Kunsthal, Copenhagen/DENMARK

Frankie Pochi Su, director: Hong-Gha Museum, Taipei/ TAIWAN and executive board member: Contemporary Arts Centre, Taipei/TAIWAN

Dimitra Tsiaouskoglou, art historian and freelance curator: Athens/GREECE

Ezra Wube, founder: Addis Video Art Festival, Addis Ababa/ETHIOPIA and artist: New York City/USA

MAY 2019

C/O POP FESTIVAL AND CONVENTION – NEW TALENTS AND NETWORKS

It was all about pop music in the broadest sense at the c/o pop Festival and Convention at the beginning of May in Cologne.

For this reason, seven international guests comprising music critics, journalists and festival directors from the Netherlands, Mongolia, Greece, Uganda, Taiwan, Romania and Belgium travelled at the invitation of the International Visitors Programme to North Rhine-Westphalia from 1st to 5th May.

2 They attended numerous events at the festival – which for its 2019 edition took place in May for the first time – and also participated in the c/o pop Convention.

The showcase “Wunderkinder – German Music Talent” was included in the programme, as was a roundtable on the theme of “Young talent, financing and international perspectives in the music industry”. The programme was topped off with tours by Internationale Photoszene Köln / Photoszene-Festival 2019.

The guests were:

Jesler Amarins, freelance project and event manager: Amsterdam/NETHERLANDS and conference curator: ADE Sound Lab, Amsterdam/NETHERLANDS

Nomintuya Baasankhuu, deputy executive director for arts and development: Arts Council of Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar/MONGOLIA and head of: Ulaanbaatar International Media Arts Festival, Ulaanbaatar/MONGOLIA

Argyro Barata, co-founder: FEAST Greece, Thessaloniki/GREECE, project coordinator: Reworks Agora, Thessaloniki/GREECE, member: CitizensLab initiative of MitOst e.V., Berlin/GERMANY and cultural manager: Thessaloniki/GREECE

Arlen Dilsizian, co-founder: Nyege Nyege, Jinja/UGANDA

Weining Hung, co-founder: LUCfest, Tainan/TAIWAN

Iulia Pop, communication manager: Mastering the Music Business, Bucharest/ROMANIA and co-founder: Overground Music agency, Bucharest/ROMANIA

Doris Vanistendael, agent and promoter: Toutpartout, Ghent/BELGIUM

MAY 2019

TANZ NRW 19 – CONTEMPORARY INDEPENDENT DANCE SCENE IN NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA

At the invitation of the International Visitors Programme, a seven-person group of international guests, including festival curators and directors, one dancer and one choreographer, attended tanz nrw 19 from 8th to 12th of May 2019 in order to engage with the independent dance scene in NRW.

Tanz nrw 2019 was the seventh outing for the biennial presentation of current contemporary dance productions from in and around NRW with festival events in the cities of Bonn, Düsseldorf, Essen, Cologne, Krefeld, Münster, Viersen and Wuppertal. The guests from Brazil, Jordan, China, India, Peru, Russia and the Ukraine attended festival performances in Cologne, Düsseldorf, Bonn and Essen.

Alongside the performances, the group met with festival organisers and held discussions with representatives of the corresponding dance institutions, such as PACT Zollverein in Essen, tanzhaus nrw in Düsseldorf, the Institute for Contemporary Dance based at the Folkwang University of the Arts in Essen, Dachverband Tanz Deutschland and the German Dance Archive in Cologne.

The programme also included meetings with independent dance creatives from the NRW scene, a discussion forum on urban dance with Zekai Fenerci and Anna-Lena Werner from Renegade, Pottporus e.V., and scholars of Sprungbrett <-> Tanzrecherche NRW, which is a joint collaborative project between the NRW KULTURsekretariat and tanz nrw 2019.

The guests were:

Faisal Al Mamun, communication specialist: The National Centre for Culture and Arts (NCCA) - King Hussein Foundation, Amman/JORDAN, co-founder: Jordan Youth Dance Exchange (JYDX)/JORDAN and dancer: MISK Dance Company/JORDAN

Cristina Castro, artistic director and curator: VIVADANÇA Festival Internacional, Salvador/BRASIL

Vangelis Legakis, artistic director, Hong Kong International Choreography Festival (HKICF), Hong Kong/CHINA and artistic director: Hong Kong International Collective Artist in Residency for Opportunities and Sustainability (HKICAROS), Hong Kong/CHINA

Alexander Lyubashin, artistic strategy advisor: Rimsky-Korsakov Saint Petersburg State Conservatory, Saint Petersburg/RUSSIA

Marisol Palacios, programmer: MITIN - Movimiento Independiente de Teatro de Investigación (Independent Movement of Research Theatre), Lima/PERU

Viktor Ruban, director: Ruban Production, Kiev/UKRAINE and choreographer, researcher, producer, stage-director and coach, UKRAINE

Poorna Swami, freelance choreographer, dancer and writer: Bangalore/INDIA

MAY 2019

JAZZ ALONG THE RHINE – INTERNATIONAL SCENE AND NEW TALENTS

From 17th to 20th May a group of international visitors were guests in NRW for the themed press trip “Jazz along the Rhine – the International Scene and New Talent”.

