

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 first half of the year programmes took place around the VIDEONALE.17 in Bonn, the c/o pop festival and c/o pop convention in Cologne, the tanz nrw 19 festival, the Mülheimer Theatertage NRW, the exhibition project "Ruhr Ding" by Urbane Künste Ruhr and the Impulse Theater Festival.

Call for Participants for the second half of 2019

Event trip:

"Festival 'Blue Skies - Bodies in Trouble' - Technological Progress, New Mindscapes, and Different Ecologies"

9th – 14th July 2019, Essen

www.pact-zollverein.de/en/programme/blue-skies-1

Inspired by the current developments in biosciences, the festival 'Blue Skies - Bodies in Trouble' will take place from 10th to 14th July. The interdisciplinary projects and discussion contributions presented at the festival explore technologies on a microscopically small, molecular level and examine mindscapes beyond capitalised life reflected in an all-embracing technological hold on the body, consciousness, and subconsciousness. The participating artists and scientists contemplate new ecologies inhabited by old as well as new agents and forge connections with specific environments and everyday scenarios which manifest the friction between the new promises of the biotech sector and capricious reality.

medienwerk.nrw and PACT Zollverein will bring together international artists, scientists, activists, publicists, students and an interested audience at this five-day festival which centres on active and interdisciplinary work dedicated to new narratives, speculative visions for the future, and alternative practices.

So far, the artistic and theoretical contributors are: acting in concert, Aliens in Green, Marie-Luise Angerer, COOL FOR YOU, FAM_, Gabriele Gramelsberger, Heather Dewey-Hagborg, Jens Hauser, Sabine Himmelsbach, Stefan Kaegi, knowbotiq, labsa, Mary Maggic, Astrid Deuber-Mankowsky, Špela Petrič, Paula Pin, Luiza Prado de O. Martins, Nguyễn + Transitory, Odete, Johannes Paul Raether, Kaushik Sunder Rajan, Tabita Rezaire, Emilia Sanabria, Silke Schönfeld, The Agency, and Paula-Irene Villa.

The festival also provides the opportunity to indulge in intensive exchanges and networking with agents and artists from North Rhine-Westphalia and beyond. Tours and supplementary discussions will complete the programme.

There are 3 places available for curators, organisers, festival managers, and multipliers specialised on contemporary art and new technologies.

Suggestions to be sent in before **Monday, 10th June 2019**.

Event trip:

“Ruhrtriennale 2019 - International Art and European Self-Criticism”

27th August – 1st September 2019, Ruhr

www.ruhrtriennale.de/en/home/

Every year, the Ruhrtriennale invites contemporary artists to present their work in the monumental industrial architecture of the Ruhr Metropolis. Halls, coking plants, power houses, spoil tips, and wastelands, the legacies of mining and the steel industry, are transformed into impressive venues at the interface between musical theatre, drama, dance, performance, and visual art, thus making the Ruhrtriennale a globally unique festival. The programme is essentially determined by the director who is newly appointed every three years. Stefanie Carp is the director of the 2018-2020 festival editions, and Christoph Marthaler is the associate artist for these three years.

While the 2018 Ruhrtriennale focused on perspectives of the global south, the 2019 edition explores aspects of European self-criticism: This year artists are approaching their own privileged European existence from different angles. This leads to the question: Who is entitled to represent whom in which contexts? The crisis of representation results from the realisation that European democracy has always been a racist construction based on power and privilege. At the same time, it is crucial to defend the idea of democracy, to take a stand for a diverse, open society and a transnational public sphere in order to establish the kind of democracy that has never existed in terms of equality.

Participants can not only look forward to a selection of the Ruhrtriennale’s productions but also to conversations with artistic director Stefanie Carp. Meetings with experts from the scene and visits to relevant institutions in the field of theatre/performance as well as art will round off the programme.

There are 2 places available for curators, festival managers, specialised journalists, and multipliers from the interdisciplinary area between visual art, performance, and (musical) theatre.

Suggestions to be sent in before **Friday, 14th June 2019**.

Event trip:

“Nature in Architecture - Literature in Interdisciplinary Contexts”

10th – 15th September 2019, Havixbeck near Münster

www.burg-huelshoff.de/programm/anbauen

Burg Hülshoff in Havixbeck in the Münsterland is not only the birthplace of the great German poet Annette von Droste-Hülshoff but has also been the seat of the Centre for Literature (CfL) since 2018. As an interdisciplinary institution, the CfL links literature to fields such as film, dance, music, architecture, media and web art. As a productive institution, the Centre establishes connections between local, regional, and international writers, other types of artists, and the audience.

Grow Houses! (*Anbauen!*) is one of the eleven core themes of the CfL. In 2019, however, Grow Houses! also serves as a temporary laboratory. For nine months, all kinds of people can come together here: artists, experts from the fields of architecture, climate politics, and landscape ecology as well as students and citizens interested in art and gardening. In the course of Grow Houses! not only the festival “Nature in Architecture” (*Natur am Bau*) will take place at the CfL for several days in September, but also the symposium “Ecology & Madness” (*Ökologie & Wahnsinn*). Besides artworks produced for the occasion, the festival comprises readings, a climate worship service, and concerts. With lectures by prominent theorists and authors, the symposium is dedicated to the artistic approach to ecology and to the issues of climate change scepticism and activism.

In addition to the festival and symposium, there will be appointments for conversations with experts and directors of relevant institutions.

There are 3 places available for curators, publishers, and directors of festivals and institutions dedicated to literature.

Suggestions to be sent in before **Friday, 21st June 2019**.

