

NRW KULTURsekretariat International Visitors Programme

The International Visitors Programme continues to capture the imagination of journalists, curators and festival managers. In the first half of 2017, a whole host of international guests were once again able to establish new contacts in North Rhine-Westphalia as part of a cooperation between the Goethe-Institut's visitors programme and the International Visitors Programme of the NRW KULTURsekretariat. Most recently programmes took place during the Düsseldorf Photo Weekend, the Videonale.16 in Bonn, the tanz NRW festival and the International Short Film Festival in Oberhausen

Call for participants for the second half of 2017

Research trip:

“5. Skulptur Projekte Münster – sculpture in the public spaces of North Rhine-Westphalia”

1st – 5th August 2017

www.skulptur-projekte.de

The fifth edition of the *Skulptur Projekte* in Münster takes place from June to October 2017. This extensive large-scale exhibition, which has taken place every ten years since 1977, has turned into a globally-renowned event for contemporary sculptural art. Participants have included established greats such as Bruce Naumann, Claes Oldenburg, Rebecca Horn, Jenny Holzer or Donald Judd.

Although the project, which is for artists from across the globe, has consistently and pointedly engaged with the possibilities of contemporary sculpture in urban space, the curatorial team of *Skulptur Projekte Münster 2017* is particularly interested in focussing on an interrogation of the experience of body, time and space in times of increasing digitalisation. A key role in the realisation of this year's *Skulptur Projekte Münster* will be a cooperation and artistic exploration with the city of Marl, which lies 60 kilometres west in the Ruhr region and is home to the sculpture museum *Glaskasten Marl*.

As well as visiting works and key institutions in Münster and Marl, other forms of art in the public spaces of North Rhine-Westphalia's cities will also be viewed. The programme will be complemented by thematically-relevant meetings and conversations with local experts and cultural operators.

There are up to 8 places for curators, exhibition organisers and multipliers working in the visual arts.

Please submit your proposals by **Monday, 3rd July 2017**.

Event trip:

“c/o pop Convention – Brand new connections!”

16th – 20th August 2017

www.c-o-pop.de/en/convention

The *c/o pop Convention* will take place again this year on 17th and 18th August in Cologne. Label managers, music managers, festival organisers, media experts and agency representatives will meet up with leading speakers and decision-makers from top European as well as South American and North American brand names. Keynote speeches, panel discussions, presentations and training sessions will offer practice-relevant knowledge at the specialist conference which runs parallel to the *c/o pop Festival*. For the first time this year there will be a *New Talent Day* alongside the *Brands & Music Day*, a conference held under the banner of cooperation between the music industry and brand names. This is organised in cooperation with the funding programme *popNRW* and is dedicated to new musical talent.

As well as the comprehensive programme around the *c/o pop Convention* there will be an opportunity to visit the *INTERACTIVE Festival*, which takes place in Cologne at the same time, as well as the *c/o pop Festival* and the 2017 *popNRW* prize-giving ceremony. The programme will be rounded off with conversations and meetings with promoters and musicians, as well as those responsible for the field of music within the state cultural and education policy department.

For this programme there are 3 places available for international organisers, promoters, multipliers and specialist journalists working in media, music and communications.

Please submit your proposals by **Monday, 3rd July 2017**.

Event trip:

“Forum Europe Ruhr – Culture 360°”

possible dates 5th to 8th September 2017

www.e-c-c-e.de/en/forum-europe-ruhr.html

The new *Forum Europe Ruhr* is based on the *Forum d'Avignon Ruhr*, created around a German-French partnership which took place annually between 2012 and 2016 in Essen. The *Forum Europe Ruhr* is a new platform for cultural operators and organisations from within culture and politics, economics and the sciences. The aim is to initiate dialogues and collaborations on the topic of designing the future within the arena of culture and cultural politics, as well as to build and consolidate bridges between Europe and the Ruhr region. *Forum Europe Ruhr* sees itself as a European platform and experimental lab for culture and cultural politics and thus aims to connect differing cultural positions in order to promote cross-learning within a European exchange.

