



Zentrum für Künstlerische Bildmedien Sachsen-Anhalt
Schleifweg 6 06114 Halle (Saale) Tel: 0345 68246-0

7th Werkleitz Biennale *Happy Believers*
6th – 10th September 2006 in the Volkspark Halle (Saale)
Pressrelease No. 4, 25th July 2006

The biggest media arts festival in East Germany, also known as the 'Documenta of East Germany', will once again take place in premises of the Volkspark in Halle (Saale). From 6th to 10th September the 7th Werkleitz Biennale will present approximately 100 international contributions of contemporary art and culture. The biennial features an exhibition with 30 art works, 13 film programmes with a total of 56 films, performances, lectures, roundtables and DJ-events.

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.

Many of the participating artists will be present during the festival. Thus, the biennial once again provides a space for intensive exchange between artists, culture producers and the general public.

The 7th Werkleitz Biennale 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

Press Conference - Please note

The press conference will take place on the 6th September, 2 pm in the Volkspark, Weinecksaal. Thereafter, the curators want to invite the participants on a guided tour through the exhibition. The organisers and participating artists will also be available for interviews. Until 7 pm, the official opening of the biennial, journalists have the opportunity to view films from the film programmes or to work in the press lounge.

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:

Hanna Keller
Tel: +49 30 695312 53
mobil: +49 176 24093657
biennale06@werkleitz.de

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

The 7th Werkleitz Biennale is funded by:

Federal State of Saxony-Anhalt, Lotto Toto GmbH Sachsen-Anhalt, Stiftung Kunstfonds

Additional funds and sponsoring by:

Kunststiftung Sachsen-Anhalt, Mitteldeutsche Medienförderung GmbH, Stadt Halle (Saale),

Mondriaan Stichting, IASPIS, Burg Giebichenstein - Hochschule für Kunst und Design Halle,

British Council, Hochschule Anhalt Fachbereich Design, Königlich Niederländische Botschaft in

Berlin, Danish Arts Agency, via Medien GmbH, cultutraeger GmbH, Ueberschall Medien GmbH,
Digital Images

Mediapartners: brand eins, Jungle World, AHA! Alles Halle!, radio corax

