

ZKM Highlights 2012

Media and Performativity are the focal points of the first half year

The ZKM | Karlsruhe looks back at a successful year in 2011: the recently ended exhibition “The Global Contemporary. Art Worlds After 1989”, for example, was selected by the Dutch newspaper NRC Handelsblad as best exhibition of the year – around 33.000 visitors saw the show. In the most important international art journal Artforum, the exhibition “Atlas. How to Carry the World on One’s Back?”, a collaborative project with the Museo Reina Sofia in Madrid, and the Sammlung Falckenberg, was several times cited as one of the most important exhibitions of the foregoing year, among others, by Mexican curator Cuauhtémoc Medina, and artist Wolfgang Tillmans. In addition, the exhibition “CAR CULTURE. Medium of Mobility”, proved itself to be a public magnet when attracting around 87.000 art lovers to the ZKM.

And a richly varied program awaits the visitors this year, too. Media and performativity – these are the main thematic fields which the ZKM will be treating in the first half of the year 2012. The opening of the exhibition “The State of Image. The Media Pioneer Zbigniew Rybczyński and Gábor Bódy”, in January forms the prelude for this. Within the period mentioned, the ZKM | Media Museum focusses on artistic (music-) videos on the one hand, whereas, at the same time, with the large-scale special exhibition “Sound Art. Sound as a Medium of Art” the museum will be transformed into the navel of the sound world, into a “Palace of Sounds” from mid-March. With “Moments. A History of Performance in 10 Acts”, the ZKM | Museum of Contemporary Art dedicates itself for a period of eight weeks to an exciting exhibition project of the ephemeral art genres of dance and performance. Concurrently with the foregoing, the work of multimedia artist William S. Burroughs – known first and foremost as an author – may be viewed from the end of March.

The prelude to this year’s thematic focus on media and performativity has already been introduced in January by the ZKM | Media Museum with the presentation of the two visionary media artists Zbigniew Rybczyński, from Poland, and Gábor Bódy from Hungary. Although the two media pioneers have never met, they have a pioneering development in common: both accepted the challenge that new media technologies presented to the arts – initially as experimental filmmakers and later with respect to video. The exhibition “The State of Image. The Media Pioneers Zbigniew Rybczyński and Gábor Bódy” (till May 6, 2012) undertakes a reevaluation of the artistic and technical innovations on image research throughout the 1960s and into the 1980s by way of the example of two outstanding inventors, filmmakers, and media artists.

In contrast to the possibility of being able to randomly repeat film and videos, performance is direct, situational and consequently above all ephemeral. New questions appear with the contemporary interest in re-enactment: in what ways does the performative as such reveal itself as amenable to presentation in the museum context? How is it best documented? With ten dance and performance artists, this challenge is

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February 2012

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taken up in the exhibition project **“Moments. A History of Performance in 10 Acts”** from March 8 till April 29, 2012 at the ZKM | Museum of Contemporary Art. As exhibition ‘in progress’ it shows and develops new formats in the museum presentation of live acts.

A great deal is to be heard in the exhibition **“Sound Art. Sound as a Medium of Art”** from March 17 until January 6, 2013, as part of the 21st European Culture Festival//Kulturtage Karlsruhe, the ZKM | Media Museum will be presenting the history of sound art thereby shifting its focus to auditory experience. Here, predominantly works of the 21st century will be presented. Contemporary sound art has revealed itself as multifaceted: the varied interplay of sound, space, time, movement and form is reflected in sound sculptures, sound installations and music performances. It is the perceptual linking of seeing and hearing, the articulation of silence and space, the sculptural characteristics of sound and the dissolution of the concert hall are the aspects that turn sound art into an independent art form within fine and music. Here, the visitors themselves become witnesses of sound, and have the opportunity to become acquainted with an entirely new cosmos of sound, which neither radio and concert hall nor the music industry have been able to achieve to a similar extent. A special highlight within the general program of the exhibition is a concert to be held on April 7, 2012: **La Monte Young, Marian Zazeela and The Just Alap Raga Ensemble** will give a live appearance in the middle of the light installation “Dream Light” by Marian Zazeela in the Subspace of the ZKM_Cube.