As well as attending the Forum Europe Ruhr, plans are in place to visit other thematically-relevant institutions, to hold conversations with experts, and to encourage an international exchange based on this year's forum theme, which is 'Culture 360°'.

For this programme there are 6 places for operators within the arena of the arts and cultural politics, journalists as well as protagonists from the creative industries.

Please submit your proposals by **Monday, 17th July 2017**.

Research trip:

“Urban Interventions NRW – street art and other forms of artistic appropriation in municipal spaces”

expected dates: 11th – 15th September 2017

Since the early 2000s a diverse and ever-growing field of artistic interrogation and appropriation of municipal space has been convened under the banner: ‘Reclaim your city!’. And it goes without saying that the role of so-called urban art has its own special place in the cities of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia. Visits to the urban centres of Cologne, Düsseldorf and the Ruhr metropolis will be incorporated into this thematic visit. The *CityLeaks Urban Art Festival* in Cologne and projects in the surrounding areas will be the main but not sole focus.

The programme will be broadened to include targeted explorations of the municipal space in terms of street art, as well as conversations with artists and decision-makers active in the field of cultural and artistic appropriation of municipal space.

For this programme there are up to **8 places** for curators, exhibition organisers and multipliers working in the arena of art and culture.

Please submit your proposals by **Monday, 17th July 2017**.

Event trip:

“Münsterland Festival – culture festivals and the promotion of culture in rural areas of North Rhine-Westphalia“

expected dates: 6th – 9th October 2017

www.muensterland-festival.de

Since 2005 the five-week biennial *Münsterland Festival*, which takes place in the autumn, has contributed towards surmounting borders in Europe. The traditions and lifestyle of a European country or even a certain region make their way to Münsterland. It is the far north and deep south that are heading towards the ninth *Münsterland Festival*: Iceland and Greece are the partner countries for the autumn of 2017. Once again there will be over 40 events taking place in outstanding spaces in the region: in historical moated castles, former industrial wastelands, exhibition spaces and art societies, and certain concert halls and theatres.

The schedule not only includes visiting festival events and conversations with those responsible for them, but there will also be trips and meetings around the topic of producing and funding events and culture in rural areas.

For this programme there are **5 places** available for international event organisers, multipliers and specialised journalists working in the arenas of music and culture.

Please submit your proposals by **Monday, 7th August 2017**.

Research trip:

“Structural change and culture – the concept of the *Kreativ.Quartiere* in the Ruhr region”

5 days in October 2017, expected week 42

www.kreativ-quartiere.de

On the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the *Kreativ.Quartier Ruhr* (creative quarters Ruhr), the International Visitors Programme is proposing an event to examine cultural creativity and fresh ideas in the Ruhr metropolis.

‘Strukturwandel Kultur’ (structural change of culture) is the keyword for the state programme that is *Kreativ.Quartier Ruhr* and which is being implemented together with the *European Centre for Creative Economy* (e.c.c.e.). The programme aims to foster cultural and artistic spaces and provide renewed impetus for the city, thus inspiring its transformation from an industrial society to a knowledge society. Placed in a broader context *Kreativ.Quartier Ruhr*, with their 50 sponsored projects in 14 cities, consider themselves as moderator and initiator for the development of both city and quartier based on culture.

Various sponsored projects will be visited and conversations instigated with makers as part of this research trip. There will also be meetings with the relevant cultural operators working in the sponsorship of art and culture and the creative industries, such as the *European Centre for Creative Economy* (e.c.c.e.), the relevant ministry and a centre of excellence.

For this programme there are up to 8 places for operators working in the arts and culture as well as protagonists from the creative industries.

Please submit your proposals by **Monday, 14th August 2017**.

