

Ramping up for the Sculpture Projects 2017: International conference underscores Münster's ambition to be a center for art in public spaces

The City of Münster has teamed up with LWL-Museum für Kunst und Kultur in a bid to establish an enduring reputation for itself as a center for art in public spaces. Two international conferences in the spring and fall of this year, not to mention an artist project in the urban domain, attest to the city's staunch commitment. The first conference is due to take place on March 19 and 20, 2013 at LWL-Landeshaus.

2017 will see the fifth edition of the *Sculpture Projects Münster*, which continues to be the most renowned international event devoted to art in public spaces. Thanks to it, LWL-Museum für Kunst und Kultur and the City of Münster reflect upon almost 40 years of solid local expertise in the field. By way of various joint activities they seek to consolidate this knowledge, revive the bedrock of insights and ensure their enduring presence – beyond the 10-year rhythm of the Sculpture Projects.

Symposium 01: “The Sculpture Projects Archive. Potential and Perspectives” in March at LWL-Landeshaus

Scheduled for the spring, “The Sculpture Projects Archive. Potential and Perspectives” organized by LWL-Museum für Kunst und Kultur will focus on the archive amassed by the Sculpture Projects. The two-day conference on March 19 and 20, 2013 was devised by Melanie Bono, Deputy Director and Curator for Contemporary Art at LWL-Museum, in collaboration with the Münster Art Academy, and addresses issues such as: How can knowledge about art in the public domain be put to permanent good use? How relevant is the debate on art in public spaces today – and in the future? What are the advantages of a newly-founded Sculpture Projects archive? And before this background, what is the potential future of the Sculpture Projects?

The Concept

Inaugurated in 1977 by Klaus Bussmann and Kasper König, the *Sculpture Projects Münster* are today considered one of the most influential contemporary art exhibitions the world over. The projects have functioned as a “long-term study” of the complex relationship between art and the public realm, the four *Sculpture Projects* staged since the 1970s have become an international art scene benchmark, inspiring a plethora of similar formats.

Four years ahead of the fifth exhibition in 2017, the conference “The *sculpture projects* Archive. Potentials and Perspectives” will shine a light on the *sculpture projects* archive in a bid to trace the concept's history and explore pioneering ways of presenting art in the public realm going forwards. The potential afforded by the archive will serve as a basis to kick-start a debate on new themes in the public perception of art.



Für die Menschen.
Für Westfalen-Lippe.

Acting as partner of the event is the Münster Art Academy, more specifically, Professors Claudia Blümle, Georg Imdahl and Gerd Blum. The Academy has had a Chair of Art and Public Space since 1991. The list of participants in the conference includes: Claudia Blümle, Melanie Bono, Maria Eichhorn, Kurt W. Forster, Brigitte Franzen, Johann F. Hartle, Georg Imdahl, Suchan Kinoshita, Kasper König, André Rottmann und Karin Stengel. The program is enclosed and can also be accessed at www.lwl-museum-kunst-kultur.de.

Conference tickets cost €45, with a concessionary rate of €30, registrations (including press registrations) should be addressed to Wera Wecker, LWL-Museum für Kunst und Kultur, Domplatz 10, 48143 Münster, Germany, Tel. +49(0)251 5907-201, wera.wecker@lwl.org.

The conference will be held in German.

Strategic focus

Today, major art projects represent excellent tools for positioning municipalities as art cities and making them better known among national and international art aficionados. While many cities seek to establish themselves on the international art city map by inaugurating biennials, triennials and quadrennials, thanks to the *Sculpture Projects Münster* already possesses an invaluable asset, which puts the city in a very unique position: Every ten years, one of the world's major art exhibition projects takes place here, offering a clear thematic focus that has remained highly relevant to this day: art and public space.

The topic of art and public space continues to remain highly relevant, be it in the form of urban sculptures or landscape interventions, setting up areas for social activity or transforming erstwhile functional locations. Not only among art experts, but also as an everyday experience for the inhabitants and citizens of our modern cities. Down through almost five decades now, the City of Münster has gathered a wealth of expertise on art and public space. The topic has to date been reflected in many facets both in the city itself and its public persona, starting with the question of developing a long-term view of art in the public domain. At the same time, held every ten years the *Sculpture Projects* attract immense attention among that section of the German and international public interested in art.

The new joint activities in the city, which explore the topic "Münster. Art + Public", are destined to maximize and, above all, build on what has already been achieved. They draw on the accumulated (or rather acquired) know-how and experience (for example, as with the current idea of establishing an archive), while at the same time by initiating new smaller and larger, and above all ongoing projects in the public domain, consistently embedding a heightened awareness of this exciting and explosive theme in the city itself and in its public image.



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Dr. Hermann Arnhold, Director of LWL-Museum für Kunst und Kultur says: "The exhibition was inaugurated in 1977 in the Westfälisches Landesmuseum, and has since then been closely linked with that institution. As such, the *Sculpture Projects* also stand for the international thrust and profile the museum has in the world of contemporary art."

Bernadette Spinnen, City of Münster/Münster Marketing: "For over 30 years now, the City of Münster has played a noteworthy role in the international art world. This window to the global art scene, and in particular the tangible images in the cityscape that run counter to the customary notion of city life, have rendered Münster more urban and changed the way it sees itself. A shared objective of many partners in the city is to ensure an ongoing awareness of this fact and continue a discussion of the various related issues."

Symposium 02: "Building better Cities? – Art in the Urban Context" in September

In connection with Tobias Rehberger's project in Münster's Bahnhofsviertel district, initiated by ISG, Münster's property and community association, the second conference will take place September 13 and 14, 2013. It will be entitled "Building better Cities? – Art in the Urban Context". The focus here is on the dialog-based relationship between contemporary art in the public domain, urban development processes, and the creation of urban identities. Experts from the fields of the visual arts and urbanism will reflect on the current state of play, and formulate their ideas on what the future will bring. Tobias Rehberger's project "the moon in alabama", which involves redesigning existing switch cabinets in the station area, will be curated by Gail Kirkpatrick, Director of Kunsthalle Münster, who is likewise the mind behind the conference.

More Information: www.muenster-art-public.de

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