The seven guests came from Estonia, Finland, India, Italy, Norway and the USA to learn about Jazzfest Bonn, which views itself as a presentation platform for jazz musicians with regional and national links as well as an institution for the promotion of contemporary creative jazz, and which this year celebrated its tenth anniversary. Alongside concerts there was also an opportunity to talk with the artistic director of the festival, Peter Materna.

In view of the upcoming Beethoven jubilee in 2020, a visit to the exhibition “BTHVN” in the Chamber Music Hall at Beethoven-Haus Bonn was lined up that included a meeting with the organisers of the “BTHVN2020” jubilee programme (Ralf Birkner, director of BTHVN2020 and Dr. Monika Hörig, head of Bonn City press office).

The guests also attended the Tangible Music Label Night at domicil, a cult jazz club in Dortmund. Founded in 2017, Cologne-based music label Tangible Music has been publishing chosen productions within the arena of jazz and improvised music that aim to represent Cologne’s young jazz scene. The first Tangible Music Label Night took place in 2019 in Cologne and Dortmund and offered a wide range of presentation opportunities for the regional scene. The visit to domicil included a meeting with Janning Trumann (Founder of Tangible Music), Waldo Riedl (director of domicil) and artists who were participating in the Tangible Music Label Night 2019.

Furthermore, the guests were able to meet the founder and curator of the Winterjazz Festival, saxophonist and composer, Angelika Niescier in Cologne.

The guests were:

Pompeo Benincasa, founder, artistic director: Associazione Catania Jazz, Catania/ITALY

Dave Cantor, reviews editor: DownBeat magazine, USA

Ivo Heinloo, jazz producer: Klassikaraadio, ERR - Estonian Public Broadcasting, Tallinn/ESTONIA

Ivana Ng, journalist: The New York City Jazz Record/USA

Ernst Wiggo Sandbakk, general manager: Trondheim Jazzfestival, Trondheim/NORWAY

Harri Uusitorppa, journalist: Helsinkin Sangomat/FINLAND

MAY 2019

MÜLHEIMER THEATERTAGE NRW ›STÜCKE‹ – GERMAN-SPEAKING CONTEMPORARY DRAMA IN
INTERNATIONAL DISCOURSE

Mülheimer Theatertage NRW ›Stücke‹ has dedicated itself to promoting German-speaking contemporary drama since 1976. As part of the 44th edition of the Mülheimer Theatertage NRW an international group of visitors, including theatre specialists and a translator, made their way to North Rhine-Westphalia from 28th May to 2nd June 2019.

The five guests came from Kazakhstan, Austria, Romania, Spain and the Czech Republic to watch the ›Stücke‹ performances and meet with festival director Stefanie Steinberg, dramaturg Janna Röper, and other members of the team for discussions and to take a look behind the scenes.

Likewise, there was an opportunity to talk to dramaturg Sebastian Brohn from Ringlokschuppen Ruhr in Mülheim.

The visitors were also able to attend a rehearsal for RUHRORTER, an ongoing multi-dimensional theatre and arts projects with refugees, and this was followed by discussions with participants of the project.

Together with a group of translators who were taking part in an international workshop entitled “Theater übersetzen” (Translating Theatre) at the Mülheimer Theatertage, the group visited the Europäische Übersetzer Kollegium in Straelen where they met its director Dr Regina Peeters, who held discussions with the guests and took them on a tour of the Kollegium.

The guests were:

Ana Caleyá, theatre producer, Madrid/SPANIEN and actress: Galanthys Teatro, Madrid/SPAIN

Natascha Dubs, artistic director: Deutsches Theater Almaty, Almaty/KASACHSTAN

Hunor Horváth, director: Deutsche Abteilung, Teatrul National Radu Stanca (TNRS), Sibiu/ROMANIA

Monika Muskala, author and translator, Salzburg/AUSTRIA

Petr Štědroň, chief dramaturg: Prager Theaterfestival deutscher Sprache, Prague/CZECH REPUBLIC and director: Divadlo Na zábradlí, stage of the capital city of Prague, Prague/CZECH REPUBLIC

JUNE 2019

RUHR DING – ART IN THE PUBLIC SPACES OF THE RUHR REGION’S INDUSTRIAL LANDSCAPE

“Ruhr Ding” is the new exhibition format that Urbane Künste Ruhr has called into life for the Ruhr region. It gave the International Visitors Programme cause to invite six art experts, museum directors and curators from 4th to 8th June to explore art in the public spaces of the region’s industrial landscape.

