

THERME ART

Press Release From Breaking Bauhaus to Growing Gaia

Therme Art and König Galerie to collaborate for first time during Gallery Weekend Berlin 2020 formulating a cultural response to COVID-19



WBOF Panellists

For Immediate Release
Berlin, September 2020

- 11-13 September, Therme Art is curating a performative talks programme in the courtyard of St Agnes Church which will conceive solutions for cultural transformation in the Anthropocene era formulating a cultural response to COVID-19

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- 8–20 September, Featuring a large-scale video projection, alongside a model of The Mother by the Icelandic artist Egill Saebjörnsson
- 10–13 September, Thermic vegetarian food experience prepared by star chef Stephan Hentschel and Henrik Stempel

On the occasion of Berlin Art Week and Gallery Weekend Berlin, Therme Art is collaborating with König Galerie for the first time to curate a unique dialogue space for art, science, architecture, food and economics, taking place in the courtyard of St Agnes from 11 – 13 September 2020. The programme can be attended in-person or via live-stream.

At the heart of the programme is an extensive, interdisciplinary discussion series featuring experts, artists, authors, and patrons. Key points of inspiration are the humanistic powers of the Bauhaus movement, along with the Gaia Hypothesis of James Lovelock and Lynn Margulis. The Bauhaus artistic movement aimed to penetrate all areas of life. The Gaia Hypothesis, working in a different register, postulates a holistic view of the earth system and its interactions, precipitating a view of the planet as a “Gesamtkunstwerk” or living organism.

Responding to these ideas, participants will conceive solutions for cultural transformation in the Anthropocene era. In the face of the ongoing pandemic, along with immense ecological and social challenges, we now need to devise new means of behaviour and multifunctional sites, creating immersive spaces to bridge nature and culture. Art can help build these bridges.

Flying Waters, the large-scale digital animation by the Icelandic artist Egill Saebjörnsson projected on the gable wall of St Agnes’s church embodies the fluid thinking style required to overcome deadlocked disciplines. Alongside, visitors will also be able to see a model of The Mother, an immersive landmark installation currently in development for a Therme Group facility. Further stimulating body and mind will be a vegetarian, thermal food experience prepared by star chef Stephan Hentschel and Henrik Stempel. The entire programme aims to spur transformations: from Breaking Bauhaus to Growing Gaia.

Included among the 35 panellists exchanging ideas at St Agnes are the curator and Artistic Director of Serpentine Galleries, Hans Ulrich Obrist; curator Roya Sachs, Artistic Director at Louis Vuitton, Virgil Abloh, architect Sumayya Vally from Counterspace, the biologist and author Stefano Mancuso; architect and urbanist Kunlé Adeyemi, Global Director of Art Basel, Marc Spiegler; artist Joulia Strauss; environmental activist Cyrill Gutsch; curator Lucia Pietroiusti; Pace Gallery’s Mollie Dent-Brocklehurst and Marc Glimcher; artist Jakob Kudks Steensen, Professor of Modern and Contemporary Art History at the Courtauld Institute of Art, Sarah Wilson; David Russell, Chairman of the Royal Society of Medicine and the Mayan shaman, Abuelo Antonio Oxté.

Johann König observed: "I think it's great to bring art out of the white cube in every possible constellation--be it in public spaces, in shopping centres or even in thermal baths. I think it's great to bring people into contact with art without them recognising it as that."

"If we believe that we have to connect with the complex system of nature in order to create a new balance between people, cities and ecology, then we can no longer build--we have to learn to grow!" stated CEO of Therme Group Robert C. Hanea.

These events are the first live iteration in the Wellbeing Culture Forum, the ongoing discussion series hosted online by Therme Art since April. Developed as a response to Covid-19, the series has explored the relationship between art,

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health and urban design against a general cultural context, attracting tens of thousands of viewers worldwide. The upcoming talks at St Agnes can be attended in-person or by live-stream.

Since 2017, Therme Art has been working with architects, designers and artists to create new types of experiential spaces for urban development. These are integrated into the thermal baths and wellbeing centres of Therme Group, the global market leader in urban planning solutions for wellbeing and preventive health.

Detailed information and images can be found here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/2s1nrgi8bqtrbx6/AACHvwXF1c5SeHEHx7VOTzVda?dl=0>

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Additional Information

Therme Group

Therme Group's vision is to create the world's most advanced wellbeing resorts, achieved by harnessing the complex interplay of nature, technology and culture. By combining the traditions of global thermal bathing with an indoor tropical ecosystem, Therme Group's resorts deliver an experience that enhances mind, body and soul. Therme Group's resorts are more than relaxing and fun places to meet; they nurture mental and physical health and offer a vital piece of social infrastructure. For more than 20 years, the Therme wellbeing resort concept has been transforming how people in Europe spend their free time. Current Therme concept facilities welcome millions of visitors a year, and active new projects are under development in the United Kingdom, mainland Europe, North America and Asia Pacific.

Therme Art

Therme Art is a global cultural initiative dedicated to supporting Therme Group's mission of promoting wellbeing for all. Collaborating with artists, creatives, and leading experts across various fields, along with a network of like-minded cultural institutions, Therme Art focuses on harnessing artistic expression to develop cultural experiences that inspire transformation. Through art projects, a transdisciplinary programme of talks, and community engagement, Therme Art proposes a holistic approach to wellbeing culture that aims to create a lasting positive impact.

König Galerie

Founded in Berlin by Johann König in 2002, König Galerie currently represents 40 international emerging and established artists, mostly belonging to a younger generation. The program's focus is on interdisciplinary, concept-oriented and space-based approaches in a variety of media including sculpture, video, sound, painting, printmaking, photography and performance. In May 2015, König Galerie took up St Agnes, a monumental former church built in the 1960s in the Brutalist style, where museum-like exhibitions take place in two different spaces, the former chapel and nave. In 2017, König Galerie opened König London in a former car park in Marylebone, London. In November 2019 König Tokio opened in Japan presenting artists that are based in Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

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