

Press Release

Planet 9

30.05. – 27.08.2017

In 2016, Konstantin Batygin and Michael E. Brown postulated the existence of a gigantic ninth planet in our solar system with an orbit of 10,000 to 20,000 years. While astronomers are searching the heavens for its existence, in Darmstadt the phantom planet is being treated as a metaphor for the invisible to which consequences are nonetheless ascribed. The focus is on wide-reaching themes such as justice and equilibrium, utopia and dystopia, reality and fiction.

The group exhibition including many international artists presents works in changing constellations by some 30 artists from 17 countries. As a cluster of presentations, performances, screenings, lectures, readings and discussions, *Planet 9* combines the visual arts with the neighboring disciplines of theater, film, music and literature; moreover, it includes contributions from the natural sciences.

Somewhat more than half the works on display are new artistic productions that were created specifically for this exhibition or are being displayed for the first time here. The selections were made according to a principle of gender parity. The thirteen male and thirteen female artists, as well as a collective, are also appearing as far as possible in person at the opening and subsequent events of *Planet 9*. They come from Australia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, China, various regions of Germany, Honduras, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Canada, Columbia, Lebanon, Austria, Pakistan, Syria, Turkey and the USA.

The participating artists are:

Waref Abu Quba, Nazgol Ansarinia, Ulrich Becker*, Willarson Brandt & José Montealegre*, Cao Fei*, Raphael Danke, Nathalie Daoust, Katja Eckert*, John Gerrard*, Lauren Gregory, Helga Griffiths*, Mila Hundertmark*, Emre Hüner, Franziska Koop*, Rosilene Luduvico*, Basir Mahmood*, Eoin Mc Hugh*, Radenko Milak, Klaus Mosettig*, Juan Osorno, Nira Pereg, Vera Röhm, Roy Samaha, Regina Silveira*, TextaQueen* and Xu Yong & Zi U. The accompanying program includes presentations by the Pure Fyction Collective around Mark von Schlegell.

The constellation of works on display will evolve over the entire course of the exhibition. The artists indicated with an asterisk are already represented at the beginning of *Planet 9*.

To accompany the exhibition, the Kunsthalle Darmstadt is issuing a publication in German and English in a newspaper format.

Save the date!

Opening: Sunday, 28 May 2017 at 5:00 p.m.

The performance *Fragmente 1* by Mila Hundertmark will take place at the opening. The event is open to the public and admission is free.

Speakers: Ruth Wagner, state minister (retired) and chairwoman of the Kunstverein Darmstadt; Jochen Partsch, mayor of Darmstadt; Dr. Helmut Müller, director of the Kulturfonds Frankfurt RheinMain; Dr. León Krempel, director of the Kunsthalle Darmstadt.

The exhibition is being supported by:

Kulturfonds Frankfurt RheinMain, Evonik, Sparkassen-Kulturstiftung Hessen-Thüringen, Sparkasse Darmstadt, kulturMut (a joint project of Aventis Foundation, Kulturfonds Frankfurt RheinMain and Startnext), Entega Stiftung, Merck, R-Biopharm, Caparol, ISRA-Vision, La Balsa Arte, L'Agence à Paris, K 26 e.V. and numerous private donors.

Opening Times and Admission Fees:

Tues./Wed./Fri. 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Thurs. 11:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Sat./Sun./holidays 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

€7, reduced €5 (including the exhibition newspaper)

Free admission for pupils and students as well as members fo the Kunstverein Darmstadt e.V.

To learn more:

Further information may be found at www.kunsthalle-darmstadt.de, on Facebook or at our *Planet 9* blog.

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