

Press



31.1.-12.4.2004

Zeitgenössische Künstler aus den nordischen Ländern in Berlin
Contemporary Artists from the Nordic Countries in Berlin

PRESS INFORMATION

Nationalgalerie im Hamburger Bahnhof, Museum für Gegenwart ≠ Berlin
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Artists in the exhibition:

Eija-Liisa Ahtila, Bigert & Bergström, A K Dolven, Dag Erik Elgin, Annika Eriksson, Grönlund\Nisunen, Jens Haaning, Henrik Håkansson, Annika von Hausswolff, Knut Henrik Henriksen, Laura Horelli, The Icelandic Love Corporation, Frans Jacobi, Robert Lucander, Lars Nilsson, Lars Bent Petersen, Lars Ø. Ramberg, Egill Sæbjörnsson & Sigur_ur Gu_j'nsson / Ásdís Sif Gunnarsd'ttir / Elín Hansd'ttir / Sara Riel, Ann-Sofi Sidén, Sparwasser HQ / Lise Nellemann, Jan Svenungsson, Sissel Tolaas, Mette Tronvoll, 'sk Vilhjálmsd'ttir, Gitte Villesen, Johan Zetterquist

Responsible:

Eugen Blume (Chief Curator at Hamburger Bahnhof)
Gabriele Knapstein (Curator of the exhibition)
Franciska Z'lyom (Assistant Curator, Project Manager)

Press Conference: Friday, January 30, 2004, 11 a.m.
Opening: Friday, January 30, 2004, 8 p.m.
Opening Performance: The Icelandic Love Corporation

Since the fall of the wall in November 1989 Berlin has witnessed a growing number of artists moving to the city from both within Germany and abroad. In a continuous state of transition, the city has proved to be an attractive location for artists who either stop by temporarily or actually settle down. Among the many artists who have lived and worked in Berlin in the past years, there is a huge amount of artists from the Nordic countries ≠ from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. They come to Berlin as students, as DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) scholars and the International Artist in Residence Programme of Künstlerhaus Bethanien or as regular visitors, and they become, to a greater or lesser degree, part of the city's artists community.

For the exhibition at the Hamburger Bahnhof, 26 positions were chosen from a multitude of interesting artists from the Nordic countries who have spent time in Berlin within the past fifteen years. These 26 positions shaped the imaginary platform 'Berlin North' in various ways. Choosing from the many artists who are in different ways connected to the city was difficult, and not all those invited accepted the invitation to take part in the exhibition. These days, the assignment to a regional scene, even in the form of an imaginary platform in a foreign place, is viewed sceptically by many artists ≠ the more successful this kind of branding becomes, the greater the scepticism.

In light of this problem, the exhibition focuses on the phenomenon of Berlin's attractivity as a production site for artists from the North. In order to avoid a 'Nordic best of' show, four main themes were conceived for the exhibition 'Berlin North'. While these themes influenced the choice of artworks, they also serve to structure the exhibition within the available space of the Hamburger Bahnhof. The

four themes are titled as follows: 'Transformation of Space', 'Reconstruction of Nature', 'Social Situations' and 'Narratives'. Nobody could justly claim that they are Nordic topics, since artists from Asia and America work within these thematic fields as much as their Northern European colleagues do. In all four parts of the exhibition, the focus is on the diversity of artistic approaches within a thematic field ≠ from painting to photography and video installations, from sculpture and sound installations to spatial mises en scène. Many of the presented works will be publicly shown for the first time, with the pieces by Grönlund\Nisunen, Henrik HÅkansson, Knut Henrik Henriksen, Lars y. Ramberg, Egill Sæbjörnsson & Sigurður GuðjÓnsson / įsdİs Sif GunnarsdÓttir / Eİln HansdÓttir / Sara Riel and Jan Svenungsson conceived for specific spaces of the museum. Sparwasser HQ / Lise Nellemann will present eight artistic projects ≠ by Heman Chong, Karl Holmqvist, Dellbrügge & de Moll, Michael Stevenson, Lasse Lau / Kenneth A. Balfelt, Big Hope, Reinigungsgesellschaft and Susan Philipsz ≠ as well as the archives 'Old Habits Die Hard' and 'Consequences of Summer'.

An exhibition catalogue in the form of a slipcase containing a textbook and 26 artist booklets will be published. In the booklets, the artists describe their works and projects as presented in the exhibition in both visual and written form. In their contributions to the textbook, the authors Eugen Blume, Gabriele Knapstein, Jan Brockmann, Christoph Tannert and Maaretta Jaukkuri trace the historic roots as well as outline the current relevance of the imaginary platform 'Berlin North' as a terrain of exchange between Berlin and the North.

Price in the exhibition: approx. 23 Euro

In cooperation with Sparwasser HQ / Lise Nellemann and MaerzMusik | Berliner Festspiele the following program will be presented to accompany the exhibition:

Sparwasser HQ / Lise Nellemann

Events on February 15, February 26, and April 3, 2004 at the Hamburger Bahnhof
(www.hamburgerbahnhof.de, www.sparwasserhq.de)

Sonic Arts Lounge | Norden & Berlin, MaerzMusik | Berliner Festspiele

Concerts on March 18, 20, 23, 25, 27 and 28, 2004 at changing locations
(www.hamburgerbahnhof.de, www.maerzmusik.de)

The exhibition has been made possible by the Embassies of the Nordic Countries in Berlin, Hauptstadt-kultur-fonds, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin and by the generous support of the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Danish Arts, FRAME, IASPIS, the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture of Iceland, Moderna Museet International Programme, Stockholm, the Nordic Cultural Fund, the Nordic Council of Ministers, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Finnish Ministry of Education.