

Kuratoren
Prof. Kasper König
Dr. Brigitte Franzen

skulptur projekte münster 07

Westfälisches Landesmuseum für Kunst und Kulturgeschichte – Direktor Dr. Hermann Arnholt

in Kooperation mit
Dr. Carina Plath
Westfälischer Kunstverein

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skulptur projekte münster 07
17 June – 30 September 2007

Press release, 7 August 2007

Half-time in Münster: After 53 days, *skulptur projekte münster 07* has had more visitors than ever before

On 8 August 2007 *skulptur projekte münster 07* will have been open for exactly 53 days, which leaves another 53 days for those who haven't been able to make it yet to the exhibition.

At this halfway point, Brigitte Franzen, Kasper König and Carina Plath offer a very positive assessment. 'The visitors have been exceptionally enthusiastic, inquisitive, and open-minded about the works on display,' says Brigitte Franzen. This can be seen not only in the number of visitors to the exhibition, which has exceeded all expectations among the *skulptur projekte* team and its sponsors, but also in the great demand for guided tours and the arts education offerings. So far, more than 350,000 people from around the world have come to see the fourth edition of *Skulptur Projekte*.

Thirty-six artists have changed the city of Münster with thirty-four different projects. Over the past seven weeks, the reactions have been broad and varied, ranging from critical discussions and ironic or affectionate commentaries – such as visitors making their own additions to the existing works – to vandalism or even theft. The disappearance of Michael Asher's *Caravan* kept the whole city in suspense for two days. All this goes to show that, in 2007, art in public space can still provoke audiences and lead to critical reflection.

As a place for experimentation, the city, urban space, and the public sphere are subject to constant change, which is enlivened, mirrored, and challenged through artistic exploration. In the process, the type of artistic approach evolves along with public space itself. As Franzen points out, whereas the artworks in 1997 had a 'participatory character', those in this year's exhibition are of a more immaterial quality, requiring that visitors be alert to details and open to the unexpected. 'Anyone who accuses the artists of not taking a serious approach is choosing the easy way out. Art fosters thought; it is healthy and vital', says Franzen.

For the first time, an exhibition in the LWL State Museum of Art and Cultural History is examining the history and development of the *Skulptur Projekte*. *77/87/97/07 archive* showcases original sketches, correspondence, film sequences, and models. So far, more than 10,000 visitors have seen this document of the exhibition's history.

Arts education is an important part of *skulptur projekte münster 07*. A broad spectrum of educational offerings is available to people of all ages, providing them with the opportunity to get to know the different works of art. A total of 2,600 guided tours have been booked for the exhibition, and roughly 50,000 visitors have taken part in the tours to date.

Another important aspect of our Arts Education & Outreach programme is creative work with children and youth at the *sommerakademie*, made possible through the kind support of RWE Westfalen-Weser-Ems AG. In a 600-square-metre space in the city

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centre, a total of over 10,000 children and youth have been and will be taking part in workshops, project days, holiday programmes, and family days. Two large studios are available for creative work, journalistic contributions, and discussions in a lounge-like atmosphere. Young docents accompany children and youth on tours of the exhibition, provide inspiration for practical work, and discuss the works of art themselves.

skulptur projekte münster 07 is free of charge and takes place in public space, which makes it difficult to determine the exact number of visitors to the exhibition. We have thus based our figures on the number of exhibition maps that have been distributed at the visitor information points. However, as our tour guides and on-site supervisors have confirmed, not every visitor has a map; as a result we've based our statistics on a ratio of 1 map per 1.5 visitors.

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skulptur projekte münster 07 – Information

17 June – 30 September 2007

The fourth edition of *Skulptur Projekte* will be taking place during the summer of 2007. Every ten years since 1997, this major exhibition has invited artists from around the world to captivate audiences and enrich the city with works of art. Over the years, Münster has become an important name in contemporary art in public space. Today, approximately forty sculptures bear witness to the exciting history of the *skulptur projekte*, including Claes Oldenburg's *Giant Pool Balls* (1977) by Lake Aa, which have become one of the city's most famous landmarks. The curators of the exhibition are Kasper König and Brigitte Franzen; the associated curator is Carina Platz. The *skulptur projekte münster 07* will take place from June 17-September 30, parallel to *documenta* in Kassel, thus exerting a decisive influence on the city and region for more than 100 days. In 1997, more than 500,000 visitors came to Münster to admire the work of artists from twenty-five different countries. Patrons of the exhibition are the Landschaftsverband Westfalen-Lippe and the City of Münster, and the exhibition itself is organised by the LWL State Museum of Art and Cultural History, Münster. Sponsors include the German Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia, the German Federal Cultural Foundation, Kunststiftung NRW, Kulturstiftung der Westfälischen Provinzial Versicherung, and Sparkasse Münsterland Ost.
