



Zentrum für Künstlerische Bildmedien Sachsen-Anhalt  
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## **7. Werkleitz Biennale HAPPY BELIEVERS** **6th – 10th September 2006 in the Volkspark Halle (Saale)** **Pressrelease No. 5, 21st August 2006**

We would kindly like to invite you to the press conference of the 7<sup>th</sup> Werkleitz Biennale on Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> of September at 2 pm as well as to the grand opening at 7 pm.

We are glad that Prof. Dr. Jan-Hendrik Olbertz, minister for culture of Saxony-Anhalt, will inaugurate the biennial. Afterwards a short film programme will groom you to the topic of this years biennial, till we will celebrate in the „Happy Believers Club“ starting at 10 pm.

In the following days the biennial features an exhibition with about 30 contributions, a film programme containing 56 films as well as performances, lectures, artist talks and DJ sets.

The artist Julia Kissina invites to a séance with the dead Marcel Duchamp on Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> of September. In the performance *The Populistic Paradise* a group of artists present their research for paradise in 'here and now' in Halle on Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> of September. And finally, on Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> of September, you can expect an extraordinary midday mass.

In visiting two evangelic churches in Silberhöhe-Beesen and Radewell on Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> of September, we will continue our tradition in offering excursions to the city and its surroundings. Pastor Hans-Dieter Schubert will report about role and practical experience of religious work in the former GDR and today.

Many of the participating artists will be present for the period of the festival. Therefore, the biennial again is a place for intensive intercommunication between artists, culture producers and the audience.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Werkleitz Biennale *Happy Believers* is curated by Anke Hoffmann, Solvej Helweg Ovesen, Angelika Richter and Jan Schuijren.

For the programme and a list of the participating artists, please visit our website:  
[www.werkleitz.de/happy\\_believers](http://www.werkleitz.de/happy_believers)

The **press conference** will be held on the 6<sup>th</sup> of September 2 pm in Weinecksaal, Volkspark. Afterwards the curators will lead through the exhibition. The organisers as well as the present artists are available for interviews.

You have the opportunity to view the dues of the biennals film programme unhurriedly till the opening at 7 pm or to work in the press lounge.

Please use the accreditationform for press members at:

[http://www.werkleitz.de/events/biennale2006/html\\_de/service\\_presse\\_akkred.html](http://www.werkleitz.de/events/biennale2006/html_de/service_presse_akkred.html)

## Contact person

If you have any further questions, need foto material or want to arrange an interview with the curators of the 7th Werkleitz Biennale, please do not hesitate to contact:

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In case you are not interested in further information, please answer this mail with the subject "unsubscribe".

Main funders of the 7. Werkleitz Biennale:

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Throughout the last decade the general interest in religiosity and religious phenomena has increased. The 7th Werkleitz Biennale entitled *Happy Believers* takes a closed look at the role of belief and religion in present day society. "What do we believe in?" and "why do we believe?" are the central questions guiding the production of the art works. These investigations go beyond an understanding of belief in a strictly religious sense. Visitors of the Church Congress, Zen-Buddhists, football fans, brand fetichists and hobby astrologists – they all have their own belief. It seems that a new longing for meaning and wholeness develops alongside the ongoing process of individualisation and globalisation. Characteristic for 'patchwork religion' is that people create their own belief system from different sources: happy believers. Whereas, the media often stages event using religion for political and economic purposes. The art works presented at the 7th Werkleitz Biennale approach this complex field from different artistic view points: some art works investigate the fascination with belief and highlight the moments of happiness it gives people, while other art works critically examine the ways religion is instrumentalised. Art works produced specifically for the biennial deal with specific local forms of belief in a Federal State known for its a-religiosity, Saxony-Anhalt.