

Federal President Gauck announces "Deutschland 8" in Beijing

The exhibition, staged by the Foundation for Art and Culture Bonn and the Central Academy of Fine Arts Beijing, is taking Baselitz, Kiefer, Polke, Richter and further artists from Germany into the Forbidden City.

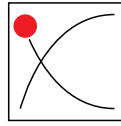
From September 2017 at eight exhibition venues across Beijing

With the announcement by the Federal President Joachim Gauck during his current trip to China and the signing of the cooperation agreements, the stage is now set: In 2017 "Deutschland 8 – German Art in Beijing" will showcase contemporary German art to a Chinese public on an unprecedented scale. The exhibition is being mounted on the initiative of our Chinese counterparts. Following the successful organisation and staging of the exhibition "China 8" by the Foundation for Art and Culture, the world's most extensive presentation of contemporary Chinese art, which was held in the summer of 2015 in eight German cities along the Rhine and Ruhr, China has reciprocated by extending an invitation to stage "Deutschland 8".

The works of 40 trail-blazing German artists are now to be presented at eight exhibition venues across Beijing, including the Museum of the Central Academy of Fine Arts and the Taimiao Temple, the former Ancestral Temple, in the Forbidden City. This marks a very special premiere: For the first time an exhibition venue in the Forbidden City has been made available to a Western country. After honouring "China 8" as an important contribution towards fostering international dialogue, the Federal President Joachim Gauck has now lauded "Deutschland 8" as a worthy sequel with which to continue to build cultural bridges.

The key focus of the exhibition is to showcase the diversity of the German art scene, featuring both established artists such as Georg Baselitz, Anselm Kiefer, Markus Lüpertz, Sigmar Polke and Gerhard Richter, along with more recent positions. Works from the disciplines of painting, sculpture, installation, photography and multimedia art are being presented simultaneously at the eight exhibition venues, categorised according either to genre or theme. Visitors now have the opportunity of tracing the artistic development over the past 50 years in Germany, and also of gaining a keen insight into the themes currently occupying today's younger artists.

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With "Deutschland 8" the curators Walter Smerling and Fan Di'an are keen to *"render a valuable contribution towards intensifying Sino-German relations beyond the field of economics, and, at the same time, grant the Chinese public the opportunity to view Germany and its cultural diversity through the prism of art. Art helps to overcome distance and can serve as catalyst for improving understanding."*

The exhibition "Deutschland 8" is a collaboration between the Bonn-based Foundation for Art and Culture and the Central Academy of Fine Arts Beijing, and is being organised with the support of the eight Beijing exhibition venues. Overall responsibility lies with the curators Fan Di'an (President of the Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing) and Walter Smerling (Chairman of the Foundation for Art and Culture, Bonn and Director of the MKM Museum Küppersmühle for Modern Art, Duisburg), who will be supported by a Chinese team of experts. "Deutschland 8" begins in September 2017.

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