

# PRESS INFORMATION

## ARTIST IN THE (ART) SOCIETY

\*\*\*\*\*

### Organisers:

Faculty of Art and Design at Jan Evangelista Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem  
Emil Filla Gallery in Ústí nad Labem  
Lidé výtvarnému umění – výtvarné umění lidem o.p.s., Ústí nad Labem  
riesa efau. Kultur Forum Dresden  
Motorenhalle. Projektzentrum für zeitgenössische Kunst Dresden  
Kunsthalle Palazzo Liestal bei Basel

Curatorial team: Andrea Domesle, Frank Eckhardt, Michal Kolecek

Topic of this international group show is the acting of the artist in the society and in the art society in special. Since the beginning, the show is composed together from three partner institutions and their directors as co-curators.

Till today, the artist is considered as a special person, who is giving the impulse for creativity, a person, from whom people are expecting a special performance. In General, visitors interrogate the artists (and their works) about principle questions and hope to get answers in their desire for education. Artists are considered as a seismograph of the society. Because of their attributed distinguished feelings people expect, that they are naming the questions of future or problems and that they are conscious of changes. At the same time the artist is confronted with new standards in his daily surrounding, as it is the case with everybody else. But how are the artists managing his or her everyday and especially artistic life? This is the goal of the exhibition to work out. Considering the regional contexts of the three partner institutions, the touring focuses lay on following topics: the artist and the art market; the education of the artist and the development of the art work/inspiration; daily, social factors.

A special interest is put in the combination of central and eastern European artists with artists from the west part of the world. The show takes in account the different experiences in the past years: Their acting within a global art business today and their former expectations and dreams resulting of their different historical location and values. In a very short time artists living in post-totalitarian societies have had to learn for example how an 'international' artist has to make his or her career nowadays. These artists are telling in their works their stories, sometimes very humoristic, sometimes quite cynical. Some works could be understand as a critic of our – now comen – western art society.

The western artists are analyzing their situation in the art business sober-minded in the footstep of the so-called "institutional critic" from the nineties, the very opposite of some first blue-eyed steps from their eastern colleagues a few years ago. They are obvious about career strategies, they know about the unwritten rules in the art market and institutions – often they are well-trained about these topics since their studies. So, a romantic thinking about the role of an artist today would be very rare among the young generation. Some of the 'western' artists are only stating, some joking about their situation, some are playing with the rules or undermining these.

As a result: the show is reflecting a special historical situation – which could be dated from the middle of 1990ties till today. Than the next generation of artists, now studying in the universities, will have not any more the different historical experience from East and West during their professional way, it would be the final end of the opposite experiences.

The curators are considering the person of the artist as a metaphor for a human being. What are the concerns of the artists could probably be the topics of the visitors of tomorrow.

### Participating artists:

Eric Anglès, AZORRO, bankleer, Nin Brudermann, com & com, Richard Fajnor, Sabine Groß, Christian Jankowski, Kai Kaljo, Anna Konik, František Kowolowski, Lutz & Guggisberg, Aneta Mona Chisa & Lucia Tkáčová, Barbara Naegelin, Guido Nussbaum, Tanja Ostojić, Fia-Stina Sandlund, Antje Schiffers, Mladen Stilinović, John Wood & Paul Harrison, Erwin Wurm, Sus Zwick & Muda Mathis & Fänzi Madörin

\*\*\*\*\*