

NRW KULTURsekretariat International Visitors Programme

The International Visitors Programme continues to capture the imagination of creatives, journalists, curators and festival directors. In 2017 a whole host of international guests were again able to establish new contacts in North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) as part of a cooperation between the Goethe-Institut's Visitors Programme and the International Visitors Programme at NRW KULTURsekretariat Wuppertal.

In the first half of 2018 several programmes took place, including visits to the Duesseldorf Photo Festival, the 60th anniversary of the FIDENA Festival – Puppet Theatre of the Nations in Bochum, the International Short Film Festival in Oberhausen, the Jazzfest Bonn and a research trip on the dance scene in North Rhine-Westphalia on occasion of the Tanzplattform Deutschland 2018 in Essen.

Call for participants for the second half of 2018

Press trip:

“Open Source Festival – Düsseldorf’s Vibrant Art and Music Scenes”

12th – 15th July 2018, Düsseldorf

www.open-source-festival.de and www.congress.open-source-festival.de

The Open Source Festival (OSF) in Düsseldorf has been *the* pop and cultural festival for the creative scene in North Rhine-Westphalia for the past twelve years. Every year around 7,500 visitors stream onto the extraordinary festival site – a horse race course in the middle of the Grafenberg Woods in Düsseldorf – to celebrate a joyous mix of music, art and culture. For this *year’s* edition, the festival organisers have spun out the idea of interdisciplinary creativity even further and for the first time will present the Open Source Festival Congress (OSFC) one day prior to the festival.

On 13th July, as part of the OSFC, the festival site will host exciting keynote speeches, inspirational panels and instructive workshops, thus creating an exceptional open-air space in which new ideas can be evolved. Participants include philosopher Richard David Precht, Michal Kosinski, Professor for Organizational Behaviour at Stanford University, activist and performer Mykki Blanco, artists Friedemann Banz & Giulia Bowinkel, and the founder of Perspective Daily, Maren Urner.

Of course, music will play an essential role, as will design, philosophy, politics, digitalisation, architecture, biology and much more besides – the main thing is a pulsating and inspiring creativity!

As well as visiting the festival and the congress, the participants will have an opportunity for discussions with the artistic director and get to know other creative sites of the dynamic arts scene to be found in Düsseldorf.

There are 2 last-minute places for festival organisers, specialist journalists or multipliers from the field of music. It is a prerequisite for participating journalists that they report on the events.

Suggestions will be accepted on short notice until **Friday, 29th June 2018**.

Event trip:

“Ruhrtriennale and Urbane Künste Ruhr – New Perspectives, New Visions”

17th – 22nd August 2018, Ruhr region

www.ruhrtriennale.de and www.urbanekuensteruhr.de

In 2018, both the festival Ruhrtriennale and Urbane Künste Ruhr (Urban Arts Ruhr) appointed new artistic directors. Every year the Ruhrtriennale invites contemporary artists to perform in the epic industrial architecture of the Ruhr metropolis. Hangars, coking plants, turbine halls, waste dumps and fallow land from the mining and steel industry turn into spectacular performance spaces at the interface of musical theatre, drama, dance, performance and visual arts. They make the Ruhrtriennale a globally-unique festival whose programming is determined by an artistic director who changes every three years. Urbane Künste Ruhr, whose artistic director has also changed recently, is a multiform, decentralised institution for contemporary art in the Ruhr region. Working with both local and international partners, it initiates projects in public spaces, exhibitions, residencies and events. Both institutions set the bar for a new artistic departure in the Ruhr region.

The Visitors Programme will not only visit specific Ruhrtriennale productions as well as artistic positions of Urbane Künste Ruhr in public spaces but will also hold discussions with both new artistic directors, Stefanie Carp and Britta Peters. The programme also includes meetings with experts from the scene and visits to relevant institutions in the fields of theatre and performance, as well as to art projects in public urban spaces.

For this programme there are 2 places available for interdisciplinary curators, festival directors, specialist journalists and multipliers from fine arts, performance and theatre.

Suggestions will be accepted until **Friday, 6th July 2018**.

Research trip:

“Art & Coal – History and Cultural Impressions of a Region in Transition”

22nd – 27th August 2018, Ruhr region

www.ruhrkunstmuseen.com/kunst-kohle.html

The research trip “Art & Coal” takes place at an incisive moment for the Ruhr region. 2018 sees the closure of the last working coal mine in Germany; and with it ends 250 years or more of industrial history that has long determined the face of the Ruhr region, the self-image of its inhabitants, as well as the emergence of a unique arts and cultural landscape. All told 17 museums in 13 cities of the Ruhr region are using this occasion to create a multi-city exhibition project on the theme of ‘black gold’.

