

NRW KULTURsekretariat International Visitors Programme

The International Visitors Programme continues to captivate international creative artists, journalists, curators and festival directors. Once again in 2018 the cooperation between the visitors' programme of the Goethe-Institut and the International Visitors Programme at NRW KULTURsekretariat Wuppertal enabled a large number of international guests to make new contacts within North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW).

In the second half of the year programmes took place around the Ruhrtriennale, the FAVORITEN theatre festival in Dortmund, the PHOTOSZENE FESTIVAL and KFFK/Short Film Festival in Cologne as well as a research trip based on new and improvised music in NRW.

Call for Participants for the first half of 2019

Event trip:

“Refracted Realities: Videonale.17 – Festival for Video and Time-based Art Forms”

20th – 24th February 2019, Bonn

www.videonale.org

The 17th edition of VIDEONALE takes place from February to April 2019 in Bonn. Founded in 1984, VIDEONALE is an international festival for video and time-based art forms that, since its inception as the first festival for video arts in Germany, has taken place every two years. It rapidly developed into one of the most important festivals for video art and time-based art forms in Europe, comprising an ambitious programme of video presentations, exhibitions, presentations and performances – always with its finger on the pulse of the latest trends in terms of moving image. Participants include ground-breaking names such as Dara Birnbaum, Keren Cytter, Lynn Hershman, Gary Hill, Christian Jankowski, Klaus vom Bruch, Marcel Odenbach and Bill Viola. Up to the present day, the VIDEONALE remains true to the ideas at its foundation of mapping the latest trends in time-based arts, discussing new views and trends with professional audiences and at the same time introducing them to a public interested in art. During VIDEONALE.16 (2017), the festival expanded the competition for the first time to include performances and virtual reality projects.

The motto of VIDEONALE.17 is “Refracted Realities”. The festival programme offers a comprehensive insight not only into contemporary artistic practice but also into the latest debates around video arts and their development on the art market. The city will be livened up considerably during the exhibition period by countless events, a VIDEONALE.PARCOURS in various spots around the city of Bonn, and exhibition projects, for example in the Kunstmuseum Bonn.

On top of the festival events, the trip will be rounded off by discussions with experts and organisers as well as visits to the most important institutions working with video and media arts.

This programme has 2 places available for curators, museum directors, organisers and multipliers whose main focus is on modern and contemporary arts, in particular video and media arts.

Suggestions to be sent in before **Friday, 14th December 2018**.

Event trip:

“c/o pop Festival and Convention – New Talents and Networks”

1st – 5th May 2019, Cologne

www.c-o-pop.de

From 1st to 5th May it's all about pop music in the broadest sense in Cologne!

Not only is c/o pop Festival the leading German festival and the most important industry platform for German artists which places special emphasis on the promotion of the next generation of artists. Performances also take place in unusual locations and spaces that reflect a multitude of wide-ranging and top-end cultural aesthetics: electronic, digital, contemporary, innovative.

The c/o pop Convention, which takes place alongside the festival, enables label managers, music managers, festival organisers, media experts and agency representatives to come together with headline speakers and decision-makers of large European as well as South and North American labels. The symposium will include keynote speeches, panel discussions, presentations and training sessions around practice-relevant know-how.

The programme will be rounded off with visits to pertinent institutions as well as meetings and discussions with organisers, musicians and managers.

There are 3 places available for organisers, multipliers and (specialist) journalists working in media, music, communication and the creative economy.

Suggestions to be sent in before **Friday, 18th January 2019**.

Event trip:

**“tanz nrw 19 – Contemporary Independent Dance Scene in North Rhine-Westphalia”
presumably 8th – 11th May 2019**

www.tanz-nrw-aktuell.de

The dance festival tanz nrw is a biennial presentation of the latest contemporary dance productions from in- and outside North Rhine-Westphalia and aims to reflect the local dance landscape as comprehensibly as possible within a compact time-frame. The festival will take place for the seventh time from 8th to 19th May 2019, with the cities of Bonn, Düsseldorf, Essen, Cologne, Krefeld, Münster, Viersen und Wuppertal hosting the best productions from the independent dance scene in North Rhine-Westphalia.

Artists from different generations – new names as well as established ones – will present their latest choreographic projects; the programme is further enhanced by guest productions, specialist projects and discursive formats. In 2019, in cooperation with the NRW KULTURsekretariat's project “Tanzrecherche NRW”, there will be a platform for up-and-coming artists from North Rhine-Westphalia who are realising their first steps in choreography entitled “Sprungbrett” (steppingstone). The festival is thus a local, regional and international forum and shop window in equal measure.