The guests from Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Greece, Mexico and Slovenia viewed the artistic works in public spaces in Bochum, Dortmund, Essen and Oberhausen – placed there as part of the “RUHR DING: Territories” exhibition – and followed guided tours.

There were discussions with Britta Peters, artistic director of Urbane Künste Ruhr, Christina Danick, curatorial assistant, and Dr Vera Battis-Reese, director of Kultur Ruhr GmbH, in Bochum.

A visit to Museum Insel Hombroich, including the Raketenstation and the Langen Foundation in Neuss, was extended to include tours of its current exhibitions as well as hold conversations with the director of Museum Insel Hombroich, Frank Boehm, and Tatjana Kimmel, Press and PR, as well as with the Langen Foundation’s project manager, Mara Stock. In Oberhausen the international group of visitors met with Marijke Lukowicz, curator of the Emscherkunstweg, which will be developed further following the international exhibition project “Emscherkunst” since 2019.

A conversation with the artistic director of the Hartware MedienKunstverein (HMKV) Dr Inke Arns, took the guests to Dortmund, where they visited HMKV’s “Der Alt-Right-Komplex – Über Rechtspopulismus im Netz” exhibition at Dortmund U.

The guests were:

Melanie Deboutte, freelance curator and author, Ghent/BELGIUM

Urška Jurman, director: Igor Zabel Association for Culture and Theory, Ljubljana/SLOVENIA

Paola Santoscoy, director: Museo Experimental El Eco, Mexico City/MEXICO

Tenagne Tadesse, director: Tibeb be Adebabay Festival, Addis Ababa/ETHIOPIA

Mohammád Tauheed, academic coordinator: Bengal-Institute, Dhaka/BANGLADESH, founding curator: Global Shapers Dhaka Hub, Dhaka/BANGLADESH, organiser and curator: TEDxDhaka Conference, Dhaka/BANGLADESH

Niovi Zarampouka-Chatzimanou, head of Art in Public Space: Eleusis 2021 European Capital of Culture, Eleusis/GREECE

JUNE 2019

IMPULSE THEATRE FESTIVAL 2019: IMPULSE ACADEMY #1 – ART UNDER PRESSURE

A group of eleven visitors, including curators, dramaturgs, theatre directors and performers, were invited to North Rhine-Westphalia by the International Visitors Programme to attend the Impulse Theatre Festival from 13th to 17th June 2019.

The international guests from Egypt, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Great Britain, Poland, Russia, Slovenia, Turkey and the Ukraine, took part in “Impulse Akademie #1 – Art under Pressure” at the Ringlokschuppen Ruhr in Mülheim and attended a variety of Impulse’s showcase performances in Düsseldorf.

Meetings with the festival organisers as well as artists, experts and other participants were also included in the programme which was organised in conjunction with the Goethe-Institute’s “Be my guest” programme.

The guests were:

Agata Adamiecka-Sitek, researcher: Zbigniew Raszewski Theatre Institute, Warsaw/POLAND and dramaturg, Warsaw/POLAND

Rachida Aziz, founder: Le Space, Brussels/BELGIUM

Rose Gibbs, member: Keep it complex – make it clear, London/UK, artist, author and curator, London/UK

Goran Injac, artistic director and dramaturg: Mladinsko Theatre, Ljubljana/SLOVENIA

Andriy May, founder: TEKST, Kiev/UKRAINE, founder: The Meyerhold Centre, Kherson/UKRAINE, theatre director and curator, Kiev/UKRAINE

Roman Osminkin, poet, performance and video artist, Saint Petersburg/RUSSIA

Henrique Saidel, theatre director and curator, Porto Alegre/BRASIL and professor: Instituto des Artes – Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre/BRASIL

Reetu Sattar, theatre and performance artist, Dhaka/BANGLADESH

Melis Tezkan, founder: Biriken Kollektiv, Istanbul/TURKEY

Okan Urun, founder: Biriken Kollektiv, Istanbul/TURKEY

Salam Yousry, founder: The Choir Project, Cairo/EGYPT, artist and director, Cairo/EGYPT

Additional guests were invited in cooperation with the Goethe-Institute (group sponsorship for theatre students/young theatre makers from Chile, Uruguay and Peru):

Carlos Soto, B.A., Universidad Católica de Chile/CHILE

Nicolás Lange, B.A. Universidad de Chile/CHILE

Federico Puig, B.A. Universidad de la República and B.A., Escuela Multidisciplinaria de Arte Dramático/URUGUAY

Florencia Caballero, B.A., Escuela Multidisciplinaria de Arte Dramático and M.A., Universidad Nacional de las Artes/URUGUAY

Mirella Qespe, B.A., Escuela Nacional Superior de Arte Dramático Guillermo Ugarte Chamorro and B.A., Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos/PERU

Claudia Tangoa, Universidad Católica del Perú/PERU

JUNE 2019

ROMANISCHER SOMMER 2019 – SACRED SPACES, MEDIEVAL ART AND MUSICAL DISCOVERIES

At the invitation of the International Visitors Programme a press trip was organised around the “Romanesque Summer” in Cologne. From 25th to 28th June, a music journalist from the UK and a music critic from Italy attended this renowned festival.

