

NRW KULTURsekretariat International Visitors Programme

International cultural operators, journalists, curators and festival directors are all drawn into the orbit of the International Visitors Programme. Over recent years, a cooperation between the Goethe-Institut's visitors' programme and the NRW KULTURsekretariat's International Visitors Programme has enabled numerous international guests to develop connections in North Rhine-Westphalia. Plans for 2020 included visitors' trips as part of 25 years of schrit_tmacher Festival in Aachen and 30 years of Impulse Theatre Festival in Düsseldorf, Cologne and Mülheim an der Ruhr, to the tenth anniversary of ACHT BRÜCKEN | Music for Cologne, to the International Women's Film Festival Dortmund | Cologne, to the 66th International Short Film Festival in Oberhausen, to the FAVORITEN theatre festival, to Next Level – Festival for Games, as well as the research trip "ALL IN – Aesthetics and Methods of Inclusive Performing Arts and Culture in North Rhine-Westphalia".

In 2020 the International Visitors Programme was also profoundly affected by global developments in terms of the COVID-19 pandemic, and events in North Rhine-Westphalia had to be cancelled or delayed. With that said, we continue to follow the guidelines from government and closely monitor the situation in order to safeguard the welfare of our guests as well as the community at large. Against this background, it may also be possible that visitors' programmes are partly or entirely transferred to virtual formats. We hope that the programmes planned for the first half of 2021 can take place and will inform you of all and any changes.

Call for Participants for the first half of 2021

Event Trip:

"VIDEONALE.18: Fluid States. Solid Matter – Video, Film and Media Arts in North Rhine-Westphalia"

4 to 5 days during the period 3rd–8th March 2021, Bonn (presumably as digital format)

<https://verein.videonale.org/en>

The 18th edition of the VIDEONALE festival for video and time-based media arts will take place in Bonn from 4th March to 18th April 2021. Videonale e. V. is dedicated to the presentation, mediation and dissemination of contemporary video art and time-based art forms as well as the maintenance and interrogation of its historical legacy. One of the organisation's key tasks is to steer the direction of VIDEONALE. Since it was founded in 1984 this international festival has taken place every two years and, with its ambitious programme of exhibitions as well as the festival programme, has developed into one of the most important festivals in this field in Germany and Europe. Participants include pioneering names such as Dara Birnbaum, Lynn Hershman, Gary Hill, Christian Jankowski, Marcel Odenbach and Bill Viola.

At the heart of every festival is an exhibition with internationally tendered entries alongside an expansive festival programme of artists' talks, presentations, panel discussions, workshops, screenings and performances. For VIDEONALE.18 under the theme "Fluid States. Solid Matter", artists, curators, academics as well as gallerists and interested (specialist) audiences will once again come together in situ as well as virtually in order to discuss current developments in time-based media arts.

Beyond the activities of the festival the programme will also include discussions with experts and organisers in the field of video and media arts.

For this programme there are up to 2 places for curators, museum directors, organisers and multipliers specialising in contemporary arts, specifically video and media arts.

Please send in your suggestions by **Thursday, 21st January 2021.**

Event Trip:

"International Women's Film Festival Dortmund | Cologne – Cinematic Art by Women in Local and Global Contexts"

4 to 5 days during the period 20th–25th April 2021, Dortmund

www.frauenfilmfestival.eu

The International Women's Film Festival Dortmund | Cologne (IFFF) is one of the largest and most important women's film festivals worldwide. Emerging from the fusion of two women's film festivals – femme totale (Dortmund) and féminale (Cologne), both founded in the eighties – the festival takes place annually and alternates between Dortmund and Cologne. Every year about 100 films and several international competitions are presented in a programme of contemporary and historical films, all of which have been directed and/or produced by women. Not just directors but also camerawomen, composers and other film creatives have an opportunity to present their most recent work at this festival. Beyond the competition programme, the IFFF is considered a forum for networking, dialogue and ongoing education. Under consideration are questions around production conditions, user rights, the role of international women's film networks, copyright questions and innovative distribution channels. Workshops on film theory or artwork are a permanent component of the festival programme.

An international film competition for female directors, which looks back over a long period of cinematic art and which takes place every two years, will be hosted as part of the 2021 edition of the festival running from 20th to 25th April in Dortmund – this is where top-class female film directors from across the globe present their latest productions.

