

Press release, May 2019

22 years of Blickachsen: the twelfth edition of the Sculpture Biennale celebrates its official opening

Once again Bad Homburg and the Rhine-Main region are transformed into an open-air stage for three-dimensional art. Until 6 October some 60 works by 31 artists can be seen in six locations.

On Sunday 26 May, hundreds of art enthusiasts gathered on the Schmuckplatz in the Bad Homburg Kurpark for the official opening of **Blickachsen 12**. In bright sunshine, there was a welcome address by the Mayor of Bad Homburg, **Alexander W. Hetjes**, who was both happy and proud to present his city as the centrepiece of this internationally renowned exhibition. The new President of the State Parliament of Hessen, **Boris Rhein**, conveyed greetings and best wishes from the Minister President, **Volker Bouffier**, who is also the patron of this now long-standing summer event. In his ensuing statement, **Stefan Quandt**, Blickachsen supporter and Chairman of the Blickachsen Foundation Board of Trustees, traced a connection between the European elections currently under way and the creativity and diversity of the Frankfurt Rhine-Main region, to which the Blickachsen exhibition makes a substantial contribution. **Christian K. Scheffel**, founder and curator of Blickachsen, expressed his thanks to this year's co-curators, **Elisabeth Millqvist** and **Mattias Givell** of the Swedish Wanås Konst sculpture park, for their committed partnership. At the same time, he also conveyed his thanks to all the participating artists, of which more than half took the opportunity to personally attend the opening. In her introductory address to this year's show, **Elisabeth Millqvist** stressed that Blickachsen 12 is also specially characterized by works designed to be experienced in a participatory context.

On the subsequent tour through the Kurpark, the eleven-metre long, walk-in tube made of beverage crates by the artist-duo **Winter/Hoerbelt** received an enthusiastic response. As a popular photo motif, the moving mirror installation by **Jeppe Hein** and the 13-metre high "**Giant Log**" by the Israeli artist **Arik Levy**, quickly attracted attention. In the Schlosspark, a huge number of guests at the opening already took the opportunity to hang their wish notes onto the apple trees in the orchard, as requested by **Yoko Ono** in her long-term "**Wish Trees**" project. Stretching out from the Bad Homburg Kurpark and Schlosspark, Blickachsen 12 takes in five further locations in the Rhine-Main region: Bad Vilbel, Eschborn, Frankfurt, Eberbach Monastery and Kronberg.

Information on the extensive accompanying programme at all six locations, and updated picture material can be found at www.blickachsen.com.

Blickachsen 12 artists: Hanneke Beaumont, Claudia Comte, Jacob Dahlgren, My Ekman, Elmgreen & Dragset, William Forsythe, Charlotte Gyllenhammar, Jeppe Hein, Satch Hoyt, Sofia Hultén, Leiko Ikemura, Kaarina Kaikkonen, Per Kirkeby, Ruud Kuijer, Alicja Kwade, Arik Levy, Katarina Löfström, Ohad Meromi, Nandipha Mntambo, Sirous Namazi, Yoko Ono, A.R. Penck, Leunora Salihu, Sean Scully, Anne Thulin, James Webb, Winter/Hoerbelt, Fredrik Wretman, David Zink Yi.

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