

OSTRALE

Biennale für zeitgenössische Kunst

12.

INTERNATIONALE

AUSSTELLUNG

HISTORISCHE TABAKFABRIK f6

3. Juli – 1. September 2019

dezentral ab 11. Juni in Dresden

Press information Nr. 22 / May / June 2019

OSTRALE Biennale O19 opens exhibition spaces for the first time away from the main exhibition at the f6 Historical Tobacco Factory in Striesen

OSTRALE - Art in the Goethe-Institut from 12.07

In the decentralised OSTRALÉ Biennale O19 exhibition in the Dresden Goethe Institute, in addition to an opening performance from "go plastic", works by seven of the approximately 200 participating artists are on show. The exhibition will open on Wednesday, 12.06, at 18:00. The focal points of the exhibition are "WomanISM" and Africa. On Monday, June 17, from 15:00 to 17:00 pm, the building will be hosting the public symposium "WomanISM - Women in the Art" as part of the OSTRALÉ Biennale O19.

The second Biennale and twelfth OSTRALÉ overall is organized around the main thought of „-isms“, open from 11.06 to 01.09. It is taking place for the first and only time in the Historical Tobacco Factory f6 (02.07 - 01.09). Also for the first time this year, OSTRALÉ Biennale is cooperating with many different institutions in Dresden, which for this year will create decentralised exhibition spaces for the international art exhibition.

"Art and language connect people. They complement each other. Just as the task of the Goethe-Institut is to communicate with and about the German language throughout the world, the OSTRALÉ Biennale's mission is to bring together artists from all over the world. We are pleased to be able to create an exciting combination of both institutions with the use of the premises of the Goethe-Institut ", says Andrea Hilger.

The OSTRALÉ program at the Goethe-Institut Dresden focuses on WomanISM and contacts the positions of various international artists dealing with a focus on Africa and the prevailing problems of globalization, including migration, human rights and the environment. Further artistic positions made in relation to these OSTRALÉ focal points will also be shown in the exhibition at the Ausländerrat Dresden (opening 13.06 at 18:00) and in the **Historical Tobacco Factory f6 in Striesen** (opening on 03.07 at 18:00).

"As a place of intercultural encounter, we are pleased to have OSTRALÉ at the Goethe-Institut Dresden with 'WomanISM'. The exhibition presents works by African artists who are connected to the Goethe network in Uganda and Kenya. We are also happy to participate in Dresden in cooperation with OSTRALÉ in international artist encounters and creative exchange related to many issues the Goethe-Institut addresses in its various locations around the world" - Dorothea Klenke-Gerdes.

Artists and works at the Goethe Institute in Dresden

Immy Mali (UG/NL), Frenzy Höhne (DE), Usha Seejarim (ZA), Andre Wagner (DE), Patrick Fenech (MT), go plastic (Cindy Hammer und Susan Schubert, DE)

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Patrick Fenech's work consists of portraits of African refugees in Malta holding endangered insects. Fenech addresses the uprooting of people from their country of origin while at the same time dramatically exposing the environmental threat to the ecosystem. Africa and the situation of escape are placed in a different, new perspective connecting the Biennale themes of WomanISM and territorialism with naturalism, animism, ideology, consumerism and terrorism.



Works by **Usha Seejarim** from South Africa are shown not only in the Goethe-Institut Dresden, but also in the Ausländerrat Dresden e.V. and in the Historical Tobacco Factory f6. In her work, she uses everyday objects from the daily housework of women. Seejarim uses their beauty of banality to express herself on themes of gender, women in society and women's work. Her art becomes the "keeper" of recent changes in the role of women, pointing to questions or suggesting new tendencies.



Opening

The opening of the OSTRALE Biennale O19 exhibition at the Goethe Institute in Dresden under the auspices of the Institute Director Dr Dorothea Klenke-Gerdes and OSTRALE director Andrea Hilger begins with a performance by go plastic (Cindy Hammer and Susan Schubert) on 12.06 at 18:00. Those interested are warmly invited. There is an English/German description in sign language.

Biennale Symposium at the Goethe Institute.

on 17.06 between 15:00 and 17:00, a public symposium will take place at the Goethe Institute in Dresden. Artists, curators and invited experts will discuss themes of **WomanISM** with interested visitors. The event will be in German and English and in sign language.

Present will be: Syowia Kyambi (Kuratorin), Barbara Sommer (Director of Goethe Zentrum Kampala, Uganda), Dr. Cornelia Kunkat (Referent for „Women in Culture and Media“, German Cultural Council), Antka Hofmann (Curator), Andrea Hilger (Director Ostrale), and artists Usha Seejarim, Janice Iche, Sonia Barrett, Ramona Seyfarth, Anastasia Obaregbe, Hanna Nitsch and Frenzy Höhne.

WomanISM

The German-African project **WomanISM** includes exhibitions, workshops, residencies and artistic collaborations. The aim is to examine and promote a dialogue on women's rights, their position in the art world and in society, focusing on an artistic perspective on women of colour and women from other marginalized groups in comparison to German women. *"The exciting content of the Goethe-Institut Dresden and the Ausländerrat Dresden correlates with the controversial social issues that are the focus of WomanISM. As a result, the work jointly created by African and German artists in the Artist in Residence program will be reinforced in their effect"* - Andrea Hilger.

The project was jointly curated and organized by Syowia Kyambi (Nairobi, Kenya), Teesa Bahana (32 ° EAST / Ugandan Arts Trust in Kampala, Uganda) and Antka Hofmann (OSTRALE Center for Contemporary Art, Dresden).

Curator Antka Hofmann adds: *"In 2020, we will be working on this project in Uganda and Kenya and working together with some excellent partners, including the Goethe Center in Kampala and the Circle Art Gallery in Nairobi."* WomanISM is funded by the Federal Cultural Foundation and the ifa Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations.

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Goethe Institute

Königsbrücker Str. 84

01099 Dresden

Tram 8, 7, Tramstop: Tannenstraße/Goethe-Institut

Opening times:

from 12.06: Monday to Friday 08:00 til 16:00

The main location for this years OSTRALE Biennale **is exclusively for this year the f6 Historical Tobacco Factory in Striesen, Dresden** (03.07 until 01.09 2019, entrance Schandauer Strasse 66, Dresden DVB Stop: Gottleubaer Strasse, Tram 4, 10). From there come the following decentralised exhibitions in many places in Dresden: **Gedenkstätte Bautzner Straße** (11.6.-8.9.), **Goethe-Institut Dresden** (12.6.-1.9.), **Ausländerrat Dresden e.V.** (13.6.-1.9.), **Kunst- und Kulturverein Alte Feuerwache Loschwitz** (28.6. - 18.8.) sowie **SAP'art Dresden** (26.4. - 1.9.).

With the support of Aktion Mensch, the exhibition venues of this year's OSTRALE Biennale will once again provide a specially made guide system for visitors with visual and hearing impairments. By combining the app "AllSense" with "Bluetooth beacons", O19 will describe individual artworks via smartphone at all locations. In the f6 Historical Tobacco Factory, "visorBoxes" also make it possible for visitors to navigate within the building for the first time. The system works with Android and iOS devices.

The OSTRALE Biennale is the third largest temporary exhibition of contemporary art in Germany. It is not a sales exhibition as such, giving it the freedom to discuss socially relevant topics at a distance from the market. The guiding principles of the OSTRALE, such as peaceful coexistence, acceptance of the foreign / unknown, treating everyone with respect, promoting religious diversity and internationalism, are reflected in the exhibitions.

Picture material available on request.

CONTACT:

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