Taking place outside the festival will be discussions with directors of pertinent dance institutions, such as the performance and production space tanzhaus nrw in Düsseldorf, the choreographic centre PACT Zollverein in Essen, as well as with artists and NRW-based companies.

For this programme there are 3 places available for dance curators, artistic directors, organisers and (specialist) journalists working in dance.

Proposals to be sent in before **Friday, 18th January 2019**.

Press trip:

**“Jazz along the Rhine – International Scene and New Talents”
presumably 16th/17th – 19th May 2019, Bonn/Cologne/Dortmund**

www.jazzfest-bonn.de and www.tangible-music.net/label-night-2019

Jazzfest Bonn, which will be celebrating its tenth anniversary in 2019, considers itself to be a presentation platform for jazz musicians with regional and national links as well as a body for the promotion of contemporary creative jazz. The festival does not aim simply to offer a stage for exceptional jazz music, reflected in the consistently high demands it places on its musicians, but also to open up jazz to a larger audience. Over two days the participants will have the opportunity to attend double concerts in unusual spaces as well as to hold discussions with the festival team and artistic director, Peter Materna.

As part of this press trip the guests will visit the Tangible Music Label Night at the Dortmund-based cult jazz club domicil. Tangible Music is a Cologne-based music label, established in 2017, that publishes selected jazz and improvised music-based productions that mainly represent the young

jazz scene in Cologne. The Tangible Music Label Night will take place for the first time in 2019 in Cologne and Dortmund and aims to create comprehensive presentation possibilities for the lively regional scene and to introduce journalists, organisers and representatives from the sector.

As well as visiting both events, the programme will be rounded off with discussions with experts, organisers and visits to respective institutions.

There are 2 places available for (specialist) journalists working in music with a particular focus on jazz.

Suggestions to be sent in before **Friday, 25th January 2019**.

Event trip:

“Mülheimer Theatertage NRW “Stücke” – German-speaking Contemporary Drama in International Discourse”

4 days during the period 21st – 31st May 2019, Mülheim an der Ruhr

www.stuecke.de

For over forty years the Mülheimer Theatertage NRW “Stücke” has been committed to the promotion of contemporary German-speaking drama and continues to hold onto this concept until today. It is not however the productions that are the focus of this theatre festival rather it is the play texts, and consequently discussions around the term authorship and the constant re-framing of dramatic writing. Each year a selection of seven or eight German-speaking plays are presented, predominantly premieres. The “Mülheimer Dramatikerpreis” is worth 15,000 Euros and is awarded to the best playwright at the end of the festival.

In order to carry the nominated plays beyond linguistic-boundaries, a translators’ workshop has taken place annually since 2017, organised in a cooperation between ITI-Germany (the German centre of the International Theatre Institute) and the Goethe-Institut. Professional theatre translators of differing nationalities are invited to translate chosen German-language plays into their mother tongue. Experiencing the productions on stage and discussions with specialist colleagues and authors are at the heart of the workshop.

Alongside visiting the “Stücke” theatre festival, the theme of translation is a key focus of the Visitors Programme, after all, North Rhine-Westphalia is renowned as a place for literary translation through the Europäisches Übersetzer-Kollegium (European Translators’ College) based in Straelen. Conversations with organisers, participating translators and authors, as well as visits to key institutions, will round this programme off.

Conditions for participation: knowledge of German up to B2/C1 level at the very least.

There are 4 places for theatre-makers and festival organisers with a particular interest in German-language contemporary drama and the subject of translation.

Suggestions to be sent in before **Friday, 25th January 2019**.

Event trip:

“RUHR DING – Art in the Public Spaces of the Ruhr Region’s Industrial Landscape”

4 days during the period 1st – 16th June 2019, Ruhr region

www.urbanekuensteruhr.de

Urbane Künste Ruhr is a multi-faceted, decentralised institution for contemporary art in the Ruhr region. It initiates projects in public spaces, exhibitions, residencies and events, frequently in collaboration with local and international cooperation partners. RUHR DING is Urbane Künste Ruhr’s newest exhibition format for the Ruhr region. “Territories” is the thematic bracket encompassing a multitude of cross-institution and cross-discipline collaborations that intersect differing topographical, aesthetic and social spaces in the Ruhr region; it takes place across a period of eight weeks. As part of the first ever RUHR DING, around twenty projects will be realised in the Ruhr cities of Essen, Bochum, Dortmund, Oberhausen and Mülheim an der Ruhr as well as in the semi-urban interspace along the river Emscher. The profile of RUHR DING emerges from artistic work with pre-existing constellations and can be sculpture, installation, exhibition or performance.