On top of visiting the festival's events, discussions will be held with experts, organisers and institutions from the field of media arts and cinematic art created by women.

For this programme there are up to 2 places for festival directors, curators, organisers and multipliers specialising in women's cinematic art.

Please send in your suggestions by **Thursday, 21st January 2021.**

Event Trip:**“tanz nrw 21 – The Contemporary Independent Dance Scene in North Rhine-Westphalia”****4 to 5 days during the period 28th April–3rd May 2021, Düsseldorf**www.tanz-nrw-aktuell.de/en

Every two years North Rhine-Westphalia's multiple city biennale tanz nrw invites companies and choreographers from across the state to present and to discuss current contemporary dance productions. The aim of this supra-regional festival is to represent as comprehensively as possible and within a specified time period the artistic quality and unique concentration of the local dance landscape as well as current developments in contemporary dance.

For the eighth time, from 28th April to 9th May, tanz nrw will be guest in the cities of Bonn, Düsseldorf, Essen, Cologne, Krefeld, Mülheim, Münster, Viersen and Wuppertal presenting outstanding productions from both established and emerging artists of the independent dance scene in North Rhine-Westphalia. Alongside large-sized main productions with premieres in the partner venues of Ringlokschuppen Ruhr (Mühlheim), tanzhaus nrw (Düsseldorf) and PACT Zollverein (Essen), the main programme will also include guest performances, additional projects and discussion forums. What's more, in 2021 the emerging artist format “Sprungbrett” (in cooperation with the programme “Tanzrecherche NRW” at NRW KULTURsekretariat) will offer a platform to young artists from North Rhine-Westphalia who are realising their first steps into choreographic practice. In this way the festival is in equal measure a local, regional and international forum and showcase.

As well as attending the festival, meetings will take place with directors of the relevant dance institutions, such as the performance and production venue tanzhaus nrw in Düsseldorf and the Centre for Choreography PACT Zollverein in Essen, as well as with artists and companies from North Rhine-Westphalia.

For this programme there are up to 3 places for dance curators, artistic directors, organisers and (specialist) journalists from the field of dance.

Please send in your suggestions by **Thursday, 28th January 2021.**

Event Trip:**“ACHT BRÜCKEN Festival 2021 | Music for Cologne”****4 to 5 days during the period 29th April–4th May 2021, Cologne**www.achtbruecken.de/en/festival

ACHT BRÜCKEN | Musik für Köln (EIGHT BRIDGES | Music for Cologne) brings contemporary music into the city. Since 2011 during the first days of May, the Cologne Philharmonic offers a genre-crossing platform for renowned artists and ensembles from the international contemporary music scene, from New Music via Jazz to World Music and Pop.

Traditionally many renowned local cultural operators from the field of New Music, such as the Ensemble Musikfabrik and the stage of Stadtgarten Köln (European Centre for Jazz and Contemporary Music), are attached to the programme, which is further augmented by concerts of representatives from the independent scene in urban spaces, as well as many other venues; performances, exhibitions and films helping build transdisciplinary connections. There are also free

concerts, rehearsals open to the public, lectures and events for children. Different focal points, which change annually, encourage a wide audience to enjoy the pleasures of the unknown and the new, and to appreciate the music of today.

The 2021 festival will include a fringe programme focussing on Afrofuturism at the alternative arts and event venue, Odonien, on the one hand helping develop a new performance venue in an urban space, on the other scheduling a concert programme and series of discussions with curators, activists, pioneering representatives and emerging artists from the aesthetic as well as the political arm of Afrofuturism. Alongside festival events, the programme will also include discussions with organisers, experts and musicians as part of the visit.

For this programme there are up to 4 places for festival directors, curators, organisers, multipliers and specialist journalists from the field of music (with the focus on New Music, improvised music, jazz and world music).

Please send in your suggestions by **Thursday, 28th January 2021.**

Event Trip:

“67th International Short Film Festival Oberhausen – Traditions und New Approaches to Film and Media Arts in North Rhine-Westphalia”

4 to 5 days during the period 4th–9th May 2021, Oberhausen

www.kurzfilmtage.de

The International Short Film Festival Oberhausen was founded in 1954 and is considered the oldest short film festival in the world as well as one of the largest international platforms for the short film form, unique because of the breadth of forms and genres shown and, above all, for its attention to experimentation. Numerous filmmakers and artists, from Roman Polanski to Cate Shortland, from George Lucas to Pipilotti Rist, presented their first works here. Political and aesthetic developments – such as the Oberhausen Manifesto, possibly German film’s most important group document – were launched at the Short Film Festival. Even today the International Short Film Festival continues to trailblaze: two examples from the recent past include the recognition of video or awarding the first festival prize globally for music videos.

