

Berlin, July 2007

## ADVANCE - NOTICE

of the exhibition

### **Beyond the Wall Berlin – A Freeport of the Arts**

An exhibition by the foundation *Brandenburger Tor* in cooperation with the Berlin-Artists-Programme of the DAAD and the Literary Colloquium Berlin.

**September 8 until December 2, 2007**

at Max Liebermann Haus, Berlin

Dear Sirs,

Already today we would like to draw your attention to the exhibition „**Beyond the Wall. Berlin – A Freeport of the Arts**”, which will be presented by the **Foundation *Brandenburger Tor*** in cooperation with the **Berlin-Artists-Programme** of the DAAD and the **Literary Colloquium Berlin** from September 8 to December 2, 2007.

The Project „Beyond the Wall“ shows Berlin-related works of the last 40 years by guests of the DAAD artists-in-residence-programme from the fine art, literature and film sections. This still existing programme which is known throughout the whole world has inscribed itself into the public space and Berlin would not be the same without it.

When in 1973 the American artist Edward Kienholz visited Berlin for the first time on an artists stipend from the DAAD and had a look around, he exclaimed: "Jesus Christ, that cannot be". The experience of living in the city which was walled-in at the time and its history began to interest him more and more and he remained loyal to Berlin, even when the city was no longer divided, until he died. This is what happens to many artists who have come and are coming as guests of the DAAD. They become residents, strike up friendships and end up anchored in the city' s rich cultural life. The long list of visiting artists of all disciplines reads like a history of art of the 20th century. The border-crossing mobility which has by now become one of the city' s trademarks originates to some not so small extent in the meanwhile world-renowned Artist in Residence programme of the DAAD. The vision of organising an exchange of artists as a means of building a bridge across the Wall has saved West Berlin from provinciality, and, to this very day, still makes a large contribution to the young vigorous cosmopolitan flair of the city.

In 1995 Bankgesellschaft Berlin (now Landesbank Berlin AG) has begun programmatically as well as institutionally to lend artists and their works a lasting presence. The bank has assembled a significant collection of art - consisting exclusively of works of guests of the DAAD. The exhibition shows representative examples of these works. In order to round off this kaleidoscope of intellectual international performance, a selected number of additional works are on loan from other public and private collections in Berlin with focus on the period before 1989 but also reflecting the time after the Wall had come down. In this way the tracks are retraced which artists from all over the world have left in the previously divided and now liberated city.

The complex image of the German history and present drawn intuitively at the moment or even years later by the "self-appointed" Berliners will be reflected by the exhibition which shows works of **Georges Adéagbo, John Armleder, Marcel Broodthaers, John Cage, Jimmie Durham, Stan Douglas, Ayşe Erkmen, Franz Gertsch, Georges Hamilton, Christine Hohenbüchler, Damien Hirst, Ed Kienholz, On Kawara, Maria Lassnig, Matt Mullican, László Lakner, Rita McBride, Gabriel Orozco, Micha Ullman, Ben Vautier, Stephen Willats, Emmett Williams, Craig Wood, Rachel Whitehead, Lawrence Weiner and Andrea Zittel.**

Georges Adéagbo will present an environment especially made for the Max Liebermann Haus.

An important part of "Beyond the Wall" will be dedicated to literature. A conference entitled "Berlin – A Freeport of the Arts" will envision the city of Berlin during the years 1961 to 1989 with its opportunities and limitations. On the other hand, the conference would like to broach the issue of the importance of Berlin after the fall of the Wall as regards to artistic creativity.

The following authors have been invited: **Péter Nádas, György Dalos, György Konrád, João Ubaldo Ribeiro, Paul Nizon, Yang Lian, Dževad Karahasan, Aris Fioretos, Aleš Šteger, Juri Andruchowysch.**

During the exhibition several „Torgespräche“ („gate conversations“, i.e. readings or lectures) concerning fine arts and literature will take place. The following authors are invited for the programme entitled "Berlin - Place of Longing":

**Christoph Geiser, Adam Zagajewski, Einar Kárason, Michael Krüger, Aris Fioretos, László F. Földenyi, Joachim Sartorius, Reinhard Jirgl, Katja Lange-Müller, Paul Nizon, Aleš Šteger, Juri Andruchowysch, Dževad Karahasan, Péter Nádas, Yang Lian, João Ubaldo Ribeiro.**

In addition to our events, the artists-in-residence-programme of the DAAD in cooperation with the Academy of the Arts will offer two concerts with the Pellegrini Quartett, Freiburg und the Ensemble Modern, Frankfurt.

The exhibition presents Berlin as a cultural metropolis. The important and unique position as capital city will be highlighted by the versatile artistic positions of the past five decades. The project aims at envisioning the situation of Berlin during the "cold war" and the possibilities for many foreign artists to meet with their colleagues, to exchange views and to work without restraints during a time of crisis in a "freeport", such as Berlin.

The foundation *Brandenburger Tor*, opened their seat, the Max Liebermann Haus, with the exhibition "After the Wall – Art and culture in the post-communist Europe" in 2000. In the year of its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, "Beyond the Wall" is being presented, a project that continues the thoughts and subjects of the former one.

A catalogue (in German) will be published by the Nicolai Verlag.

For further details for our accompanying programme please refer to our homepage ([www.stiftung.brandenburgertor.de](http://www.stiftung.brandenburgertor.de)).

Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information:

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