

Deutscher Pavillon La Biennale di Venezia 2015



la Biennale di Venezia

56. Esposizione
Internazionale
d'Arte

Partecipazioni Nazionali

Fabrik – Olaf Nicolai, Hito Steyerl, Tobias Zielony and the artist duo Jasmina Metwaly & Philip Rizk at the German Pavilion, 56th International Art Exhibition – la Biennale di Venezia

Public opening on 9 May 2015

Venice, 7 May 2015 – on this day, the German Pavilion at the 56th International Art Exhibition – la Biennale Arte di Venezia will be opened by the Minister of State for Europe at the Federal Foreign Office, Michael Roth MdB, Ursula Seiler-Albring, President of ifa (Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations) and the curator Florian Ebner, Head of the Photographic Collection, Museum Folkwang.

Works of art by Olaf Nicolai, Hito Steyerl, Tobias Zielony and the artist duo Jasmina Metwaly & Philip Rizk transform the German Pavilion 2015 into a factory (german: Fabrik) of reproducing images, whose objective is not merely to represent reality, but to change it. The notion of the factory provides a link between the four artistic positions, all of which reflect on the concepts of economy and work in their own way. They reveal the flaws in our interconnected and globalised world and, with completely different approaches, turn their attention to the circulation of images, goods and human beings. At the same time, all of them hold on to the “human medium“ as a real agent and protagonist of change.

The factory has various production sites at its disposal:

Workshop – Olaf Nicolai’s installation and performance “GIRO” transforms the roof of the pavilion into a workshop for the production of boomerangs. Its protagonists operate a shadow economy under the glaring sun, performing a subtle choreography of visibility and invisibility. From time to time they step towards the edge of the roof, to test the flight capacity of the boomerangs and search for the ideal flight path.

Print Unit – Tobias Zielony’s work “The Citizen”, an installation consisting of photographs and newspapers, is devoted to the social situation and political initiatives of African refugees in Germany. At the same time it conceptually addresses the theme of journalism and newspaper reporting, opening up a discursive space beyond the blind spots of today’s media reporting.

Motion Capture Studio – Hito Steyerl’s video installation “The Factory of the Sun” transforms the lower part of the central room into a motion capture studio – as an interface between the physical and the virtual world. The video is all about a computer game in which

every human movement is transformed into light, Deutsche Bank drones launch a shooting attack against demonstrators, and the act of dancing becomes a form of resistance.

Rooftop 1&2 – in the rooms along the sides of the pavilion, Jasmina Metwaly and Philip Rizk reconstruct the stage that served as a setting and experimental field for their participatory project in Cairo. On a roof terrace, they worked with local employees to stage the process of the folding up of a factory, showing the mechanisms of power and humiliation inherent in a neo-liberal economic model. “Draw It Like This” is the name of the sculptural intervention in the first room; the film and sound installation in the second room is entitled “Out on the Street – Variationen”.

>>> Detailed information is provided in the press folder and the catalogue.

Florian Ebner, curator of the German Pavilion 2015: “The invited artists are all in search of new forms for the much-used concept of participation, whether their actors are invited to take part in events of a photographic/documentary, theatrical/filmic, filmic/synthetic or performative/physical nature. They analyse the role of light as a carrier of the latest data transmission, deconstruct the promise of salvation through a transparent digital culture, and sound the depth of the metamorphosis of the liquid images of our time. In a political way, they fulfil László Moholy-Nagy’s (1922) demand that technical media should no longer *reproduce* the given circumstances, but must rather *produce* (image) reality. Amongst other things, this could mean that photography today is less about the depiction of reality, and more concerned with its transformability.”

The Factory is also an attempt to profane the pavilion, taking pleasure in the discovery of a productive side to the auratic architecture. It allows works of art to be experienced not only side by side, but also - for the first time - superimposed upon one another. The new vertical order, which establishes the roof as a setting of its own, introduces a piano nobile as an additional storey, and moves the venerable ground of the main room to an underground level, was made possible through the recycling of the central, constructive elements of the “Kanzlerbungalow” – the German contribution to the last Architecture Biennale.

On the occasion of the opening, a book on the German Pavilion 2015 will be published by Verlag der Buchhandlung Walther König, with numerous colour illustrations and text contributions by Marcel Beyer, Tom Holert, David Riff, Sarah Rifky and others, in German and English.

A blog entitled “What is already going on”, developed by the specialist journal Camera Austria International and dealing with the themes of the exhibition, will be accessible on the German Pavilion website throughout the duration of the biennale.

www.deutscher-pavillon.org
www.ifa.de/kunst/biennalen.html

The German contribution to the 56th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia is realised on behalf of the Federal Foreign Office and in cooperation with ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen/Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations).

Sponsors / Supporters / Partners

The Sparkassen-Kulturfonds of the German Savings Banks Association is the main sponsor of the German Pavilion.

www.dsgv.de



Essen Foundations in support of the German Pavilion at the Venice Biennale 2015.

www.krupp-stiftung.de, www.rwe.com, www.stiftung-mercator.de



AXA ART

www.axa-art.de



ifa Friends of the German Pavilion / Venice Biennale has supported the German Pavilion since 2013.

Museum Folkwang in Essen is a partner of the German Pavilion in 2015.

www.museum-folkwang.de

Museum Folkwang

Media partners:

Camera Austria, Deutsche Welle, Deutschlandradio, Monopol – Magazin für Kunst und Leben



In addition we would like to thank all individuals, institutions, galleries, collections and enterprises that have supported the realisation of the individual artistic contributions and events at the pavilion.

Press contact:

Hendrik von Boxberg
Press and Public Relations
German Pavilion 2015
Linienstraße 230, 10178 Berlin
0049 177 7379207
presse@von-boxberg.de

Miriam Kahrman
Communications
ifa (Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations)
Charlottenplatz 17, 70173 Stuttgart
0049 711 2225 105
kahrman@ifa.de