The aim of the festival, which has been ongoing for thirty years, is to allow the distinctive architecture and richness of the Romanesque churches in Cologne to be experienced through a unique alliance between sound and space.

The theme this year was “Sagenhaft” (legendary/fabled) and the festival looked at different ways of narrating, speaking and talking of music and with music. Internationally renowned artists presented compositions and improvisations of different genres and styles from the early Middle Ages to the present day.

The concerts and events were followed by art-historical tours of the Romanesque churches of Cologne as well as talks with Maria Spering, artistic director of the festival, with Silke Ufer, responsible for press and PR, as well as participating artists.

The guests were:

Clare Stevens, freelance music journalist, Presteigne/UK

Lorenzo Tozzi, journalist and music critic, Rome/ITALY and contributor: Rivista Musica/ITALY

JULY 2019

FESTIVAL “BLUE SKIES – BODIES IN TROUBLE” – TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS, NEW MINDSCAPES,
AND DIFFERENT ECOLOGIES

An interdisciplinary festival in Essen, “Blue Skies – Bodies in Trouble”, offered ample opportunity for the five visitors of the International Visitors Programme to delve into the theme of the festival programme.

Starting out with current developments in bioscience, the festival’s artistic projects and discursive contributions went on to seek out imaginative new worlds the far side of the capitalised self, reflected in holistic technological access to bodies, consciousness and the unknown.

Active and interdisciplinary work on new narratives, speculative visions of the future and alternative practices made up the focus of the multi-day festival for which medienwerk.nrw and PACT Zollverein had brought together a group of international artists and scientists, activists and publicists, students and an interested public.

From 9th to 14th July 2019 the guests of the International Visitors Programme, who had travelled from Belgium, Greece and Mexico, participated in presentations, (lecture-) performances, artist discussions and table talks with participating artists and festival performers. A discussion with the organisers, Fabian Saavedra-Lara and Klaas Werner from medienwerk.nrw and Stefan Hilterhaus of PACT Zollverein, as well as other partners within the network such as Tasja Langenbach, VIDEONALE e.V., and Alain Bieber, NRW Forum Düsseldorf, provided an opportunity for intensive dialogue and networking.

The visit was topped off with a tour of the Zollverein UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The guests were:

Alexandra Dementieva, member: iMAL, Center for digital cultures and technology, Brussels/BELGIUM and media artist, Brussels/BELGIUM

Ils Huygens, chief curator: Z33, Hasselt/BELGIUM

Elli-Anna Peristeraki, programme coordinator: Athens Digital Arts Festival, Athens/GREECE

Lana Schneider, theatre maker, stage designer and visual artist: Playfield, Ghent/BELGIUM

Ignacio Tovar Fernández, director: Center for Futures – Tecnológico de Monterrey, Toluca/MEXICO and head of department: Industrial Design (Architecture, Art & Design School) – Tecnológico de Monterrey, Toluca/MEXICO

AUGUST 2019

RUHRTRIENNALE 2019 – INTERNATIONAL ART AND EUROPEAN SELF-CRITICISM

Six international guests were invited to NRW by the International Visitors Programme from 27th August to 1st September as part of the Ruhrtriennale 2019. This year the festival, which invites contemporary artists to perform within the monolithic industrial architecture spaces of the Ruhr metropolis, dealt with aspects of European self-criticism.

The visitors from Egypt, Greece, Kenya, Uruguay, Venezuela and the Philippines attended festival events in Duisburg and Bochum and were able to meet with Ruhrtriennale's artistic director, Stefanie Carp, and dramaturg, Dr Julia Naunin.

Outside the festival, the group was taken on a tour of the Ruhr University in Bochum and visited the Museum unter Tage (Mut) and Situation Kunst (für Max Imdahl). The programme was rounded off by a meeting with the director of the Artistic Collections of the Ruhr University Bochum, Dr Friederike Wappler.

