

## **Florian Ebner names participating artists**

### **Pioneering contemporary art at the German Pavilion at the 2015 Venice Biennale**

**Stuttgart, 24.10.2014** – Three golden lions, trailblazing curators and concepts, artists who have given shape to society, including Beuys, Rückriem, and Ai Weiwei – the German Pavilion at the Venice Biennale has long been a seismograph for topical contemporary art.

For 43 years now, ifa (Institute for Auslandsbeziehungen) has been working on behalf of the German Foreign Office to create the country's German Pavilion at the Venice Biennale, the world's oldest and most renowned art exhibition.

In 2015, Florian Ebner, curator and head of the Photographic Collection at Museum Folkwang, will be working with artists Hito Steyerl, Olaf Nicolai, and Tobias Zielony from Berlin, and the artist duo Jasmina Metwaly and Philip Rizk from Cairo, to present art from Germany in a new light. This selection of artists continues discussion on global issues of our time.

Elke aus dem Moore, director of the ifa art department:

"I am delighted by this selection of outstanding artists. Florian Ebner's curatorial plan to address questions concerning the migration of images and the concept of participation is highly relevant. The German Pavilion will be a location where global issues are discussed and negotiated in art in ambitious and demanding ways."

For the second time since 2013 the Sparkasse Cultural Fund of the German Sparkasse and Giro Association (DSGV) has agreed to be the main sponsor for the German Pavilion. Further longstanding support for this flagship project in foreign cultural policy is provided by the highly committed charitable association ifa Friends of the German Pavilion / Biennale Venice.

#### **About ifa**

ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen) is committed to the peaceful and enriching coexistence of people and cultures worldwide. It promotes art and cultural exchange in exhibitions, dialogue and conference programs. As a competence centre for foreign cultural diplomacy, ifa connects civil societies, cultural practices, art, media and science. It initiates, moderates and documents discussions on international cultural relations.

ifa has a global network and bases its work on long-term cooperation. It is supported by the Federal Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany, the state of Baden-Württemberg and its capital Stuttgart.

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## The German Pavilion

The German Pavilion occupies a central position on the exhibition grounds of the Giardini della Biennale di Venezia. It was constructed in a neoclassical style following the plans of the Viennese architect Daniele Donghi, and opened on the occasion of the 1909 Biennale. Until 1910, it was known as the Bavarian Pavilion.

In 1938, the building was remodelled by the architect Ernst Haiger according to National-Socialist architectural ideals. After the Second World War, several discussions took place regarding the renovation or rebuilding of the pavilion, and in 1957 Arnold Bode submitted a concrete proposal. For financial reasons, however, these plans were never realised, and apart from minor adjustments – improvements to the lighting conditions and the removal of a partition wall to the apse – the building has remained largely unchanged up until the present day.

The pavilion is the property of the Federal Republic of Germany, and is a listed building in Italy.

The spectrum of German contributions to the Venice Biennale ranges from the secessionist art of the Wilhelmine era to the traditionalist and Modern movements of the Weimar Republic, the conformist Gleichschaltung art of the Third Reich and the diversity of the post-war years, right up to the present day.

Internationally renowned artists such as Gerhard Richter, Joseph Beuys, Jochen Gerz, Ulrich Rückriem, Hanne Darboven, Bernd and Hilla Becher, Hans Haacke, Nam June Paik, Katharina Fritsch, Gerhard Merz, Rosemarie Trockel, Martin Kippenberger, Candida Höfer, Tino Sehgal, Isa Genzken and Ai Weiwei have exhibited work at the pavilion.

## Chronology

1895	First Biennale in Venice. Germany participates in the main exhibition building
1903	The first national pavilions are erected in the Giardini Pubblici
1909	Opening of the German Pavilion
1916–1920	Due to the war, no Biennale takes place
1938	Extensive remodelling of the German Pavilion in accordance with National-Socialist architectural ideals
1944–1946	Due to the war, no Biennale takes place
1948	Germany is not officially invited to the Biennale. An unofficial contribution is shown in the main exhibition building
1950–1962	Mainly retrospective exhibitions of art from the first half of the 20th century are shown in what is now the West German Pavilion
1964	Partial remodelling of the interior of the pavilion is undertaken to modify the character of the National Socialist building
1964	Artists: Joseph Faßbender, Norbert Kricke. Curator: Eduard Trier
1966	Artists: Horst Antes, Günter Haese, Ferdinand Ris. Curator: Eduard Trier
1968	Artists: Horst Janssen, Richard Oelze. Curator: Alfred Hentzen

- 1970 Artists: Kaspar-Thomas Lenk, Heinz Mack, Georg Karl Pfahler, Günther Uecker. Curator: Dieter Honisch
- 1972 Artist: Gerhard Richter. Curator: Dieter Honisch
- 1974 The Biennale does not take place
- 1976 Artists: Joseph Beuys, Jochen Gertz, Reiner Ruthenbeck. Curator: Klaus Gallwitz
- 1978 Artists: Dieter Krieg, Ulrich Rückriem. Curator: Klaus Gallwitz
- 1980 Artists: Georg Baselitz, Anselm Kiefer. Curator: Klaus Gallwitz
- 1982 Artists: Hanne Darboven, Gotthard Graubner, Wolfgang Laib. Curator: Johannes Cladders
- 1984 Artists: Lothar Baumgarten, A.R. Penck. Curator: Johannes Cladders
- 1986 Artist: Sigmar Polke. Curator: Dierk Stemmler
- 1988 Artist: Felix Droese. Curator: Dierk Stemmler
- 1990 Artists: Bernd and Hilla Becher, Reinhard Mucha. Curator: Klaus Bußmann
- 1993 Artists: Hans Haacke, Nam June Paik. Curator: Klaus Bußmann
- 1995 Artists: Katharina Fritsch, Martin Honert, Thomas Ruff. Curator: Jean Christophe Ammann
- 1997 Artists: Gerhard Merz, Katharina Sieverding. Curator: Gudrun Inboden
- 1999 Artist: Rosemarie Trockel. Curator: Gudrun Inboden
- 2001 Artist: Gregor Schneider. Curator: Udo Kittelmann
- 2003 Artists: Candida Höfer, Martin Kippenberger. Curator: Julian Heynen
- 2005 Artists: Thomas Scheibitz, Tino Sehgal. Curator: Julian Heynen
- 2007 Artist: Isa Genzken. Curator: Nicolaus Schafhausen
- 2009 Artist: Liam Gillick. Curator: Nicolaus Schafhausen
- 2011 Artist: Christoph Schlingensief. Curator: Susanne Gaensheimer
- 2013 Artists: Ai Weiwei, Romuald Karmakar, Santu Mofokeng, Dayanita Singh. Curator: Susanne Gaensheimer

**For further information on the history of the German contributions, please see:**

*Germany's Contributions to the Venice Biennale 1885-2007*, ed. Ursula Zeller, Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen, revised and extended edition, Cologne: DuMont, 2009, 400 pp / ISBN 978-3-8321-9249-5