

Press Release



Artistic Experiments and Political Commitment: Crossing Borders and Testing Reality in this year's *Forum Expanded*

Forum Expanded has made the exploration of the boundaries and intersections between art and cinema a matter of course at film festivals. This year, the programme focuses on films, videos and installations that challenge political thought in aesthetic form. In Mohammadreza Farzad's *Into Thin Air*, memories of the Iranian revolution are investigated through remnants of history stored in images. A German politician encounters the creative industry in René Frölke's *Führung*, while other works carry out research on political landscapes (*National Motives* by Raphaël Grisey and *Minor* by Patty Chang).

In new works by some of the leading figures of the avant-garde tradition, including James Benning, Barbara Hammer, Guy Maddin and Tony Conrad, the topicality of a counter-cinema is underlined both with respect to film as well as to the influence of film on contemporary art.

At the same time, artists such as Lawrence Wiener, Santiago Sierra, Yael Bartana, Wendelien van Oldenborgh and Patty Chang extend the idea of what cinema is, using the medium of film to reflect upon their own artistic practices.

This approach, which encompasses numerous perspectives, is also an intergenerational one: young artists and filmmakers such as Markus Ruff and Eleonore de Montesquiou play a part in repositioning cinema as a form of political intervention.

This year, *Forum Expanded* will be taking place at the Arsenal cinema, the Filmhaus, Kunstsaale Berlin, the Canadian Embassy and the Hamburger Bahnhof - Museum für Gegenwart.

Forum Expanded will also be taking to the radio waves for the very first time. During the Berlinale, the radio station Deutschlandradio Kultur will be presenting sound works from Keren Cytter, Dani Gal, Achim Lengerer, Natascha Sadr Haghigian and Tony Conrad as part of the "Klangkunst" series.

In conjunction with the DOCUMENTA (13), *Forum Expanded* will also be presenting *The Host and the Cloud*, the new work by French artist Pierre Huyghe, at the HAU - Hebbel am Ufer theatre. Georg Seeßlen, Francis Kéré, Matthias Lilienthal, Carl Hegemann and Anselm Franke will be talking about the life and work of Christoph Schlingensiefel in a panel discussion.

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Press Office

Potsdamer Straße 5
10785 Berlin

Phone +49 · 30 · 259 20 · 707
Fax +49 · 30 · 259 20 · 799

press@berlinale.de
www.berlinale.de

Ein Geschäftsbereich der
Kulturveranstaltungen des
Bundes in Berlin (KBB) GmbH

Management:
Dieter Kosslick
(Intendant Internationale
Filmfestspiele Berlin),
Charlotte Sieben
(Kaufmännische Geschäftsführung),
Dr. Bernd M. Scherer,
Prof. Dr. Joachim Sartorius

Vorsitzender des Aufsichtsrats:
Bernd Neumann

Amtsgericht Charlottenburg
HRG Nr. 96 · HRB 29357
UST ID DE 136 78 27 46



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A concert will form the final highpoint of this year's *Forum Expanded*, with Tony Conrad and Genesis Breyer P-Orridge (Throbbing Gristle, Psychic TV, Thee Majesty) taking to the stage at the HAU - Hebbel am Ufer theatre, thus bringing together two influential greats of the experimental music scene. Genesis Breyer P-Orridge is also the protagonist of Marie Losier's documentary *The Ballad of Genesis and Lady Jaye*, which will be shown in the *Forum* programme.

The foyer of the Arsenal cinema will once again become a popular meeting point for festival guests: the foyer concept has been created by Canadian artist Kika Thorne, while the bar will be run by the Prinzessinnengarten. b_books will also be represented with a book stand as always.

Forum Expanded is curated by Stefanie Schulte Strathaus (head curator), Anselm Franke, Nanna Heidenreich and Bettina Steinbrügge. Further programme information and a list of all the artists involved will be announced in a second press release.

Press Office
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