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The guests were:

Lucy Ilado, head of: Music in Africa Foundation, regional office Kenya, Nairobi/KENYA, music expert, journalist and cultural activist/KENYA

Karima Mansour, founder and artistic director: Cairo Contemporary Dance Center, Cairo/EGYPT

Ana Melo, dramaturg, Caracas/VENEZUELA

Andrei Nikolai Pamintuan, founder and festival director: Fringe Manila, Manila/PHILIPPINES, producer and director/USA

Susana Souto, director: Teatro para el Fin del Mundo Uruguay, Montevideo/URUGUAY

Ioanna Valsamidou, co-founder and artistic director: mind the fact Festival, Athens/GREECE, social scientist and director/GREECE

SEPTEMBER 2019

NATURE IN ARCHITECTURE – LITERATURE IN INTERDISCIPLINARY CONTEXTS

Five international literature experts from India, Austria, the Czech Republic, Cyprus and the Netherlands visited NRW from 11th to 15th September 2019 to engage with literature in an interdisciplinary context as part of the festival “Natur am Bau” at Burg Hülshoff in Havixbeck (Münsterland region).

In 2018 the castle, birthplace of German poet Annette von Droste-Hülshoff, became the home of the Centre for Literature (CfL). The CfL is an interdisciplinary institution and puts literature together with film, dance, music, architecture, media arts and network arts. As a producing institution it builds connections between local, regional and international writers, other artists and the public. “Anbauen!” (Cultivate!) is one of the eleven thematic focal points of the CfL and in 2019 it became a temporary lab which brought together artists and experts from the fields of architecture, climate policy and landscape ecology, as well as citizens interested in art or gardens.

As part of “Anbauen!”, the CfL organised a multi-day festival entitled “Natur am Bau” (Nature in Architecture) and a one day international symposium “Ökologie & Wahnsinn” (Ecology & Madness)

The group visited several festival events including performances, readings, as well as video and sound installations, and took part in the symposium.

On top of that they had a meeting with Dr Jörg Albrecht, director of the CfL and artistic director of the festival; they also met with Elke Reiberg from the cultural department of the Landschaftsverband Westfalen-Lippe (LWL) as well as this year’s Gotland scholar, Karl Ahlqvist.

In Münster the guests held discussions with Frauke Schnell, director of the Cultural Office, and Sabine Müller, project management and communication. To round everything off, Antje Deistler, director of Literaturbüro Ruhr e.V. (Ruhr region’s Office for Literature), offered an insight into her work.

The guests were:

Jan Baeke, programmer and curator: Poetry International, Rotterdam/NETHERLANDS

Esha Chatterjee, founder and CEO: BEE Books, Kolkata/INDIA

Kira Kirsch, artistic director and CEO: Brut im Künstlerhaus, Vienna/AUSTRIA

Aljaž Koprivnikar, artistic director: Prague Microfestival, Prague/CZECH REPUBLIC

Lily Michaelidou, head of: Ideogramma, Nicosia/CYPRUS

SEPTEMBER 2019

CITYLEAKS FESTIVAL 2019 – STREET ART AND URBAN INTERVENTIONS IN NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA

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Street art and urban interventions in North Rhine-Westphalia became the focus for a group of six visitors who were in NRW as part of the CityLeaks Festival from 18th to 22nd September. The festival guests included originators, directors and artists who came from Mexico, Finland, Spain, Uruguay, Russia and Thailand. This biennial festival, which took place in 2019 for the fifth time, explores urban space with both an academic and artistic eye but also looks at legal, cultural and politico-economic norms and power relationships

Under the practised eye of street art expert Konstantin Zayka, KJ263, the guests went on a street art walkabout through representative districts in Düsseldorf followed by a meeting with Robert Kaltenhäuser, street art expert and curator, Klaus Richter, curator and acting director of the cultural forum Alte Post in Neuss, and artist Marc Henning of MaJo Brothers. Also in Düsseldorf the guests met with Iren Tonoian, director of CityLeaks Urban Art Festival and founding member of artrmx e.V., and Marje Hirvonen, festival artist.

In Herne the guests were introduced to Zekai Fenerci, artistic director of Herne-based Pottporus e.V., Anna-Lena Werner, project manager for Pottporus e. V., and artists Gigo Propaganda and Ursula Meyer. In Dortmund the programme included an investigation into the urban art scene and a meeting with David Kory, director of Die Urbanisten e.V. This was followed by a meeting with artist and curator Laila Schubert from Atelier Amore – Verein für urbane und bildende Künste e.V., and artist Steffen Mischke.

Street art expert and gallerist Klaus Rosskothien guided the guests through the Düsseldorf urban art scene. And in Cologne there were tours to Hidden Spaces (re:framing Lichtstraße) and street art in the Belgian Quarter and in the district known as Köln-Ehrenfeld with Sascha Klein from the CityLeaks Festival and a street art expert.