The International Short Film Festival Oberhausen has re-structured and expanded its competition programme for this 67th edition. As well as the five existing competition sections – the international competition, the German competition, the NRW competition, the children and young people’s film competition and the MuVi prize for the best German music video – from 2021 onwards there will be an international online competition and the German online competition. The International Short Film Festival will take place on an online platform over an extended festival period from 1st to 4th May 2021 with its own competition contributions and prizes; the traditional competition programme will continue on the large screen in the cinema from 5th to 10th May

As well as attendance at official festival events, discussions with filmmakers, organisers and institutions from the field of (short) film and media arts will round off this trip.

For this programme there are up to 4 places for filmmakers, curators, cultural mediators, organisers and journalists from the field of film and video.

Please send in your suggestions by **Thursday, 28th January 2021.**

Event Trip:**“CircusDanceFestival Cologne and Ruhrfestspiele Recklinghausen – New Circus in North Rhine-Westphalia“****4 to 5 days during the period 20th–24th May 2021, Cologne**www.circus-dance-festival.de/en/home/ www.ruhrfestspiele.de/en/

The CircusDanceFestival Cologne, initiated by the label Overhead Project, is the first international festival focussing on the hybrid artistic form that lies between circus and dance. Cologne-based label Overhead Project was founded jointly by Florian Patchovsky and Tim Behren in 2008 and presents works on the border between contemporary circus and dance. The CircusDanceFestival started as an internationally-focussed pilot project that put together a festival, a sector-specific residency programme as well as support for emerging talent. Incorporated into the planning of this first edition from 20th to 24th May 2021 are a selection of circus-dance productions, the emerging artists' programme “Junge Wilde”, as well as a two-day symposium. Looking forward from 2021, the CircusDanceFestival will take place annually. Since their 2019 season, Ruhrfestspiele Recklinghausen – the oldest and one of Europe's largest and most renowned theatre festivals – has incorporated contemporary circus alongside dance and theatre as one of the three pillars of the festival programme.

Participants are invited by CircusDanceFestival to explore the circus scene in the Rhine/Ruhr area in partnership with the Ruhrfestspiele Recklinghausen, as part of the visitors' trip. As well as attending performances included in the CircusDanceFestival in Cologne and the Ruhrfestspiele Recklinghausen, there will also be discussions with the initiators and artistic directors of both partnering festivals as well as with other relevant institutions, artists and companies from the field of new circus and circus dance in North Rhine-Westphalia.

For this programme there are up to 2 places for dance curators, artistic directors, organisers and (specialist) journalists from the field of new circus.

Please send in your suggestions by **Thursday, 4th February 2021.**

Event Trip:**“50 Years of Moers Festival – Border Crossings between Jazz and Contemporary Music in the Lower Rhine and the Ruhr Region“****21st–24th May 2021, Moers**<https://moers-festival.de/en/>

The Moers Festival, founded in 1972 as the International New Jazz Festival and located in Germany's former “smallest large city” bordering the Netherlands and the Ruhr region, reflects musical paths outside the mainstream, the unexpected and the surprising – whether improvisation, new jazz, world, avantgarde, contemporary music, sound arts, drone or electro.

In its founding year the Moers Festival bore comparison to a Big Bang – an island was created in the heart of Moers – and for the most diverse audiences it was a place of longing and parallel world(s). But what remains now after 50 iterations? How was the world in 1972, how is it today? These are the

questions being interrogated as part of the 50th edition; not solely in the four-day festival programme but also in additional formats and jubilee projects, through which a thesis will maintain that Moers is (still) an island. The exciting connection between improvised live formats and digital space – a necessity following the events of 2020 – is to be further interrogated.

As well as visiting festival events and holding conversations with initiators and participating artists, the trip will be rounded off by a programme of visits and networking events with other institutions in North Rhine-Westphalia in the field of jazz and improvised music

For this programme there are up to 4 places for festival directors, curators, organisers, multipliers and specialist journalists from the field of music (with focus on New Music, improvised music, jazz and world music).