This research trip will not only include visits to some of the exhibition projects in terms of painting, sculpture, installation, photography, video and sound arts, but also to specific exhibition spaces in the region, such as the Museum Küppersmühle in Duisburg, a former granary in Duisburg harbour; the Strünkede moated castle in Herne; or Recklinghausen’s art hall, which is quartered in a former surface air-raid shelter. The itinerary includes various other anchor points of industrial culture that represent structural change in the Ruhr region, such as the Zeche Zollverein in Essen, the inner harbour in Duisburg and the Jahrhunderthalle in Bochum, the latter being a pivotal point and hub for the festival Ruhrtriennale in August 2018. The programme aims to link together the history of the Ruhr region, shaped by the coal mining and steel industry, the developments and the structural changes of the region as strengthened by being the European Capital of Culture in 2010, and current artistic positions. The visit will be rounded off by meetings with organisers and experts

There are up to 8 places available on this programme for curators, museum directors, specialist journalists and multipliers from the Fine Arts sector.

Suggestions will be accepted until **Friday, 6th July 2018**.

Event trip:

“FAVORITEN Theatre Festival 2018 – Independent Theatre in North Rhine-Westphalia”

4th – 9th September 2018, Dortmund

www.favoriten-festival.de

Since 1985 FAVORITEN has made its mark as a festival for independently-produced performing arts in North Rhine-Westphalia. Every two years the independent scene invites audiences to a selection of performance spaces in Dortmund to present and discuss aesthetically-innovative works, interrogations and forms of expression.

In the face of increasing calls for cultural role models and the strengthening of identarian and nationalist voices, both artistic directors of the festival are particularly interested in cultural strategies that aim to evade definitive and stability-oriented trends. How can the performing arts avoid political and aesthetic mainstream cultures? How does this allow for aesthetic spaces to be

carved out? And which artistic experiment attacks social realities? The FAVORITEN Festival wants

to lend an ear to every artistic position, to give it space, it wants alternative patterns of perception to be drawn and hegemonic logic thwarted and it wishes to remain unreconciled to mechanisms of identification and current repressive tendencies.

As part of the festival, participants will not only see works from the independent theatre scene in North Rhine-Westphalia but also visit performance spaces of the independent theatre scene and have conversations with organisers, artists and executives.

There are up to 5 places available for this programme for festival directors, artistic directors, directors and specialist journalists from the performing arts sector.

Suggestions will be accepted until **Friday, 6th July 2018**.

Research trip:

“Sound of the Cities – Contemporary Music in North Rhine-Westphalia”

5th – 10th September 2018, Cologne

www.soundtrips-nrw.de and www.on-cologne.de

The urban centres, broadcasting institutions and universities of ‘new music’ of North Rhine-Westphalia have made it an ideal matrix since the year dot. Moreover, music state North Rhine-Westphalia stands out because of the quality, openness and love of experimentation reflected in the arena of contemporary improvised music inside and outside of North Rhine-Westphalia.

The research trip will not only constitute meetings with relevant institutions, ensembles and key players of the contemporary music scene but there will be time to attend plenty of concerts. At the heart of the trip is the presentation of the programme “Soundtrips NRW”, a specific state-wide series for improvisational music. On occasion of the “Soundtrips” renowned musicians from North Rhine-Westphalia meet up with international stars, emerging talents with established representatives of improvised music. Alongside visits to two “Soundtrips” concerts, the programme will also focus on the ten-year celebration of “ON Neue Musik Köln”, the network for contemporary music in Cologne. During the course of the two-day celebratory programme the participants will not only attend many concerts but also have the opportunity to network.

There are up to 7 places available for this programme for concert organisers, festival directors, specialist journalists and multipliers from the contemporary music sector.

Suggestions will be accepted until **Friday, 6th July 2018**.

Event trip:

“Captured – The International Photography Scene in Cologne and Beyond”

26th September – 1st October 2018, Cologne

www.photoszene.de/photoszene-festival and www.photoszene.de/projekte

Cologne is a city of photography: the history of photography is depicted in the city’s museums and collections, new positions are discussed in the myriad of galleries, and artistic spaces and initiatives provide for current discourse. The non-profit association “Internationale Photoszene Köln” has been supporting this potential since the 1980’s and the highlight of these activities is the biennial Photoszene Festival accompanying the “photokina” trade fair, which for its previous edition in 2016 had more than 100 exhibitions.

During this year’s edition of the festival, participants of the International Visitors Programme will not only visit many exhibitions in museums, galleries and alternative spaces, they will also get an opportunity to meet artists, experts and further institutions in Cologne (such as museums, foundations and universities). Participation in the “Photographer’s Night” and the “Long Night of the Projections” will be complemented by visits to archives and ateliers as well as (active) participation in the portfolio review “Sichtbar” (“Visible”) to round off this event trip.

