

Blickachsen 7 Rhein-Main  
commissioned by the  
Kulturfonds Frankfurt RheinMain



**Timm Ulrichs – Tanzende Bäume (i.e. Dancing Trees)**

## Blickachsen in the Rhein-Main area

**Bad Homburg – Darmstadt – Flörsheim – Weilburg  
until the end of October 2009**

With the installation at the beginning of July of the **'Blickachsen 7 Rhein-Main – Timm Ulrichs, Tanzende Bäume (Dancing Trees)'** project, commissioned by the Kulturfonds Frankfurt RheinMain, the internationally renowned 'Blickachsen' sculpture exhibition in Bad Homburg has been extended to include three other locations in the Rhein-Main region. Until the end of October the venues Bad Homburg, Darmstadt, Flörsheim, and Weilburg will mark the co-ordinates of the Rhein-Main region as a cultural entity. Thanks, especially, to the committed involvement of Prof. Dr. Herbert Beck, founding director of the Kulturfonds, the "Dancing Trees" will this summer literally network the region through art.

The biennial open-air 'Blickachsen' exhibition is distinguished by its creative and considered placement of contemporary outdoor sculptures and installations by international artists in the historic park landscapes of Bad Homburg. Founded in 1997 by the gallerist Christian K. Scheffel, the title of the 'Blickachsen' series refers to the 'Blickachsen' (or 'lines of vision') designed for the Bad Homburg Kurpark in the

mid-nineteenth century by the Berlin landscape architect Peter Joseph Lenné. In the 'Blickachsen 7 Rhein-Main' project this idea has now been metaphorically extended to the cultural locations of Darmstadt, Flörsheim and Weilburg.

This project covering the region in 2009 was created by the concept artist, documenta 6 contributor and long-standing professor of sculpture and "total art", Timm Ulrichs, who had already participated in 'Blickachsen 3' in 2001. His installation conceived for 'Blickachsen 7', "**Dancing Trees**", consists of a group of three young birch trees each placed in the four locations in the Rhein-Main region. The trees are invisibly mounted on rotation motors which are set off by movement sensors. Placed on the lawns of a public park, the trees appear from a distance to be newly planted. As the visitor approaches, however, he unwittingly triggers a contact which sets the trees in motion and is immediately taken aback by their unexpected dancing and turning movement. The four groups of trees in Bad Homburg, Darmstadt, Flörsheim, and Weilburg – and with them the four towns and cities themselves – are thus connected to each other through the internet: a passer-by setting off one tree in one location also sets off all the others. In this way the visitor to the park becomes an actor in the project. At the same time Ulrichs playfully forces him to confront his own expectations. Ulrichs combines the tree as a familiar symbol of natural growth, ageing and taking root with contemporary concepts of mobility, interaction and networking.

In **Bad Homburg vor der Höhe**, as part of the seventh 'Blickachsen' exhibition which opened in May, three "Dancing Trees" have been installed in the Kurpark on one of Lenné's two axes. A further group of trees has been placed in **Flörsheim am Main** in front of the *Naturschutzhaus* in the grounds of the recultivated Weilbach gravel pits – an outstanding example of recent large-scale landscaping, which now forms part of the network of regional parks. The visitor to this park, which was replanted in the 1980's, is greeted by the interactive tree installation and confronted by the tension between nature and culture. In **Weilburg an der Lahn**, visible in the distance from the Frankfurter Straße, three "Dancing Trees" have been installed on the König-Konrad-Platz in front of the *Landtor*, one of the gateways to the Weilburger Schloss. The Renaissance castle, with its baroque extensions, is one of the most important cultural monuments of the region. In **Darmstadt**, in collaboration with the Kunsthalle Darmstadt, and its director Dr. Peter Joch, the green space on the Platz der Deutschen Einheit in front of the central railway station has also been chosen as the location for a group of "Dancing Trees". As a major intersection of road and rail traffic, this square clearly symbolizes the networking of the Rhein-Main conurbation. At the same time Darmstadt is a prime example of the cultural multiplicity of the region – in terms of its range of important historical and contemporary artistic and architectural monuments, as well as of the wide-ranging cultural activities it offers.

This first expansion of the renowned 'Blickachsen' series beyond Bad Homburg makes clear the considerable potential for development the exhibition concept has with regard to the idea of a comprehensive intellectual and cultural nexus for the Frankfurt Rhein-Main metropolitan area.