Event trip:

“CityLeaks Festival 2019 - Street Art and Urban Interventions in North Rhine-Westphalia”

17th – 22nd September 2019, Düsseldorf, Cologne, Ruhr

<http://cityleaks-festival.de/en/>

“Reclaim your city!” – since the 2000s, this has been the motto of the heterogenous and constantly growing field of artistic explorations of the appropriation of urban space. It goes without saying that so-called street and urban art has also been gaining significance in North Rhine-Westphalia, the state of cities.

The trip focuses on the urban centres Cologne, Düsseldorf, and the Ruhr Metropolis. Opening in September for the fifth time, the CityLeaks Urban Art Festival in Cologne plays a key role. The biennale’s scientific and artistic exploration of the urban area also extends to legal, cultural, political, and economic norms and power relationships. Street and urban art projects in North

Rhine-Westphalia's capital Düsseldorf as well as a choice of cities in the Ruhr area are further points of interest in this examination.

Special tours of urban areas and conversations with instigators and experts involved in the field of the cultural and artistic appropriation of urban space will complete the programme.

This programme includes up to 5 places for curators, exhibition organisers, and multipliers from the field of art and culture in public space.

Suggestions to be sent in before **Friday, 21st June 2019.**

Press trip:

**“Soundtrips NRW Festival - Improvised Music in North Rhine-Westphalia”
presumably 30th October – 4th November 2019, Bonn, Moers, Münster, Wuppertal
www.soundtrips-nrw.de**

Sponsored by the NRW KULTURsekretariat, Soundtrips NRW is a state-wide series dedicated to improvisational music which brings together renowned musicians from North Rhine-Westphalia and international stars as well as young talents and established representatives of improvisational music. Improvisational music once set out to transcend all kinds of musical genres. In the meantime, it has developed its own variety of personal styles and different methods of playing. Soundtrips NRW seeks to present this variety and to contribute to its further development through musical encounters.

This press trip focuses on the first Soundtrips NRW Festival which is hosted by the four cities Bonn, Moers, Münster, and Wuppertal and draws attention to the ongoing work of the concert series. The programme selected for four evenings includes artists who have already performed in the series as well as newcomers. A discussion on philosophical and socially relevant aspects developed in cooperation with the University of Bonn and a collaboration with the renowned moers festival is also on the agenda.

Conversations with the organisers, and with experts and artists as well as visits to relevant institutions will complete the festival experience.

There are 4 places available for (specialised) journalists from the field of music and with a focus on improvisation.

Suggestions to be sent in before **Friday, 28th June 2019.**

Research trip:

“100 Years of Bauhaus in the West - Roots and Repercussions of the Bauhaus in North Rhine-Westphalia”

5 days within November 2019 (presumably between 11th and 24th November)

www.bauhaus100.com

The creative drive of the Bauhaus movement not only extended to the design of new architecture and products: from applied arts to industrial architecture, from fashion to forms of social coexistence, from the yearning for a democratic awakening from flight to exile. In the anniversary year 2019, over 40 exhibitions and projects in North Rhine-Westphalia commemorate the founding of the “most famous reform school”.

Contrary to the widely spread belief, the ideas and forces for new design concepts ran in two directions: From the famous Bauhaus centres Weimar, Dessau, and Berlin to the West, but also back through the activities of protagonists from the Rhineland and Westphalia. Even the roots of the movement can be found here, in the Westphalian city of Hagen, for instance, where the collector and patron of the arts Karl Ernst Osthaus played a key role in the evolvement of modernism, a phenomenon referred to as the “Hagen Impulse”. The Werkbund Exhibition, which was held in Cologne in 1914, also had a defining impact on the development of the Bauhaus idea. Krefeld, the self-proclaimed “Bauhaus City”, can provide impressive references such as Mies van der Rohe, Lilly Reich, Johannes Itten, and Georg Muche.

The aim of this research trip is not only to present the roots and manifestations of the Bauhaus in North Rhine-Westphalia, but also an extensive NRW cooperation project centred on the repercussions of the Bauhaus in dance and performance which explores the potentials of transdisciplinarity 100 years after the invention of the Bauhaus.

There are 8 places available for curators, exhibition organisers, (specialised) journalists, and multipliers in the field of visual and performing arts.

Suggestions to be sent in before **Friday, 26th July 2019**.

Event trip:

“Next Level Festival for Games - Games and Digital Art in North Rhine-Westphalia”
presumably 28th November – 2nd December 2019, Essen

www.next-level.org

As one of the oldest cultural techniques in the world, the game has always played a significant role. With over 25 million users, computer and video games have become an integral part of everyday culture in Germany. Embedded in the process of the digitalisation of daily life, gaming culture with its diverse aspects of altered perception generates new forms of interaction and participation. The significance of games for artistic, cultural, and social processes in the digital age is considerable and thus demands inspired consideration as well as critical reflection.

Since 2010, the “Next Level Festival for Games” has provided both and shines a light primarily on artistic but also educational potentials and perspectives. From 29th November to 1st December, the tenth edition of Next Level invites both fans and experts on digital gaming culture to explore the topic of games as a cross-sectional sphere for aesthetic, cultural, and socio-political works and developments. The festival also includes spatial presentations and performances. Next Level renders games experienceable and inspires discussions between gamers, artists, cultural players, educationalists, game designers, and journalists. After three years in Düsseldorf, the festival will take place in front of the impressive backdrop of the UNESCO World Heritage site Zeche Zollverein in Essen for the first time.

Besides the festival experience, the programme includes visits to cultural institutions and agents in North Rhine-Westphalia involved in the aesthetic component of games, media art, and other forms of digital art.

There are 6 places available for curators, exhibition organisers, specialised journalists, and multipliers from the field of games and digital art.

Suggestions to be sent in before **Friday, 26th July 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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