A figure less specialized in one exclusive genre of art is William S. Burroughs (1914-1997), known primarily as an author: works such as “Naked Lunch” or “The Soft Machine” catapulted him to world fame as an author. As artist working in multimedia, he nevertheless created a comprehensive and multifaceted work, which embraced experiments with audio-tape, film and photography no less than it did painting and collages. The exhibition **“the name is BURROUGHS – Expanded Media”** (March 24 – August 12, 2012) at the ZKM | Museum of Contemporary Art presents the artistic work of the author for the first time in Germany and examines the multiple connections between literary and experimental-image production. Furthermore, the image is augmented through the presentation of works illustrating his ideas and his philosophy, which influenced a worldwide network of writers, musicians and composers, painters, photographers, video artists and filmmakers.

The Beat Generation had a powerful sounding name, but it is only the designation of the literary group attributed to Burroughs, whereas in the exhibition **“Dieter Meier. Works 1969–2011 and the YELLO Years”** (April 6 –August 19, 2012) sound once again becomes the focus. It was with pieces such as “Oh Yeah, oh yeah [...] Count on me I’m gonna win the race” that Dieter Meier became famous. He became known to a wide public in the 1980s as part of the music duo YELLO, which is counted among the most influential electro-pop acts ever. Beyond this, his music videos for the group YELLO had an enduring influence on the genre, and could be viewed constantly on MTV. Far less known is Dieter Meier’s work as concept and performance artist whose origins can be traced back to the late 1960s. With the exhibition, the ZKM | Media Museum

presents a rich range of work by this multitalented artist from Zurich, as well as his activities as film and video-clip director. A concert with Dieter Maier and his current band project Out of Chaos will take place on May 5, 2012.

In addition to such established artists, the younger generations of artists are also given a voice at the ZKM. The exhibition series “**Sensor. Time for Young Approaches**” shows in rapid succession younger works by artists from collections that cooperate with the ZKM | Museum of Contemporary Art. Currently, works by Isabell Heimerdinger and Markus Sixay from the FER COLLECTION are shown in dialog. From March 14, the space will be appropriated by Michael Beutler with his sculptural works and installations from the Grässlin Collection.

Beyond the exhibitions the ZKM indeed offers a unique event program reaching into summer: On 23 February jazz virtuoso **David Amram** will be guest at the ZKM_Cube with the concert “**From the Khyber Pass to Karlsruhe: Harmony through music**”. With his knowledge and experience the 81-year-old American has inspired many artists and has played together on stage with Patti Smith, Charlie Mingus, Dizzy Gillespie, Leonard Bernstein, Jack Kerouac and Bob Dylan. The jazz pioneer is known above all for his skill on the French horn. On the same evening prior to the concert, the ZKM will show the documentary film “**The Frontier Gandhi: Badshah Khan, a Torch for Peace**” by Teri McLuhan – daughter of the famous Canadian media theorist Herbert Marshall McLuhan – for which David Amram composed the soundtrack.

As part of the 21st European Culture Days, the premiere of the multimedia scenic opera “**Three Mile Island**” by Andrea Molino will be performed at the ZKM on March 29, 2012. The music theater piece thematizes the incident that occurred at the atomic power station Three Mile Island, Pennsylvania, on March 28, 1979 – until that time the worst accident in an American atomic power station. The most recent catastrophe of Fukushima prompted memories of the accident at Three Mile Island once again.

The traditional stage design is replaced by an interactive installation: through the integrative dramaturgy with audiovisual original recordings of the event and through the performers an organic, inter-media critical encounter emerges with the various artistic elements: sound, picture, video, language, text, actions. The climate and protection of the environment are themes that also impact upon art and which can no longer be thought of in separation; noteworthy representatives from research and politics will be discussing these themes prior to the opera evening on the panel “**The Cultural Turn and its Practice in the Humanities**”. The extent to which an augmentation of the three-pillar model of sustainable development – until now constituting economic, ecologic and social sustainability – surrounding cultural perspectives is meaningful forms the thematic subject in the panel discussion. The model was co-developed at the Research Center in Karlsruhe, in 1998.

