

ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen - Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations)

ifa's main objective is to promote international exchange in the field of art and culture. Since 1971, ifa has been responsible for the coordination and implementation of the German Pavilion at the Venice Biennale on behalf of the Federal Foreign Office. By fostering biennials and exhibitions abroad, ifa also supports the artists represented at international art biennials.

As an important agent in the context of biennials, ifa sets the pace in the discussions concerning the effects of current exhibition formats. The global success of the biennial concept has led to an enormous increase in the format and, at the same time, has initiated a lasting discourse on the subject. Since 2000, continuing on from this debate, ifa and its partners have introduced a series of conferences entitled "biennials in dialogue", held in locations such as Karlsruhe (2014), Shanghai und Singapore. In 2014, ifa was the co-founder of the International Biennial Association (IBA), a network for professional and critical exchange on the subject of the biennial. Since 2012, ifa, in cooperation with the Biennale Foundation and other partners, has been responsible for the organisation of the "World Biennial Forum", an international network of international biennial agents, held in Kwangju in 2012 and in São Paulo in 2014. In November 2015, ifa will work with the Goethe Institute and other partners to coordinate a conference on the subject of "Curating under Pressure", addressing ethical questions related to curatorial work at biennials.

Contemporary And – Exclusive Printed Edition

The online art magazine published by ifa, C&, contemporaryand.com, will present its third printed version in Venice. 64 pages long, it is the most extensive edition to date. It features interviews with the curator Okwui Enwezor and the sound artist Emeka Ogboh, winner of the artwork competition for the new Peace and Security Building of the African Union in Addis Ababa, realised by ifa, who is one of the artists invited to take part in the main exhibition in Venice. A new essay by the South African journalist Stacy Hardy will also be published in the new ifa online publication "Future Memories", along with a contribution by Tobias Zielony.

Promoted by ifa at the Venice Biennale 2015

In the main exhibition curated by Okwui Enwezor, the participation of Rosa Barba, Georg Baselitz, Thea Djordjadze, Andreas Gursky, Antje Ehmann and others is promoted by ifa through its exhibition sponsorship programme. Ifa also supports the contribution by the artist Flaka Haliti, who lives in Germany, for the pavilion of the Republic of Kosovo.

About ifa

The independent intermediary organisation ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen/ Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations) is one of the leading institutions for fostering international art exchange, and actively shapes German foreign cultural and educational policy. An important aspect is the creation of networks and platforms to

strengthen intercultural dialogue. ifa stands for international art promotion and cooperation as regards contents between creative artists from Germany and transitional countries. In around 40 monographic and thematic exhibitions around the world, ifa shows 20th and 21st century visual arts, photography, film, architecture and design from Germany. The ifa galleries in Stuttgart and Berlin provide space for international art perspectives.

ifa supports programmes concerned with strengthening democratic structures and civil conflict management. It creates media platforms and events to encourage dialogue and exchange within civil societies. It documents international cultural relations and maintains the world's only scientific library specialising in foreign cultural and educational policy.

ifa, founded in Stuttgart in 1917, is supported by the Federal Foreign Office, the state of Baden-Württemberg and the state capital of Stuttgart.

For further information: www.ifa.de

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The German Pavilion

Chronology

- 2015 Olaf Nicolai, Hito Steyerl, Tobias Zielony, Jasmina Metwaly & Philip Rizk.
Curator: Florian Ebner
- 2013 Ai Weiwei, Romuald Karmakar, Santu Mofokeng, Dayanita Singh.
Curator: Susanne Gaensheimer
- 2011 Christoph Schlingensief. *Curator:* Susanne Gaensheimer
- 2009 Liam Gillick. *Curator:* Nicolaus Schafhausen
- 2007 Isa Genzken. *Curator:* Nicolaus Schafhausen
- 2005 Thomas Scheibitz, Tino Sehgal. *Curator:* Julian Heynen
- 2003 Candida Höfer, Martin Kippenberger. *Curator:* Julian Heynen
- 2001 Gregor Schneider. *Curator:* Udo Kittelmann
- 1999 Rosemarie Trockel. *Curator:* Gudrun Inboden
- 1997 Gerhard Merz, Katharina Sieverding. *Curator:* Gudrun Inboden
- 1995 Katharina Fritsch, Martin Honert, Thomas Ruff. *Curator:* Jean Christophe Ammann
- 1993 Hans Haacke, Nam June Paik. *Curator:* Klaus Bußmann
- 1990 Bernd und Hilla Becher, Reinhard Mucha. *Curator:* Klaus Bußmann
- 1988 Felix Droese. *Curator:* Dierk Stemmler
- 1986 Sigmar Polke. *Curator:* Dierk Stemmler
- 1984 Lothar Baumgarten, A. R. Penck. *Curator:* Johannes Cladders
- 1982 Hanne Darboven, Gotthard Graubner, Wolfgang Laib. *Curator:* Johannes Cladders
- 1980 Georg Baselitz, Anselm Kiefer. *Curator:* Klaus Gallwitz
- 1978 Dieter Krieg, Ulrich Rückriem. *Curator:* Klaus Gallwitz
- 1976 Joseph Beuys, Jochen Gertz, Reiner Ruthenbeck. *Curator:* Klaus Gallwitz
- 1974 The Biennale does not take place.
- 1972 Gerhard Richter. *Curator:* Dieter Honisch
- 1970 Kaspar-Thomas Lenk, Heinz Mack, Georg Karl Pfahler, Günther Uecker.
Curator: Dieter Honisch
- 1968 Horst Janssen, Richard Oelze. *Curator:* Alfred Hentzen
- 1966 Horst Antes, Günter Haese, Ferdinand Ris. *Curator:* Eduard Trier
- 1964 Partial remodelling of the interior of the pavilion to modify the character of the National Socialist building.
- 1964 Joseph Faßbender, Norbert Kricke. *Curator:* Eduard Trier
- 1950–1962 The pavilion, which has now become the West German Pavilion, shows retrospective exhibitions of art in the first half of the 20th century.
- 1948 Germany receives no official invitation to the Biennale. An unofficial contribution is shown in the central exhibition building.
- 1944–1946 Due to the war, the Biennale does not take place.
- 1938 The German Pavilion undergoes extensive modifications to comply with National Socialist architectural ideals.
- 1916–1920 Due to the war, the Biennale does not take place.
- 1909 Opening of the German Pavilion
- 1903 The first national pavilions are erected in the Giardini Pubblici
- 1895 1st Venice Biennale. Germany participates in the general exhibition building.

For more detailed information on the history of the German contributions, please see: Germany's Contributions to the Venice Biennale 1895–2007, ed. Elke aus dem Moore, Ursula Zeller, Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen, revised and extended edition, Cologne: DuMont, 2009, 400 pages / ISBN 978-3-8321-9249-5