Press trip:

“ELECTRI_CITY Conference – Düsseldorf: capital city of electronic music”

expected dates: 26th – 29th October 2017

www.electricity-conference.com

Kraftwerk, DAF or Neu! – these are just some of the bands that laid the foundation of Düsseldorf’s reputation as a centre for electronic music. The *ELECTRI_CITY Conference* will bring Düsseldorf’s electronic music scene of the 70s and 80s back to life with a broad selection of presentations, film screenings, concerts and DJ gigs, creating a link to contemporary forms of the genre. The event made a successful start in 2015 with around 2,000 participants. Its aim is to strengthen Düsseldorf’s position as the new/old capital of electronic music and as an international location for concerts.

Alongside visits to the conference and concerts, the participants will track down the Düsseldorf lifestyle away from the *Königsallee* and the ‘longest bar in the world’ in the Altstadt, for example, by visiting the specialist artistically-designed stations of a new underground line.

For this programme there are 4 places for specialist journalists as well as for international event organisers and multipliers working in music and communications.

Please submit your proposals by **Monday, 21st August 2017**.

Event Trip:

“Next Level Festival for Games – games and digital culture in North Rhine-Westphalia”

expected dates: 9th – 12th November 2017

www.next-level.org

From time immemorial games - one of the world's oldest cultural techniques - have always played a significant role. Today computer and video games have more than 25 million players and have thus become a permanent feature of everyday culture life in Germany. Digital gaming culture is embedded within the process of the digitalisation of daily life, its multi-faceted aspects of a changing perception bringing about new forms of interaction and participation. The significance of gaming for artistic, cultural and social processes in the digital age is considerable, which is why it requires inspirational vision as well as critical reflection.

The *Next Level Festival for Games* has been providing both since 2010. It shines a light on artistic as well as economic and learning-relevant benefits and perspectives. From 9th to 12th November, *Next Level* invites fans and experts of digital gaming culture to examine the theme of gaming as a cross-sectional discipline for aesthetic, cultural and social-political activity and development. *Next Level* brings gaming alive and provokes discussions amongst gamers, together with artists, cultural operators, pedagogues, games designers and journalists.

Alongside attendance at the Festival, the programme will include visits to cultural institutions in North Rhine-Westphalia, which are actively grappling with the demands of digital. At the core will be discussions with local protagonists and operators.

There are 2 places for curators, exhibition organisers, specialist journalists and multipliers working within gaming and digital culture.

Please submit your proposals by **Monday, 4th September 2017**.

Research trip:

“Tanzland NRW – North Rhine-Westphalia as a centre for dance culture”

5 days between 10th and 23rd November 2017

In the *Tanzland* (danceland) North Rhine-Westphalia both classical and contemporary dance look back over their own heritage as an institutionalised and publicly-funded art form. The brilliance of dance ensembles such as the ballet of the *Deutsche Oper am Rhein* under its director Martin Schläpfer, and *Tanztheater Wuppertal* under its long-term artistic director Pina Bausch who died in 2009, have shone throughout the world. North Rhine-Westphalia has a hugely adventurous

independent dance scene, but it is principally because of its large number of dance theatres and its ten publicly-funded ensembles that it is one of the centres of dance culture in Germany.

The research trip *Tanzland NRW* will not only consider the creative work and identity of publicly-funded dance theatres and their artists, but also take a look at their organisational and funding structures. Planned are visits and conversations with those responsible in institutions, educational establishments and dance centres in North Rhine-Westphalia. The programme will be complemented by visits to premieres and other performances of contemporary and classical dance.

For this programme there are up to 8 places for international event organisers, multipliers and experts from the discipline of dance.

Please submit your proposals by **Monday, 4th September 2017.**

Please note: Applicants, who has been rejected in former application processes, can be proposed again for these trips.

The NRW KULTURsekretariat covers all costs with regard to travel and residence, transfer and programme implementation. The participants commit to writing a detailed feedback on the programme for internal evaluation.

Criteria for visitors

When recommending visitors, the following criteria of the International Visitors Programme of the NRW KULTURsekretariat must be complied with:

- strong network in the area of activity in and beyond the home country
- interest in sustainable contacts and future cooperation as well as curiosity about North Rhine-Westphalia as a place of culture
- command of the English and/or German language

Contact

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