

DIVERSITY UNITED

Contemporary European Art.
Moscow. Berlin. Paris.

For release 14 July 2020

DIVERSITY UNITED

90 artists from 35 countries presenting the diverse artistic face of Europe

Diversity United presents established and emerging artists exploring pro-European dialogues. The exhibition – travelling to venues in Moscow, Berlin and Paris – considers subjects including freedom, dignity, respect, conflicts and dialogue, landscapes and power and political and personal identity.

1st venue: Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow: 15 November 2020 – 21 February 2021



Lucy + Jorge Orta, *Antarctic Village - No Borders*, 2007. Ephemeral installation of Antarctic Village, North, South East and West villages across the Antarctic Peninsula from March to April 2007, various dimensions. Image courtesy of Lucy + Jorge Orta. Photo Thierry Bal / ADAGPPress

The Foundation for Art and Culture, Bonn and the Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow present the debut of the major travelling group show *Diversity United. Contemporary European Art. Moscow. Berlin. Paris.* from 15 November 2020 – 21 February 2021. The exhibition is dedicated to portraying the artistic face of

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Europe, presenting a forum for artistic dialogue and solidarity. As the continent responds to the tragedy of the current pandemic, the exhibition's themes and concerns - democracy and its erosion, (fear of) the future, solidarity and separation, the pandemic and its consequences - appear more urgent than ever.

Presenting a survey of work from across Europe, the exhibition showcases 90 key European artists active today, spanning generations, genders and regions – including Olafur Eliasson, Mona Hatoum, Annette Messager, Wolfgang Tillmans and Slavs and Tatars (**see full artist list**). The exhibition is under the patronage of the State Presidents of Germany, Russia and France: President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, President Vladimir Putin and President Emmanuel Macron.

New commissions:

New commissions include works from Yael Bartana (b. Israel, 1970), Christian Boltanski (b. France, 1944) Pia Fries (b. Switzerland, 1955), Antony Gormley (b. UK, 1950), Manuel Graf (b. Germany, 1978), Sheila Hicks (b. US, 1934), Patricia Kaersenhout (b. Netherlands, 1966), Peter Kogler (b. Austria, 1959), Kris Martin (b. Belgium, 1972), Katja Novitskova (b. Estonia, 1984), Tal R (b. Tel Aviv, 1967), Tristan Schulze (b. Germany, 1964), Jan Svenungsson (b. Sweden, 1961), Per Wizén (b. Sweden, 1966), Erwin Wurm (b. Austria, 1954), and Yan Pei-Ming (b. China, 1960).

Dutch Surinamese artist Patricia Kaersenhout presents *Mea Culpa* (2020), an installation which engages with Europe's colonial history of oppression and exploitation. Through an installation directly engaging with the Christian tradition of Repentance, but referencing current socio-political contexts, crawling men in suits are presented alongside a call-to-action for audiences to suggest which oppressor (be it a politician, CEO or other leading-figure) should crawl for their own atonement. Considering the

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work within the context of the exhibition, the artist quotes the Brazilian feminist activist Djamila Ribeiro - *'before we speak about diversity we first need to talk about inequalities.'*

Berlin-based Swedish artist Jan Svenungsson shows three series created in 1998, 2010, and now revisited during the COVID-19 pandemic. Called *Psycho-Mapping Europe*, each consists of twenty hand-drawn maps of Europe, with the countries belonging to the European Union coloured in. The first of each series is a correct tracing of the EU-map at the time of making, the second a carefully made copy of the first, the third a copy of the second – and so on. Though intended as an exact replica of its model, each copy bares its own idiosyncrasies; over the course of each series the shape of Europe changes, and the relationships between countries (Union members or not) develop in intricate ways. *'I began making the drawings for the third series, which I had decided in advance to call "Psycho-Mapping Europe, post Brexit", in early March 2020',* the artist explains, *'a few days later lockdown was imposed. Never could I have imagined that my work would coincide with a real-world "Psycho-Mapping of Europe" – and its momentous consequences, now unfolding before our eyes.'*