It is possible for the stay to be extended (at the participant’s own cost) to visit the photokina trade fair.

For this programme there are up to 3 places for curators, festival directors, specialist journalists and multipliers from the photography sector.

Suggestions will be accepted until **Friday, 13th July 2018**.

Event trip:

“12th Short Film Festival Cologne. Crossing Genres – New Aesthetics, New Narratives, New Technologies”

13th – 18th November 2018, Cologne

www.kffk.de

A yearly fixture in the city’s calendar since 2006, the Short Film Festival Cologne (KFFK) has been a lively and enduring forum for independent short film for over ten years. With presentations and discussions that are open to young filmmakers, industry figures and the general public, the festival showcases the latest aesthetic and narrative developments of up and coming talents.

The Visitors Programme will focus on the ‘New Aesthetic’ category, which was introduced by KFFK in 2013 to distinguish it from other film festivals, with the aim of shining a light on new ways of seeing the world. Two thematic programmes a year explore the boundary between short film, internet art, interactive narratives and video games with a panel of speakers from both theory and practice sides. Participants will get an insight into the latest and most pressing issues concerning the influence of technical innovation on cinema and the future of story-telling, and have an opportunity to evaluate which developments are here to stay.

As well as attending the festival, participants will also visit institutions and industry figures in Rhineland and the Ruhr area who, in our digital age, operate on the interface between film, virtual reality, video games and media art and are not afraid to address the political discourses involved.

This programme has 4 places for filmmakers, curators, event organisers and journalists from the film, video, new technologies and digital culture sector.

Suggestions will be accepted until **Friday, 3rd August 2018**.

Event trip:

“Next Level Festival for Games – Games, Digital Culture and Performance in North Rhine-Westphalia”

21st – 26th November 2018, Cologne

www.next-level.org

As one of the oldest features of culture in the world, game-playing has always had an important place in society. With more than 25 million gamers nationwide, video games have become an integral part of Germany’s cultural landscape. Firmly rooted in the digitalisation of everyday life, gaming culture, with its multiple incarnations of altered reality, has ushered in new forms of interaction and participation. Gaming has significant implications for artistic, cultural and societal processes in the digital age and so merits a closer look from new and inspiring perspectives, as well as critical reflection.

That’s exactly what the Next Level Festival for Games has been doing since 2010, looking at their artistic aspect but also exploring the potential of games in education. From the 23rd to the 25th November, Next Level will once again invite fans and experts of digital gaming culture to engage with gaming as an intersection of aesthetic, cultural and socio-political works and developments. Next Level will make games an experience and open out discussions between gamers, artists, cultural figures, teachers, game designers and journalists.

As well as attending the festival, participants will also visit institutions and cultural figures in North Rhine-Westphalia who are engaging with the aesthetics of video games, media art and other forms of digital and performance art.

This programme has 6 places for curators, exhibition makers, multipliers and specialist journalists from the gaming and digital culture sector.

Suggestions will be accepted until **Friday, 10th August 2018**.

Press trip:

“KLAENG Festival 2018 – Jazz and Improvisation in North Rhine-Westphalia”

22nd – 26th November 2018, Cologne

www.klaengfestival.de

The KLAENG jazz collective in Cologne is made up of seven local jazz musicians who use composition and improvisation to incorporate a broad range of influences into their work that goes beyond genre boundaries and points the way to a new jazz movement that in all its varied forms is making waves on the music scene. KLAENG’s music is as varied as jazz itself: each musician has his own speciality, from free improvisation to electronic music influences. With this broad spectrum KLAENG is able to embody the plurality of jazz. The collective was founded in 2009 as a group of independent artists who shape their musical direction together: the young musicians Jonas Burgwinkel, Tobias Christl, Pablo Held, Tobias Hoffmann, Niels Klein, Frederik Köster and Robert Landfermann are in demand not only on the Cologne jazz scene but also internationally and have won several prestigious awards.

Year after year, KLAENG has followed their vision of establishing a yearly festival in Cologne with national and international artists who have passion and dedication. International greats such as John Taylor, Ben Monder and Marc Turner, alongside a Danish radio big band and singer-songwriters from Norway, have all been invited to perform in Cologne together with the local scene. While the programme is always very varied, KLAENG is still all about a musical experience that allows the audience to witness music-making directly, with no filter, and to experience sounds in their purest form. Improvised music is also a big part of the festival although there is no one single focus as KLAENG is not about genres, it is about music.

This programme includes visits to the festival concerts, discussion groups with experts and event organisers as well as visits to cultural institutions.

This programme has 3 places for music journalists who write about jazz and improvised music in its broadest sense.

Suggestions will be accepted until **Friday, 10th August 2018.**

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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