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international festival
of the arts

The Ruhrtriennale announces opening premieres for the 2012 Season

Heiner Goebbels, artistic director of the Ruhrtriennale 2012–2014, will be staging *Europeras 1&2* by John Cage at Bochum's Jahrhunderthalle. The live art exhibition *12 Rooms* will be held at Ruhrtriennale's new venue this year, Essen's Museum Folkwang.

January, 2012 The first season of the Ruhrtriennale under its new artistic director Heiner Goebbels will open on August 17, 2012 with two large-scale productions. At Bochum's Jahrhunderthalle, Heiner Goebbels, together with Klaus Grünberg (stage design/lighting) and Florence von Gerkan (costumes), will be directing John Cage's *Europeras 1&2*, a key work of new music and new music theater.

In 2012, many of John Cage's solo and ensemble works will be performed around the world to mark his one hundredth birthday, but nowhere else will *Europeras 1&2* be shown. The composer's largest and most radical work of musical theater has almost disappeared entirely from the repertoire since its premiere performance.

"In terms of its aesthetic possibilities and its new relationship to the spectator, it is surely one of the most exciting opera compositions of the twentieth century, an unique landscape of images and sounds." Heiner Goebbels

In 2012, Essen's Museum Folkwang is the Ruhrtriennale's new partner and new venue. In the museum's new wing, the live art exhibition *12 Rooms* will be shown. Curators Hans Ulrich Obrist (London) and Klaus Biesenbach (New York) have invited twelve renowned prominent artists from five continents to use the museum space as a stage. This results in living sculptures, images of bodies and constellations that do not rely on a fixed shape, but develop live before the eyes and in the imagination of the spectator.

"The works shown in *12 Rooms* provide very direct, intense encounters that the theater with its distant stage normally doesn't allow. A fleeting glance, a brief conversation, a surprising gesture, an odd observation: each of the 12 rooms touches us in a different way. The opening weekend exemplifies the entire program of this year's Ruhrtriennale. Theater is far more than just conveying a message or enlightenment. Theater enables experiences that language alone cannot offer." Heiner Goebbels

The Ruhrtriennale is the international arts festival hosted by the Ruhr metropolitan area. The venues of the Ruhrtriennale are the region's outstanding industrial monuments, transformed each year into spectacular sites for music, fine art, theater, dance, and performance. At the center of all this are contemporary artists seeking a dialog with industrial spaces and between the disciplines. A new artistic director every three years provides the festival with ever-new impulses. Under the artistic directorship of Heiner Goebbels, the Ruhrtriennale will become a laboratory and an open platform for current developments of the international world of the arts.

The whole program of the Ruhrtriennale 2012 will be published in April, advance ticket sales will begin at that time.

The Ruhrtriennale season begins on August 17 and ends on September 30, 2012.

Europeras 1&2

A production of the Ruhrtriennale

John Cage composed *Europeras 1&2* in 1987 as a negation of opera from the spirit of the opera. Cage insisted on the radical independence of music from all other elements of the stage and in terms of his compositional technique took Marcel Duchamp's concept of the *objet trouvé* as his inspiration: all materials are not generated as a new composition but come from the 200-year history of European opera. Heiner Goebbels and his long-standing team will seek to realize Cage's experimental approach using today's technological possibilities. The performance site Jahrhunderthalle Bochum with its extraordinary depth of space is especially well suited as a place where song, image, gesture, and costume can enter into constantly new relationships with one another. In the title *Europeras*, we can hear both "your operas" and "Europe's operas." The European aspect of this opera is given reflected in the international cast of singers and the selection of its musical material. *Europeras 1&2* stands for a concept of cultural openness and a variety of artistic forms of expression.

With: Yosemite Adjei, Paolo Battaglia, Benjamin Bernheim, Nikolay Borchev, Ilse Eerens, Asmik Grigorian, Karolina Gumos, Susanne Gritschneider, Liliana Nikiteanu, Frode Olsen

Scenic design: Florian Bilbao, Willi Bopp, Stephan Buchberger, Harry Curtis, Florence von Gerkan, Heiner Goebbels, Klaus Grünberg, Hubert Machnik

Premiere: August 17, 2012, Jahrhunderthalle Bochum

Advance ticket sales begin in April 2012.

12 Rooms

A commissioned production of the Ruhrtriennale, Manchester International Festival, and Manchester Art Gallery

For the first time since the founding of the festival, Museum Folkwang and the Ruhrtriennale will be working together this year, offering a new presentation of performance art. The live art exhibition 12 Rooms is a coproduction with the Manchester International Festival, where in July 2011 it was presented as a group show in progress entitled 11 Rooms. For 12 Rooms, these works were developed further, others were adapted, and new works were added.

Artists: Marina Abramović, Jennifer Allora & Guillermo Calzadilla, John Baldessari, Simon Fujiwara, Joan Jonas, Laura Lima, Roman Ondák, Lucy Raven, Tino Sehgal, Santiago Sierra, and Xu Zhen

Curated by: Klaus Biesenbach and Hans Ulrich Obrist

Dates: August 17–26, 2012, Museum Folkwang, Essen

No ticket presales

Visual materials are available upon request from the press department.
www.ruhrtriennale.de

Press Contact

Hendrik von Boxberg
+49 (0) 209 . 60 50 71-37
h.vonboxberg@kulturruhr.com