# Blickachsen 7 Rhein-Main commissioned by the Kulturfonds Frankfurt RheinMain



## Locations in the Rhein-Main area

### **Bad Homburg vor der Höhe**

In the Kurpark between the Tennis Club and Kisseleffstraße

### **Darmstadt**

On the Platz der Deutschen Einheit opposite Darmstadt central railway station

### **Flörsheim am Main**

On the grounds of the Weilbach gravel pits, in front of the *Naturschutzhaus*

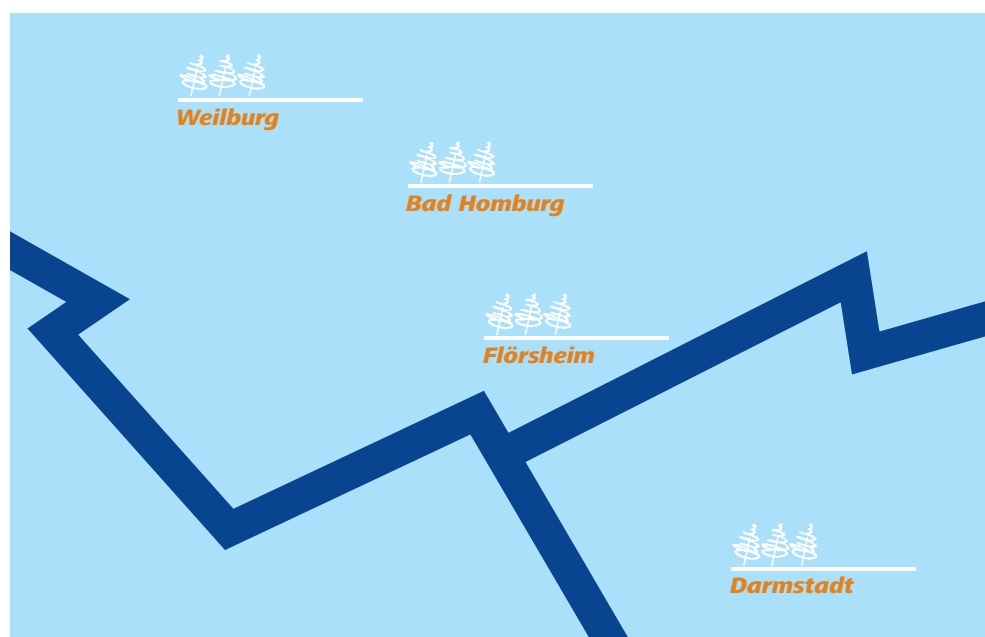
Naturschutzhaus, Weilbacher Kiesgruben, Frankfurter Straße 74  
65439 Flörsheim-Weilbach, Tel. +49 / (0)6145 / 936360

### **Weilburg an der Lahn**

On the König-Konrad-Platz, outside the Landtor, one of the gateways to  
Weilburg castle

### **Partner des Projekts „Blickachsen 7 Rhein-Main – Timm Ulrichs, Tanzende Bäume“:**

Kunsthalle Darmstadt  
GRKW mbH  
Magistrat der Stadt Weilburg



17 May - 4 Oct. 2009

# BLICKACHSEN 7

## Contemporary Sculpture in the historic Bad Homburg Kurpark and Castle Gardens

In collaboration with  
Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park  
Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA

Donald Baechler | Hanneke Beaumont | Jonathan Borofsky  
Laura Ford | Paul Hoffmann | Kenny Hunter | Dietrich Klinge  
Masayuki Koorida | David Nash | Michele Oka Doner  
Dennis Oppenheim | Tom Otterness | Mimmo Paladino  
Vannessa Paschakarnis | Beverly Pepper | Jaume Plensa  
Peter Randall-Page | George Rickey | Vera Röhms  
Timm Ulrichs | Bernar Venet | Zhan Wang

**Promoted by:** Magistrat der Stadt Bad Homburg v.d.Höhe  
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or 'Blickachsen 7 Rhein-Main' as well as the  
guided tours and events see  
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**Darmstadt**

located on the *Platz der Deutschen Einheit*



**Flörsheim am Main**

in front of the *Naturschutzhaus Weilbacher Kiesgruben*



**Weilbug an der Lahn**  
located on the *König-Konrad-Platz*