



## PRESS RELEASE

### Forging the Future

Leading Up to the 2015 Climate Change Conference in Paris, Events Highlight Challenges and Innovative Ideas for a Better Global Future

**April 20 – July 3, 2015**

**Goethe-Institut Washington**  
812 7<sup>th</sup> St. NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
[www.goethe.de/washington](http://www.goethe.de/washington)

**Alliance Française**  
2142 Wyoming Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20008  
[www.francedc.org](http://www.francedc.org)

Download images from Dropbox [here](#).

(Washington, DC, April 15, 2015) – Climate change exacerbates established global economic and environmental social inequalities. Addressing this global catastrophe requires political, technological, social and cultural change in our relationship with nature.

Organized by the Goethe-Institut and the Alliance Française Washington in relation to the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris, this film series, exhibition, and website launch aim to contribute to innovative discourses for a better, more sustainable global future.

“Forging the Future” is supported by a generous contribution from the Elysée-Fonds for German-French cultural programs abroad.



Films  
**Monday, April 20, 6:30 pm**  
*Goethe-Institut, GoetheForum*

**Divine Location (Göttliche Lage)**  
Germany, 2014, 100 min., Directors: Ulrike Franke and Michael Loeken

Until April 2001, Dortmund was one of the most important locations for heavy industry in the world. On the enormous site of the former Phoenix-Ost steelworks a luxury housing development has now been constructed around a newly created, artificial lake: Lake Phoenix. But how should one proceed when the surrounding working-class neighborhood has become a ghetto, decimated by unemployment because of the closure of the steelworks?

**Goethe-Institut Washington**  
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**GOETHE  
INSTITUT**

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Ulrike Franke (b. 1970, Dortmund) works as an author, director and producer of various television and feature films. After working as a sound mixer on several documentaries and fiction films for TV and cinema, Michael Loeken (b. 1954, Nevinges) is now an author, director and producer. Tickets \$7/\$4 (see below)



**Monday, April 27, 6:30 pm**

*Goethe-Institut, GoetheForum*

**The Farmer and His Prince (Der Bauer und sein Prinz)**

Germany, 2014, 80 min., Director: Bertram Verhaag

This film depicts Prince Charles, who has a vision to feed the world with organic agriculture and to heal damaged nature. Alongside his charismatic farm manager David Wilson, he has been pursuing this goal for 30 years. Through poetically impressive images, this unique collaboration portrays how organic agriculture works, and the benefits that emanate from it.

Over more than thirty years of documentary filmmaking, Bertram Verhaag has focused on scientific, environmental and social subjects. *The Farmer and His Prince* received the Horst Stern Award for the Best Nature Film and was nominated for the 2014 German Nature Film Award. Tickets \$7/\$4 (see below)

**General Admission to Films at the Goethe-Institut:** \$ 7/\$ 4 Members of Friends of the Goethe-Institut, seniors and students. Tickets can be purchased right before the screenings, or during office hours Monday-Thursday 10am-5pm and Friday 10am-3pm, or online at [www.boxofficetickets.com/goethe](http://www.boxofficetickets.com/goethe). All films are in English or have English subtitles.



**Monday, May 4, 8 pm**

*Avalon Theatre, 5612 Connecticut Ave. NW*

**After Winter, Spring**

USA/France, 2013, 75 min., French and English with English subtitles, Director: Judith Lit

Discussion with filmmaker Judith Lit follows the screening.

Seen through the eyes of family farmers in southwest France, the internationally award-winning *After Winter, Spring* is an intimate portrait of an ancestral way of life under threat in a world increasingly dominated by large-scale industrial agriculture.

Judith Lit is co-author with Jane Weiner of *Les Abeilles de Vézelay*, a documentary in production with Arte France about a village in Burgundy struggling to restore its biodiversity and to eliminate the use of pesticides. Producer of several other films, Lit was born in Pennsylvania and now divides her time between southwest France and New York City. Tickets at [www.theavalon.org](http://www.theavalon.org)



**Friday, May 29, 7 pm**

*Alliance Française, 2142 Wyoming Ave. NW*

**Food Beware: The French Organic Revolution (Nos enfants nous accuseront)**

France, 2009, 112 min., Director: Jean-Paul Jaud

*Food Beware* follows an experiment in a small village in France, where the town's mayor has decided to make the school lunch menu organic, with much of it grown locally. Featuring interviews with children, parents, teachers, health care workers, journalists, farmers, elected officials, scientists and researchers, we learn about challenges and rewards of their stand - both the abuses of industry as well as the practical solutions at hand. Screening alongside the children's film *Il était une forêt*. Tickets \$7/\$4 at [www.francedc.org](http://www.francedc.org)



**Monday, May 18, 6:30 pm**

*Goethe-Institut, GoetheForum*

**German Companies Are Working Towards the Future**

Each year the Federal Ministry of Economics and Energy presents the German Business Film Prize to films underscoring innovation

in the economy and special business achievements. Five short films which received the 2013 and 2014 German Business Film Prize highlight individuals and the diversity of thinking that contribute to this success.

Panel discussion "What Does Future-Oriented Action Mean to Business?" follows with participants from German businesses (TBD), moderated by Thomas Zielke (President, Representative of German Industry and Trade).

Organized by the Representative of German Industry and Trade (RGIT), Washington DC.

No charge. RSVP at [www.goetheinstitutwashington.eventbrite.com](http://www.goetheinstitutwashington.eventbrite.com)

This film series is made possible with support from Friends of the Goethe-Institut.



Exhibition and Artist Talk

**May 5 - July 3, 2015**

*Goethe-Institut, FotoGalerie*

**Take It Right Back**

**Works by Paula Doepfner**

In her graphic and sculptural pieces, Berlin-based artist Paula Doepfner works with natural shapes, materials and products such as flowers and ice, alongside iron and glass, as material ways of conveying stories, processes, feelings, and utopias. Her often ephemeral works, such as sculptures from melting ice and flowers, allude to universal stories of fragility and transience, violence and resistance. Doepfner uses natural materials gently in precise processes that may denote decay, damage or corrosion, but lead to beautiful transformation. Renewal is possible; destroyed or frozen plants regrow.

**Exhibition opening Tuesday, May 5, 6 - 8 pm** with artist Paula Doepfner (artist-in-residence from Berlin), Kirsten Weiss (Berlin-based curator of this exhibition) and Chanel Compton (Prince George's African American Museum workshop curator). No charge. RSVP at [www.goetheinstitutwashington.eventbrite.com](http://www.goetheinstitutwashington.eventbrite.com)

### ***About the Goethe-Institut Washington***

On behalf of the Federal Republic of Germany, cultural institutes around the world provide cultural programs, language courses, support to educators, and up-to-date information on Germany in the context of Europe. Founded in 1990, Goethe-Institut Washington, DC is a center for German culture and language in the midst of the revitalized Downtown. Visit [www.goethe.de/washington](http://www.goethe.de/washington) for more information.

### ***About the Alliance Française***

The Alliance Française de Washington, DC is dedicated to providing the highest quality of French language training through a multi-faceted approach that promotes lifelong learning and cultural dialogue in an increasingly multicultural society. Visit [www.francedc.org](http://www.francedc.org) for more information.

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