British artist Antony Gormley presents new works from his ongoing 'Blockworks' series, monumental 'over life-size' sculptures which translate body space into the blocks of the built environment, becoming part of the building that supports them. *'They express our dependency on our second body: our built habitat, and ask us to reconsider our place within the elements'* the artist explains, *'How we live alone or together, within or without, is a project that is continuing to evolve.'*

Estonian artist Katja Novitskova presents a sculpture grappling with the complex network of biodiversity, globalization and environmental policy. Focussing on a fungi species which has been instrumental in the apocalyptic decline of amphibian species across the world in the last 50 years, the work particularly reflects on the steady decline in wildlife and biodiversity of European countries today.

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Now being exhibited in the shadow of the COVID-19 crisis, the work further considers how *“infectious organisms ignore national borders and political propaganda.”*

Tristan Schulze’s interactive AR piece *SKIN* – confronting visitors with scans of their own bodies – explores the partitions between reality and cyberspace. Kris Martin’s mirrored installation *Ship of Fools* is both a physical and metaphorical reflection of the political and social status quo between community and division, asking visitors to directly confront the plight of refugees at European borders.

Walter Smerling, Chairman of the Foundation for Art and Culture, Bonn, comments:

“This perception remains crucial: Europe is a project. Artists play a significant role in this project because, through their individual approaches, they reflect the situation and development of European societies, both historically and in the present. In light of Germany’s presidency of the EU Council and the harrowing effects of the corona pandemic, the Foundation for Art and Culture is guided by a sense of responsibility; wishing to send a signal in these pivotal times, we are very pleased to be continuing our work towards opening the exhibition “Diversity United” in Moscow this November as planned, before travelling on to Berlin and Paris in 2021. Given the recent extraordinary circumstances, the past months have seen us working closely with our artists to ensure they are supported, and we’ve been overwhelmed with the wave of encouragement, energy and motivation we’ve received in response. The message behind the exhibition – that we are better for being united – is as important as ever. I hope it heralds in a brighter future.”

Participating artists:

Participating artists originate from, live and work in Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom and Ukraine.

See full list of participating artists overleaf.

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Eija-Liisa Ahtila
Andreas Angelidakis
Michael Armitage
Yael Bartana
Rugilė Barzdžiukaitė, Vaiva Grainytė, Lina Lapelytė
Georg Baselitz
Blue Soup
Christian Boltanski
Monica Bonvicini
Sonia Boyce
Pavel Bräila
Maurizio Cattelan
Olga Chernysheva
Tacita Dean
Rineke Dijkstra
Aleksandra Domanović
Constant Dullaart
Olafur Eliasson
Kristaps Eppers
Valérie Favre
Pia Fries
Adrian Ghenie
Gilbert & George
Aslan Goisum
Antony Gormley
Manuel Graf
Ane Graff
Petrit Halilaj
Mona Hatoum
Sheila Hicks
Sanja Iveković
Isaac Julien
Ilya and Emilia Kabakov
Patricia Kaersenhout
Šejla Kamerić
Erik Kessels & Thomas Mailaender
Anselm Kiefer
Kapwani Kiwanga
Peter Kogler
Irina Korina
Eva Kot'átková
Alicja Kwade
Kris Lemsalu
Cristina Lucas
Goshka Macuga
Kris Martin
Dóra Maurer
Annette Messenger
Marzia Migliora
Boris Mikhailov
Richard Mosse
Ekaterina Muromtseva
Henrike Naumann
Mariele Neudecker
Katja Novitskova
Ahmet Öğüt
Roman Ondak
Lucy & Jorge Orta
Dan Perjovschi
Grayson Perry
Anders Petersen
Agnieszka Polska
Tal R
Paula Rego
Gerhard Richter
Ugo Rondinone
Adam Saks
Anri Sala
Fernando Sánchez Castillo
Tristan Schulze
Yinka Shonibare CBE
Katharina Sieverding
Slavs and Tatars
Nedko Solakov
Jan Svenungsson
Wolfgang Tillmans
Rosemarie Trockel
Tatiana Trouvé
Luc Tuymans
Martina Vacheva
Ulla von Brandenburg
Marko Vuokola
Rachel Whiteread
Per Wizén
Erwin Wurm
Cerith Wyn Evans
Nil Yalter
Yan Pei-Ming