Please send in your suggestions by **Thursday, 4th February 2021.**

Event Trip:

“Photoszene-Festival 2021 – Current Positions and Institutions of Photography in Cologne and North Rhine-Westphalia”

26th–30th May 2021, Cologne

www.photoszene.de

In 2021 the Photoszene-Festival will take place in 2021 from 21st to 30th May. Since the beginning of the 1980s, Internationale Photoszene Köln has mediated the multi-faceted connections of photography to the City of Cologne as well as through the Photoszene-Festival. The structure of the festival combines a curated programme with a participating multi-city festival that energises the photography scene of the Rhineland.

Cologne is home to numerous high-quality collections and archives, yet simultaneously new positions in photography are discussed in galleries, art spaces and initiatives. The core programme Artist Meets Archive, realised for the first time in 2018/2019, brings this cultural and photographic legacy into focus. For the 2021 festival, the programme will expand into a second round and puts international artists together with archives containing the cultural and photographic legacy of Cologne city. The 2021 festival programme will be augmented by a variety of fringe events, a focus on emerging talent as well as a symposium on the theme of photographic archives.

As well as visiting numerous exhibitions in museums, galleries and off-spaces, participants will have an opportunity to connect with artists, experts and institutions (museums, foundations, universities) in Cologne and beyond.

For this programme there are up to 3 places for curators, festival organisers, specialist journalists and multipliers from the field of photography.

Please send in your suggestions by **Thursday, 11th February 2021.**

Event Trip:**“hellwach – International Theatre Festival for Young Audiences”****4 to 5 days during the period 6th–13th June 2021, Hamm/Hellweg cultural region**www.helios-theater.de/en/hellwach

This will be the eighth time that HELIOS theatre invites theatre ensembles from across the globe to guest performances, workshops and expert discussions in the Hellweg region of North Rhine-Westphalia as part of their international theatre festival, hellwach. Up to seven towns in the Hellweg cultural region will present theatre productions in a variety of venues; productions which contextually and aesthetically set out to explore new territory and in doing so, speak not only to the smallest visitor but also to young audiences and adults.

Under the banner “borders”, the upcoming edition of hellwach taking place from 6th to 13th June 2021 will grapple with economic, political and climate barriers, will feature artistic border-crossings, and there will be particular emphasis on interdisciplinary or transcultural formats. Moreover, the international orientation of the festival will give particular meaning to this focus – in 2021 the following companies will guest: Teatro al Vacio (Mexico), Wiersma and Smeets (Netherlands), Compagnie Mediane (France), Teatro Distinto (Italy), TJP Strasbourg (France), Artika Theatre Company (Greece), Auraco dance theatre (Finland) and Ljubljana Puppet Theatre (Slovenia). The fringe programme at this theatre for young people will also reflect social and aesthetic questions: open discussion forums enable specialist visitors and artists to discuss working conditions and the role and function of theatre in different societies.

As well as visiting the festival and participating in discussions and networking events with local organisers and participants, the programme will be rounded off by visits to other institutions and companies working in the field of children’s and young people’s theatre in North Rhine-Westphalia.

For this programme there are up to 4 places for artistic directors, programme directors, organisers and theatre makers, particularly those focussing on children’s and young people’s theatre.

Please send in your suggestions by **Thursday, 11th February 2021.**

Event Trip in Cooperation with the Goethe-Institut’s “Be My Guest”-Programme:**“Impulse Theatre Festival 2021 and Impulse-Academy: Independent Theatre in Times of Pandemic – Lost in Space?”****10th–13th June 2021, Düsseldorf, Cologne, Mülheim an der Ruhr****(participation online is also possible)**www.impulsefestival.de/en/

The Impulse Theatre Festival is the most important platform for independent theatre in the whole German-speaking world for nearly 30 years now. It presents excellent works that are produced outside the municipal theatre apparatus and consequently probes, broadens and interrogates theatre as a medium through aesthetic alternatives and approaches. Established positions as well as new discoveries will be presented that reflect a huge variety of different theatrical forms. Alongside the showcase in Cologne, Impulse Festival also offers a site-specific project in public space in Mülheim an der Ruhr, as well as the Impulse Academy in Düsseldorf.