Youth culture, lifestyle and the forms of youth interaction are the themes of Nadja Verena Marcin’s short film “**Kids**” (New York, 2011/12), that will be celebrating its world premiere at the ZKM in the presence of the

director on April 4, 2012. The film is a conceptual remake of the classic of the same name by Larry Clark from 1995, which will also be shown at the end of the discussion with Nadja Verena Marcin.

There will be a unique highlight this coming summer for all those who like carrying around with them a work of art in their pants pockets. The ZKM will be conferring the international AppArtAward as part of the festive award ceremonies for the second time on July 13, 2012. The first AppArtAward worldwide to be awarded at the ZKM in 2011 was designed to meet the needs of a shifting of artistic aspects into foreground of App-culture. The high number of submissions along with substantial positive resonance among the public and media warranted the desire for an **AppArtAward 2012**. With new prize categories, the AppArtAward orients itself on current developments in new media. A noteworthy jury chaired by ZKM Chairman Peter Weibel, will confer the awards for the following categories: Prize for Artistic Innovation, to the sum of €10.000; Special Prize for "Game Art", to the sum of €10.000; Special Prize for "Cloud Art", to the sum of €10.000.

Exhibition Overview – Highlights till August 2012

till May 6, 2012

The State of Image. The Media Pioneers Zbigniew Rybczyński and Gábor Bódy

at the ZKM | Media Museum

till March 4, 2012

Sensor. Time for Young Approaches 02_Isabell Heimerdinger and Markus Sixay

ZKM | Museum of Contemporary Art

March 14 – April 29, 2012

Sensor. Time for Young Approaches 03_Michael Beutler

ZKM | Museum of Contemporary Art

March 8 – April 29, 2012

Moments. A History of Performance in 10 Acts

ZKM | Museum of Contemporary Art

March 17, 2012 – January 6, 2013

Sound Art. Sound as a Medium of Art

ZKM | Media Museum

March 24 – August 12, 2012

the name is BURROUGHS – Expanded Media

ZKM | Museum of Contemporary Art

April 6 – August 19, 2012

Dieter Meier. Works 1969–2011 and the YELLO Years

ZKM | Media Museum

Events Overview – Highlights till August 2012

Thurs, February 23, 2012

Teri McLuhan: “The Frontier Gandhi: Badshah Khan, a Torch for Peace”

Film Screening and Discussion

ZKM_Lecture Hall, 6 p.m., admission free

David Amram & Guests: “From Khyber Pass to Karlsruhe”

Concert

ZKM_Cube, 9 p.m., tickets 16/13€

Thurs, March 29, 2012

“The Cultural Turn and its Practise in the Humanities”

Panel Discussion, admission free

ZKM_Cube, 6 p.m.

Andrea Molino: “Three Mile Island”

Multimedia Opera

As part of the 21 Europaen Culture Festival//Kulturtage Karlsruhe

ZKM_Media Theater, 9 p.m., tickets 15/13€

(further performances on 30th and 31st March at 9 p.m.)

Wed, April 4, 2012

“KIDS”

Film Screening – World Premiere and Discussion with the Director Nadja Marcin

ZKM_Lecture Hall, 6 p.m., admission free

Sat, April 7, 2012

La Monte Young, Marian Zazeela and The Just Alap Raga Ensemble

Concert

ZKM_Cube, Subspace, 8 p.m., tickets obtainable from the beginning of March

Sat, May 5, 2012

Out of Chaos

Concert by Dieter Meier and his Current Band

ZKM | Karlsruhe, 8 p.m., tickets obtainable from the beginning of March

Fri, July 13, 2012

AppArtAward 2012

Award ceremonies

ZKM | Karlsruhe, details to be announced

For further information, please see: <http://on1.zkm.de/zkm/e/programm>