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Notes to Editors

About Diversity United

90 artists from 35 countries presenting the diverse artistic face of Europe: *Diversity United* presents established and emerging artists exploring pro-European dialogues. The exhibition – with venues in Moscow, Berlin and Paris – showcases the strength and diversity of Europe’s cultural output and highlights the importance of a united Europe during times of political uncertainty. The exhibition looks at contemporary European art after the fall of the Iron Curtain, underlining the importance of intercultural dialogue today.

Diversity United raises questions about freedom, dignity, democracy and respect whilst highlighting the continent’s artistic production in the context of historically relevant and current themes, such as political and personal identity, migration, (mental) landscape, gender and equality, nationality, territory and geopolitics and social conflicts and dialogue.

Diversity United is a common project by the Foundation for Art and Culture, Bonn and the Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow.

About Foundation for Art and Culture, Bonn

Stiftung für Kunst und Kultur Bonn (Foundation for Art and Culture, Bonn) is a nonprofit organisation and was founded in 1986 as a private initiative designed to foster the arts and culture as an essential, stimulating and integral part of our civic society. The Foundation aims to “help shape society”, as the great Joseph Beuys once said. The Foundation is headed by Chairman Walter Smerling, who is responsible for numerous art and cultural projects including the establishment of MKM Museum Küppersmühle for Modern Art in Duisburg. The Foundation focuses on the **conception and realisation of exhibitions**, the **supervision of the MKM Museum Küppersmühle**, the organisation of **discussions at the interface of culture, politics and economics** and the presentation of **art in public spaces**. Since its conception, around 300 exhibitions and other cultural projects have been realised at different national and international sites, including the “Walk of Modern Art” in Salzburg and major exhibitions.

stiftungkunst.de

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About Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow

Established in 1856, the Tretyakov Gallery has become one of the largest and the most visited museums in Russia. Currently the museum collection comprises of more than 190,000 objects which date between the 11th – 21st centuries. The space houses a unique collection of modern Russian art as it is the only permanent exhibition space for 20th century local art in Russia. The masterworks are the artifacts of the epoch which has provided the world with the Russian avant-garde. Alongside the large-scale retrospectives of great Russian artists, the Tretyakov Gallery exhibits contemporary masters that are held in The New Tretyakov collection.

Address: New Tretyakov, Moscow, Krymsky Val, 10
Websites: www.stiftungkunst.de, www.tretyakovgallery.ru/en/
Dates: 15 November 2020 – 21 February 2021
Opening Hours: Mon: Closed
Tue, Wed, Sun: 10:00 – 18:00
Thu, Fri, Sat: 10:00 – 21:00

www.tretyakovgallery.ru
Instagram [@tretyakov_gallery](https://www.instagram.com/tretyakov_gallery)
Facebook [@tretyakovgallery](https://www.facebook.com/tretyakovgallery)

Curatorial Committee

Walter Smerling (Chairman of the Foundation for Art and Culture, Bonn) - Speaker
Zelfira Tregulova (General Director of the Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow) - Speaker
Simon Baker (Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris)
Faina Balakhovskaya (Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow)
Kay Heymer (Stiftung Museum Kunstpalast, Düsseldorf)
Pontus Kyander (writer and curator, Helsinki)
Camille Morineau (AWARE, curator, Paris)
Johanna Neuschäffer & Anne Schwanz (Office Impart, Berlin)
Hilke Wagner (Albertinum, Dresden)
Peter Weibel (ZKM Karlsruhe)

Cooperation Partners

The exhibition is in cooperation with Petersburg Dialogue (Petersburger Dialog e.V.) and supported by the German Federal Foreign Office.

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