The guests were:

Maria Enriqueta Arias Escamilla, founder and creative director: Artsynonym, Mexico City/MEXICO

Jaakko Blomberg, co-founder, chairman, producer: Helsinki Urban Art, Helsinki/FINNLAND

Marina Fernández Ramos, founder and director: Submarina Estudios, Madrid/SPAIN, technical director: Supertrama/SPAIN and architect: C+ Arquitectas, Madrid/SPAIN

Taisia Korotkova, artist, Moskow/RUSSIA and Milan/ITALY

Manuel (Manu) Rivoir Torres, cultural affairs management, Montevideo/URUGUAY and managing director: BooksOnWall – StreetArt.uy, Montevideo/URUGUAY

Bow (Nikan) Wasinondh, head of arts: Wonderfruit Festival, Pattaya/THAILAND

NOVEMBER 2019

SOUNDTRIPS NRW FESTIVAL – IMPROVISED MUSIC IN NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA

In 2010 five event organisers from five different cities working together with the NRW KULTURsekretariat launched Soundtrips NRW, a format to create a state-wide network for improvised music. Nine years and 45 concert tours later and this network has turned into a success and now has 11 participating cities and an international reputation. This fact was celebrated from 31st October to 3rd November with a four-day festival in Moers, Bonn, Wuppertal and Münster.

13 For that reason, from 1st to 3rd November six international music journalists were invited by the International Visitors Programme to take an in depth look at the improvised music scene in North Rhine-Westphalia.

The guests came from Israel, Canada, Austria, Slovenia, Spain and the USA to attend the festival's concerts in Bonn, Münster and Wuppertal and to meet up for talks with the Soundtrips NRW curators, participating musicians, and the director of the NRW KULTURsekretariat – Dr Christian Esch. It was during this visit to the NRW KULTURsekretariat that the idea for an international collaboration and possible expansion of the festival came up, working potentially with Réjean Beaucage in Québec, Canada.

Alongside this, the guests participated in an international conference entitled “Philosophies of Improvisation/ Improvisation als Gestaltungspraxis” in Bonn.

Furthermore, the visitors were introduced to institutions, artists and experts who work in the field of new and improvised music in NRW: in Münster they met Anja Kreysing and Helmut Buntjer, respectively musician and curator of “schwarz-weiß ist die bessere Farbe” (black-white is the better colour), Martin Schlathölter and Simon Mertens, members of b-Side, as well as Michael Kolberg, musician and member of the initiative for improvised music “Initiative Improvisierte Musik”.

The guests were:

Réjean Beaucage, freelance journalist and writer, Québec/CANADA

Rubén Coll Hernández, freelance journalist, Madrid/SPAIN

Petra Cvelbar, freelance photographer, Smlednik/SLOVENIA

Andreas Fellingner, editor: freiStil – Magazin für Musik und Umgebung, Vienna/AUSTRIA

Peter Gannushkin, photojournalist, New York/USA

Eyal Hareuveni, freelance journalist, Jerusalem/ISRAEL

NOVEMBER 2019

10 YEARS INTERNATIONAL VISITORS PROGRAMME

SYNERGIZE! CULTURE IN DEMOCRATIC ACTION: THE SOCIO-POLITICAL IMPACT OF
INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS AND CULTURAL RELATIONS

The International Visitors Programme at the NRW KULTURsekretariat celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2019. This was grounds for a one-day interactive conference with international participation on 12th November at tanzhaus nrw in Düsseldorf. It was opened by Dr Hildegard Kaluza (head of the Cultural Department, Ministry of Culture and Science of North Rhine-Westphalia), Dr Christian Esch (director, NRW KULTURsekretariat) and Dr Katharina von Ruckteschell-Katte (director of the Goethe-Institute London and regional director of the Goethe-Institutes in North-western Europe). The keynote speaker was Mike van Graan (president of the African Cultural Policy Network).

Entitled "SYNERGIZE! Culture in Democratic Action: The Socio-Political Impact of International Networks and Cultural Relations", the event focussed on the socio-political influence of international networks and cultural relations that had connected up the many alumni from the past ten years. Amongst others the conference participants explored the following questions and themes: What is the effect of international cultural relations on a democratic coexistence? How important are personal meetings to these relationships? How can intercultural networks be expanded and made accessible to all? The event was enriched by the presence of 21 alumni guests of the International Visitors Programme – as speakers and representatives – and their treasure trove of direct experience.

A dossier with the conclusions of the conference was published in April 2020. Furthermore, alongside an online live stream of the conference a short film documentation is available online since April 2020.

