

## PRESS RELEASE

### TIME TRAVEL: TRACKS IN THE MAKING

Country focus: the Netherlands

V. International Art Festival, Magdeburg (Germany)

[www.kunstoffestival.com](http://www.kunstoffestival.com)

9 – 18 September 2005, opening: Thursday 8 September, 8 pm

Dutch festival days: 8 and 11 September

Location: Art-Depot (old tram depot), Grosse Diesdorferstrasse 200A, Magdeburg

The International Art Festival takes place in the celebrated city of Magdeburg in the former East Germany. For five years now, the festival has, in its unique way, been enabling encounters and dialogue between artists from Eastern and Western Europe, thereby making a substantial contribution to the cultural atmosphere in the city and beyond. Ukraine was the focus country last year; this year it's the turn of the Netherlands. The fifth festival has the theme of 'Time Travel: Tracks in the Making', a concept that was formulated by the Dutch team. This team consists of Femke Lutgerink, art historian and exhibition designer; Astrid Vorstermans, art historian and publisher from Valiz books and cultural projects; and Partizan Publik, the bureau for social engineering run by political scientists Christiaan Fruneaux and Joost Janmaat.

The International Art Festival 2005 is made up of various elements.

It consists of two exhibitions:

- a Dutch presentation by ten artists who live and work in the Netherlands, put together by Femke Lutgerink
- an exhibition of twenty open-submission pieces from all over Europe, selected by an international committee. This exhibition has been designed by the Ukrainian curators Tamara Lee and Tatyana Zhuravskaya.
- There is a ten-day festival programme, of which the Dutch team is organising two days. This section has been designed in collaboration with Partizan Publik. Together, the various programme elements of the Dutch contribution form the 'Monument of the Future'. The programme -for the main part - takes place in the 'Pavilion of the Future', which has been specially designed for the festival by artist Kaleb de Groot in collaboration with Jonas Ohlsson.
- The final element is the publication *Jetzt/Now*, which is not just a catalogue, but an autonomous project. The concept for the book was developed and elaborated in collaboration with the graphic designer Luna Maurer. Astrid Vorstermans and Femke Lutgerink were responsible for compiling the publication, which is being published by Valiz.

'Time travel' is based on a space or an environment where everything is possible and imaginable. In this sanctuary, everyone can relate to past, present and future, and tracks are always 'in the making'. 'Time Travel: Tracks in the Making' has been designed with the aim of facilitating the interaction between different creative positions, from a variety of cultural and geographical backgrounds.

The concept requires the Dutch artists to have not only an aesthetic approach and a reflective consideration of the world of art, but in particular a focus on its content and on society. It is an invitation to reflect on the city of Magdeburg, on Europe and on the concept of 'Time Travel: Tracks in the Making'. A lot of the pieces have been created specially for the exhibition.

The ten artists in the Dutch-themed exhibition are: Yael Bartana, Sara van der Heide, Luna Maurer, Stani Michiels, Ryan Oduber, Henk Schut, Anoeck Steketee, Meinbert Gozewijn van Soest, Jennifer Tee and Eric Wie.

The artists selected by the international committee are: Samuil Ackermann, Carlo Bordone, Kitty Doomernik, Götz Christof Glaser, Jozina Marina van Hees, Philipp Lee, Anna Owtschinnikowa, Sani Pascal, Wladimir Polowets, Ellen Rijk, Henk van Rooij, Patricia de Ruijter, Pascal Sani, Henning Seidler, Andrej Sidorenko, Viktor Sidorenko, Lotta Svalberg, Sergej Swjatschenko, Matthias Trott, Anna Walijewa, Annette van Wijck and Henk Wijnen.

The festival is an opportunity for the artists, organisers and the public to meet each other. This time the encounter is not taking place in the well-known art centres of, say, Berlin or Cologne, but in Magdeburg, a city that is still recovering from adversity and decline, a city that offers totally different circumstances and infrastructure. This unique context, with a clear focus on Eastern Europe and the city of Magdeburg, its inhabitants, its cultural scene and the theme of 'time travel', allows an in-depth examination of the significance of the contribution from the Netherlands.

#### INFORMATION

- about the organisation of the festival in Magdeburg: Galina Brieger, [gala@kunstfestival.com](mailto:gala@kunstfestival.com), [www.kunstfestival.com](http://www.kunstfestival.com), t (00-49) (0)391-7326883
- about the exhibition and the festival: Femke Lutgerink, [femkelutgerink@tiscali.nl](mailto:femkelutgerink@tiscali.nl), [www.femkelutgerink.nl](http://www.femkelutgerink.nl), t (00-31) (0)6 - 27040625
- about the publication *Jetzt/Now*: Astrid Vorstermans, [astrid@valiz.nl](mailto:astrid@valiz.nl), [www.valiz.nl](http://www.valiz.nl), tel (00-31) (0)20-6764144, fax (00-31) (0)20-6764126