During the Impulse-Academy “LOST IN SPACE”, the participants will address bodies, encounters and collaboration in the time of a pandemic. Over the past year the creative invention of formats within the performance scene, as well as free access to otherwise ‘holy’ performance recordings, have enabled many people to produce and to consume art and culture within their own four walls. But what are the consequences of this development in the direction of “theatre on demand”, telegram performance and 24/7 Zoom? What gets lost if we gradually give up that rare feature unique to theatre, i. e. temporary companionship in one room? And thinking beyond theatre: what do current developments mean for collaborations and negotiation processes in general? What will be the results of this lack of intimacy and contact in the long term? Where can we not give up on the body being present, and where do we not want to? What new forms of protest and resistance are emerging, individually and collectively? Over the course of four days the Academy will debate these questions in a combined digital and analogue programme. There will be lectures and discussions with international artists and academics, experiments with gathering together in physical and virtual cells around the globe, as well as practical exercises around what it means to be touched both physically and emotionally.

The focus of this event trip is on participating in the Impulse Academy. The participants will also visit the Impulse Showcase performances, relevant cultural institutions and have the opportunity to get together for discussions with other cultural operators and artists.

This event trip is organised in cooperation with the Goethe-Institut’s “Be My Guest”-programme.

For this programme there are up to 8 places available for theatre makers, organisers and (specialist) journalists with a focus on independent theatre and dance.

Please send in your suggestions by **Thursday, 18th February 2021.**

Event Trip:

“Urbane Künste Ruhr and ‘Ruhr Ding: Climate’ – Art in Public Spaces in the Industrial Landscape of the Ruhr Region”

16th–20th June 2021, Ruhr region

www.urbanekuensteruhr.de/en/

Urbane Künste Ruhr is a multi-faceted decentralised institution for contemporary art in the Ruhr region. It initiates projects in public spaces, exhibitions, residency programmes and events, often in collaboration with local and international cooperation partners. In 2019 Urbane Künste Ruhr created a new exhibition format for the Ruhr region which placed different artistic positions in relationship to each other over a period of eight weeks. Set within a thematic framework, numerous institutional and transdisciplinary collaborations took place that connected up different topographical, aesthetic and social spaces.

Under the banner “Ruhr Ding: Territories”, in 2019 the format turned into 22 projects equally distributed across the cities of Bochum, Dortmund, Essen and Oberhausen for the first time. The second edition is coming up from 8th May to 27th June 2021 in the northern part of the Ruhr region, thematically grouped under the term “Climate”. In and around the cities of Gelsenkirchen, Herne, Recklinghausen and Haltern am See, “Ruhr Ding: Climate” will turn its attention to ecological questions in the region and grapple simultaneously with climate change and aspects of social climate.

Using the cosmos of the Ruhr region as a starting point, different artistic positions and projects in public spaces will look at associations raised by the theme – from the relationship between man and nature to aspects of human hubris.

As well as visiting artistic works in public spaces as part of “Ruhr Ding: Climate”, also planned is a visit to the neighbouring project of Emscherkunstweg as well as discussions with other cultural operators in the Ruhr region.

For this programme there are up to 5 places for curators, creative artists and cultural operators as well as heads of relevant institutions on the theme of arts in public spaces.

Please send in your suggestions by **Thursday, 18th February 2021.**

Please note: it is possible to propose people for every trip who, for various reasons, had to be turned down for previous trips.

The following costs for the visitor will be covered by the NRW KULTURsekretariat: travel, accommodation, transfer and programme costs. The participants undertake to providing detailed feedback on the programme (by filling in a feedback form) following the trip for the purposes of internal evaluation. Participating journalists undertake to write a report.

Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the International Visitors Programme can only issue invitations with the proviso that the execution of each visitor’s programme is possible and that the guest is able to travel. Alternatively, programmes can be realized in digital or hybrid formats.

Criteria for Visitors

When proposing visitors, the following criteria set out by the NRW KULTURsekretariat’s Visitors Programme must be taken into consideration:

- Strong networks in the relevant field in the home country and beyond
- An interest in lasting connections and future collaboration as well as interest in the cultural landscape of North Rhine-Westphalia
- A good mastery of English (see also additional information in the individual programme descriptions)

Contact

Please send one completed form per proposed visitor directly to:

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