Speakers:

Mike van Graan, president: African Cultural Policy Network/SOUTH AFRICA

Dr Katharina von Ruckteschell-Katte, director: Goethe-Institut London, UK and regional director: Goethe-Institutes in North-western Europe, London/UK

Stefan Hilterhaus, artistic director: PACT Zollverein, Essen/GERMANY

Brigitta Muntendorf, composer and artistic director: Ensemble Garage, Köln/GERMANY

Fernando Zugno, director: International Performing Arts Festival Porto Alegre em Cena, Porto Alegre/BRASIL

Workshop leaders:

Viktor Ruban (Kiev/UKRAINE) & **Ben J. Riepe** (Düsseldorf/GERMANY)

Natalia Ivanova Mount (Oakland/USA) & **Martina Angelotti** (Milan/ITALY)

Dr Uma Vangal (Chennai/INDIA)

AlarmTheater (Bielefeld/GERMANY) & **Cia. Arthur-Arnaldo** (São Paulo/BRASIL)

Kulturforum Alte Post (Neuss/GERMANY) & **Helen Harris** (Windhoek/NAMIBIA)

Videonale e.V. (Bonn/GERMANY) & **ArtVilnius** (Vilnius/LITHUANIA)

kainkollektiv (Bochum/GERMANY) & **Teatr Nowy** (Krakow/POLAND)

The guests included 21 alumni of previous Visitors Programmes (see below).

NOVEMBER 2019

10 YEARS INTERNATIONAL VISITORS PROGRAMME

NETWORKING MEETING AND VISITORS PROGRAMME FOR ALUMNI

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The conference “SYNERGIZE! Culture in Democratic Action: The Socio-Political Impact of International Networks and Cultural Relations” was framed by a networking evening on 11th November that gave the alumni an opportunity to dialogue with each other and with the many representatives of important cultural institutions in NRW, and by an accompanying Visitors Programme on 13th November, that enabled the alumni to gain a deeper insight into the cultural scene in North Rhine-Westphalia.

In terms of the fields theatre, dance and performance, several of the alumni visited Forum Freies Theater (FFT) in Düsseldorf, where they had a discussion with the artistic director, Kathrin Tiedemann, and went on a tour through the exhibition “Artists & Agents” at Hartware MedienKunstVerein (HMKV) in Dortmund.

The other half of the alumni visited the joint exhibition “Maskulinitäten/Masculinities” by the arts associations Bonner Kunstverein, Kölner Kunstverein and Kunstverein für die Rheinlande und Westfalen. In this context they visited the Kölner Kunstverein in Cologne and the Kunstverein für die Rheinlande und Westfalen in Düsseldorf, where they learned about the background to the exhibition’s collaboration from director Eva Birkenstock. The programme was rounded off by a viewing of the K21 Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen in Düsseldorf and a meeting there with curator, Dr Doris Krystof.

The (alumni) guests were:

Martina Angelotti, artistic director: careof, Milan/ITALY

Sonata Baliuckaitė, artistic director: ArtVilnius/LITHUANIA

Inta Balode, chair of the board: Latvian Dance Information Center, Riga/LATVIA and board member: LAKKU, Lādezers/LATVIA

Arnab Banerjee, programme manager: Arts and Culture, Tata Trusts, Bengaluru Area/INDIA

Ioana Ciocan, curator and director: ArtSafari, Bucharest/ROMANIA and vice-president: Union of Fine Artists in Romania/ROMANIA

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

Mike van Graan, president: African Cultural Policy Network/SOUTH AFRICA

Stephanie Handjiska, choreographer/BULGARIA

Helen Harris, curator and founder: StArt Art Gallery, Windhoek/NAMIBIA

Dr Beatrix Kricsfalusi, assistant professor: University of Debrecen/HUNGARY

Masiyaleti Mbewe, independent writer, digital artist and curator, Windhoek/NAMIBIA and student: M.A., University of Namibia, Windhoek/NAMIBIA

Natalia Mount, executive director and cultural organizer: Pro Arts Gallery and COMMONS, Oakland/USA

Vessela Nozharova, curator: Credo Bonum Foundation & Gallery Sofia/BULGARIA

Josien Pieterse, director: Framed and Network Democracy, Amsterdam/NETHERLANDS

Iulia Pop, co-Founder, PR & media relations: Overground Music, Bucharest/ROMANIA and communication manager: Music Business Conference, Bucharest/ROMANIA

Viktor Ruban, choreographer, Kiev/UKRAINE

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

Vato Urushadze, international project manager and curator: Creative Georgia, Tbilisi/GEORGIA

Dr Uma Vangal Shivakumar, filmmaker and visiting professor: Film and Adjunct Faculty, Asian College of Journalism, Tamil Nadu/INDIA

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

Soledad Yunge, director: Cia. Arthur Arnaldo, São Paulo/BRAZIL

Fernando Zugno, director: International Performing Arts Festival Porto Alegre em Cena, Porto Alegre/BRAZIL

NOVEMBER 2019

100 YEARS OF BAUHAUS IN THE WEST – ROOTS AND REPERCUSSIONS OF THE BAUHAUS IN NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA

On the occasion of its 100th anniversary in 2019, the Bauhaus movement was the focus of widespread attention – in North-Rhine Westphalia there were more than 40 exhibitions and projects alone. The International Visitors Programme used this as an opportunity to invite six international directors, artists and journalists to join an interdisciplinary themed trip to NRW from 26th November to 1st December 2019.