In the planning are tours and conversations with artists as well as meetings with other key cultural players from the Ruhr region, alongside visits to the artistic works in public spaces that form part of “RUHR DING: Territories”.

There are 4 places available for curators, artists and cultural operators, as well as heads of relevant institutions, all in line with the theme of art in public spaces.

Suggestions to be sent in before Friday, **1st February 2019**.

Event trip:

„Freedom of the Arts – Impulse Theatre Festival and the German-speaking Independent Theatre Scene“

4 days during the period of 13th – 23rd June 2019, Düsseldorf/Cologne/Mülheim an der Ruhr

www.impulsefestival.de

Impulse Theatre Festival remains the most important platform for independent theatre in the German-speaking world for almost 30 years. It presents outstanding works produced outside the municipal theatre system and above all, tests, expands and interrogates the medium of theatre through alternative aesthetics and approaches. Impulse Theatre Festival interrogates established positions as well as discoveries that represent a wide variety of different theatrical forms.

Apart from the showcase in Düsseldorf, the upcoming edition of Impulse Festival offers a site-specific project in public spaces in Cologne, and the Impulse Academy in Mülheim an der Ruhr. The city project in Cologne revolves around the topic of “fear” and its role in political processes. Coming to life through the work of four artist groups at different urban trouble spots connotated with anxiety and negativity, the audience will face the objects of fear: “prostitution”, “Islam”, “drugs” and “manhood”. One-to-one situations, games, installations and performances will confront individual projections with reality thereby allowing for new approaches to deal with public

anxieties. The Impulse Academy at Ringlokschuppen Ruhr in Mülheim offers a forum for self-comprehension and communication for the independent theatre scene. In the course of the International Visitors Programme discussion will concern questions on the freedom of the arts. There will be investigations on the interrelations between authoritarian and fascist attempts to limit this freedom and the vivid discourse within the independent theatre scene about the limits of what should be shown and said on stage. Are these two phenomena mutually dependent? How does the theatrical framing affect the possibilities and the limits of representation? What would be the appropriate response to an increasing polarisation of political positions? And finally: How should we negotiate these questions altogether?

Next to the attendance at the showcase and the Impulse Academy, conversations with artists and cultural actors in the field as well as visits to key cultural institutions are at the core of the programme.

For this programme there are 3 places available for theatre-makers, organisers and (specialist) journalists with a focus on theatre.

Suggestions are to be sent in before **Friday, 1st February 2019**.

Press trip:

“ROMANISCHER SOMMER 2019 – Sacred Spaces, Medieval Art and Musical Discoveries”

presumably 26th – 28th June 2019, Cologne

www.romanischer-sommer.de

For the past 30 years, the aim of the music festival ROMANISCHER SOMMER (Romanesque Summer) is to allow the unique architecture and size of Romanesque churches in Cologne to be experienced through a particular connection of sound and space. Entitled “Myths, Sagas and Legends”, this year’s festival explores a musical spectrum from the Middle Ages to the modern era. Instrumental and vocal music as well as European and non-European music form a major part of the programme.

For the 2019 edition of the festival, music will be played at ten different Romanesque churches in Cologne over three days. And as per tradition, the festival will end with the ROMANISCHE NACHT (Romanesque Night), whereby the audience is invited to wander around the church Sankt Maria im Kapitol and thus open their eyes to new aspects.

As well as visits to the concerts and events that make up the festival ROMANISCHER SOMMER 2019, in the planning are additional art-historical tours through the Romanesque churches of Cologne, as well as discussions with participating artists and a networking opportunity with local musicians and key players in Cologne.

There are 2 places available for music journalists.

Suggestions are to be sent in before **Friday, 1st March 2019**.

Please note that we accept proposals for people who, for various reasons, had to be turned down for earlier visits.

NRW KULTURsekretariat will cover all costs incurred by visitors relating to travel, accommodation, transfer and participation in the programmes. On this understanding participants thereby commit to filling out a comprehensive feedback form after the programme for the purposes of carrying out an internal evaluation. Journalists taking part are obliged to give the programme press coverage.

Criteria for guests:

When recommending participants, we ask you to consider the following criteria for the International Visitors Programme of the NRW KULTURsekretariat. They should be:

- Strong networkers in their professional field at home and abroad
- Looking to establish long-term contacts and future collaborations as well as have an interest in the cultural life of North Rhine-Westphalia
- Be highly proficient in English
(Some programmes have additional language requirements. See descriptions for details.)

Contact

Please send one completed form (attached) for each visitor suggestion to:

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