



Finanzgruppe Deutscher Sparkassen- und Giroverband

Press Release

La Biennale di Venezia: opening of the German Pavilion 2015 with the support of the Sparkassen-Kulturfonds

Venice, 7th May 2015

The German contribution to the 56th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia will open on 9 May 2015 in the German Pavilion. The Sparkassen-Kulturfonds of the German Savings Banks Association (DSGV) is the main sponsor of the German Pavilion for the second time in succession.

“The Venice Biennale, along with the Documenta, which we have also supported for many years, is one of the most influential exhibitions in the realm of visual art. The Sparkassen-Kulturfonds is committed to the promotion of international artistic exchange. On an international level, the confrontation with various art forms and subjects fosters integration, tolerance and respect, and is thus instrumental in furthering intercultural discourse”, said Georg Fahrenschon, President of the DSGV.

Every two years, current trends in international contemporary art are presented at La Biennale di Venezia. This year, a total of 89 countries are represented; their national contributions will be presented between 9 May and 22 November 2015.

Since 1909, the German contribution has been exhibited in its own pavilion. Florian Ebner, Head of the Photographic Collection, Museum Folkwang in Essen, is the curator of the German contribution in 2015. He presents works by the artists Hito Steyerl, Tobias Zielony and Olaf Nicolai, who are all based in Berlin, and the artist duo Jasmina Metwaly and Philip Rizk, who live and work in Cairo. Ebner focuses on the theme of the world of images and the constant growth of a visualised and globalised culture.

The Sparkassen-Kulturfonds of the German Savings Banks Association was founded in 1999, with the aim of supporting outstanding cultural projects of national and international significance. A major emphasis is placed on the promotion of art photography. In recent years, the commitment of the Sparkassen-Kulturfonds has made an important contribution to the development of this art form. It has supported outstanding exhibitions such as “Michael Schmidt. Lebensmittel” in 2012, “Jeff Wall in München” in 2013, “Walker Evans. Ein Lebenswerk” in 2014 and the major retrospective “Conflict, Time, Photography”, which opened at Museum Folkwang in April 2015.

The extensive cultural commitment of the Sparkassen Financial Group also comprises long-term partnerships with institutions such as the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin (Berlin State Museums) and the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden (Dresden State Art Collections). Providing funds of around 150 million euro per year, it is the largest non-state cultural sponsor in Germany.

The German Savings Banks Association is the umbrella organisation for the Savings Bank Finance Group and encompasses 416 savings banks, seven Landesbank groups, DekaBank, nine regional building societies, eleven savings bank direct insurers and many more financial services companies.

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