17 The guests from Italy, Taiwan, Germany, the Netherlands and the USA found out about the “Konstellationen” (Constellations) project in particular, which was a collaboration between Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen and tanzhaus nrw in Düsseldorf, Museum Folkwang and PACT Zollverein in Essen as well as Museum Ludwig and the Centre for Contemporary Dance of the University for Music and Dance (HfMT) in Cologne. The group was offered a comprehensive insight into how the collaborative partners worked together by visiting the exhibitions and by meeting with Bettina Milz, head of the department “theatre and dance” at the Culture Department of the Ministry for Culture and Science of the Federal State of North-Rhine-Westphalia, Bettina Masuch, director of tanzhaus nrw, and Dr Isabelle Malz, curator for modern and contemporary art at the Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen.

The programme also comprised an exhibition and performance at Museum Ludwig in Cologne, visits to the Kaiser Wilhelm Museum and “Haus Lange” and “Haus Esters” in Krefeld, as well as a trip to Hohenhof and “Künstlerkolonie Gartenstadt” in Hagen, where they were accompanied by Bauhaus specialist Prof Dr Gerda Breuer. The trip was enhanced by a conversation with Dr Tayfun Belgin, director of the Osthaus Museum Hagen, a presentation of the Folkwang-concept by Peter Gorschlüter, director of Museum Folkwang in Essen, as well as an evening meal together with Stefan Hilterhaus, artistic director of PACT Zollverein Essen. The four-day research trip finished with a visit to the production “Das Lackballett” by Theater der Klänge, which took place at Flottmannhallen-Herne, rounded off by a final exchange with Jacqueline Fischer and Jörg Lensing, artistic directors of Theater der Klänge.

The guests were:

Huang Chien-Hung, director: Kuandu Museum of Fine Arts, Taipei City/TAIWAN

Emily McDermott, freelance writer and editor: e.g. Spike Art Magazine, Wallpaper, Frieze, ArtReview, Artsy, Berlin/GERMANY

Seth Riskin, head of: MIT Museum Studio, Cambridge/USA

Chloe Stead, journalist, writer and art critic: e.g. Spike Art Quarterly, Sleek, Art + Australia, Berlin/GERMANY

Francesco Tenaglia, journalist: Mousse Magazine, Milan/ITALY

Saskia Van Stein, director: Bureau Europa, platform for architecture and design, Maastricht/NETHERLANDS

NOVEMBER 2019

NEXT LEVEL FESTIVAL FOR GAMES – GAMES AND DIGITAL ART IN NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA

Since 2010 the Next Level Festival for Games has been elucidating the importance of games for cultural and social processes in a digital age and examining their artistic and educationally relevant potential and perspectives. For the tenth time from 28th November to 1st December Next Level brought together fans and experts within the digital gaming culture and also six international scientists, developers and curators were invited by the International Visitors Programme to take part in the festival.

18 From 29th November to 1st December the guests from Serbia, Uruguay, the Sudan, Belgium and China, not only explored the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site Zeche Zollverein – for the first time this year’s venue for Next Level – they were also able to engage energetically with the festival and participate in many events.

A networking meeting with Michael Eickhoff, dramaturg at Schauspiel Dortmund and the “Akademie für Theater und Digitalität” as well as scholars Max Schweder, Maria Pyatkova and Ariane Trümper led to some intensive discussions. Equally, a conversation with Carmen Johann and Jonas Zimmer of Cologne Game Lab (CGL), as well as a presentation of the institution and its current research projects, gave the international guests a robust picture of digital culture in North Rhine-Westphalia.

The guests were:

Sofía Batteggazzore, independent entrepreneur and producer in video game development and digital content: Ciudad de la Costa Canelones/URUGUAY

Mohanad Mohamed Ali, co-founder: Khartoum Game Collective, Khartoum/SUDAN, software engineer and game developer, Khartoum/SUDAN

Tim De Paepe, co-founder: Playfield, Ghent/BELGIUM

Isidora Todorović, professor of digital arts: Academy of Arts – University of Novi Sad, Novi Sad/SERBIA

Zhaogong Zhang, curator and teacher: New Media Center, China Central Academy of Fine Arts CAFA, Beijing/CHINA and secretary general: China Academy Awards Game Association/CHINA