

**Newsletter # 1 / July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006****The Festival**

DOKU.ARTS is the European platform for international films on art. In the continuously shifting media landscape of today, the arts are most often covered by brief reports and cursory, journalistic formats, even though there exist many high quality, feature-length documentaries on art. The aim of DOKU.ARTS is to present the enormous diversity of these longer format films and films that possess an artistic quality in themselves.

**DOKU.ARTS - International Festivals for Films on Art** was initiated by Andreas Lewin (film-maker, fellow of the Academy of Arts 2002) and established by the Academy of Arts, as principle funder and host organisation. From **September 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>, 2006** the Academy of Arts (Hanseatenweg) and The Hamburger Bahnhof – Museum für Gegenwart will be important meeting places - not just for documentarians, artists, commissioning editors and producers, but also for the public that is interested in film, art and culture.

About 35 films have been selected from the over 500 considered, originating in more than 20 countries from around the world. Almost all filmmakers have accepted the invitation to come to Berlin to present their film at the festival personally and even some of the portrayed artists have confirmed their attendance at the festival such as Daniel Barenboim, Tony Cragg and Helmut Lachenmann. More artists have been invited. We will continuously place updated information about our guests on our web page.

DOKU.ARTS concentrates on three main thematic focuses this year: **“Artists at Work”**, **“The Public at Work with Art”** and **“Focus Canada”**. These focal points are reflected in the film selection as well as in the question & answer sessions and discussions. In the forum **“Producing Films on Art”**, the festival invites filmmakers, producers, critics, persons engaged in the cultural sector, artists and commissioning editors from all over Europe to discuss the challenges involved in producing documentaries on art.

**Films**

**“Artists at Work”**: This is the central focus of the festival. The unique ability of documentary film to present internal and essential aspects of the artistic process is featured here. In Bettina Ehrhards Film “... wo ich noch nie war”: Der Komponist **Helmut Lachenmann** (“...where I’ve never been before”: The Composer Helmut Lachenmann), a central question is raised: how is it possible to compose today without “serving yourself to the supermarket of traditions“. In a film by Maria Anna Tapeiner, we accompany **Richard Serra** as he works on his giant, circular steel sculptures that were commissioned by the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao. The process of strolling becomes the motivation for Serra to recapitulate his intellectual development throughout his experimental work with sculpture. The film “Soy Cuba, o Mamute Siberiano” (“I am Cuba, The Siberian Mammoth”) reconstructs the history of the origins, the filming and the almost bizarre reception of the film “Soy Cuba” – a cinematic masterpiece by the famous Soviet director **Michail Kalatosov**.

**“The Public at Work with Art”**: The focus here is on films that explore the involvement and interaction of the public with art. And this is exactly the theme of

Internationales Festival  
für Filme zur Kunst  
*International Festival  
for Films on Art*

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the “Makeshift Albinet Museum” by the Swiss artist **Thomas Hirschhorn**: he built this “museum” as a provisional wood structure in an underprivileged area of a Parisian suburb and for eight weeks presented the inhabitants of this neighbourhood with key works of 20<sup>th</sup> century art. The film by Coraly Suard shows daily life in this improvised museum. Thomas Hirschhorn will present, exclusively for DOKU.ARTS, a video-slideshow prior to the film screening. Dirk Lienigs film, “Beatbox Colombia”, also integrates the public in sequences where passers-by are allowed to listen, via headphones, to the music and lyrics of **Colombian rap musicians**. Finally, in the film “Traces, Empreintes des Femmes” by Katy Ndiaye, the boundaries between art and public are disappearing: the art of the **Women’s Group IDANI-LAMA of Korabié** is traditional mural painting – belonging both to a particular cultural identity and to everyday life.

“**Focus Canada**”: In collaboration with the Embassy of Canada and the Government of Québec we present an additional focus on Canadian films on art. Amongst others, we screen the film “Walk With Us – The Collaborative Works of **Janet Cardiff** and **George Bures Miller**”. Along with other projects, this film presents Cardiff and Miller’s audio-video-walk through the Hebbel theatre in Berlin, an artwork that uses public interaction to explore the perception between reality and illusion. Thus we not only watch “the public at work with art”, but, at the same time we see the artists at work and learn about the diversity of their life in Berlin and Canada.

## Forum

The Festival will hold a conference on the production of films on art – a collaboration of DOKU.ARTS with the **European Documentary Network, Copenhagen** and the **International Music and Media Centre, Vienna**. This conference invites filmmakers, producers, critics, persons engaged in the cultural sector, artists and commissioning editors from all over Europe to discuss the challenges involved in producing films on art. The main topics of the forum include case studies of noteworthy production stories, the presentation of the work of commissioning editors, dialogue with filmmakers about their actual projects, alternative forms of production and distribution, as well as discussions on media policy in an international context. The moderators will be Leena Pasanen (Documentary Network, Copenhagen) and Franz Patay (International Music and Media Center, Vienna).

Some of the most important commissioning editors and producers have confirmed their attendance, among them **Gabrielle Babin Guggenheim (Arte France)**, **Anthony Wall (BBC, UK)**, **Saskia van Schaik (VPRO, Netherlands)** and **Reinhard Wulf (WDR, Germany)**. More guests (for instance from ARD, ZDF, NPS, ARTE Deutschland) will be added to our web-page by the middle of August.

## “A Tribute to...”

DOKU.ARTS honours the independent production team of **Illuminations Media, London** for their outstanding work for documentaries on art. **John Wyver** (co-founder and chairman) will visit the festival personally. Two Illuminations Media films from the series theEYE are: **Tony Cragg** and **Rachel Whiteread**.

The film "theEYE – Tony Cragg" will be screened on Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, at the Academy of Arts (Hanseatenweg) – following the opening of an exhibition of work by Tony Cragg in the same building.

#### **Additional Information / Accreditation / Contact**

Partners, Cooperation Partners and Sponsors of the festival are:

Principle Funding and Hosting Organisation: Academy of Arts

Partners: Museum für Gegenwart - Hamburger Bahnhof (Berlin), EDN European Documentary Network (Copenhagen), IMZ International Music + Media Centre, (Vienna)

Cooperation Partners: Embassy of Canada, Representation of the government of Québec, Festival International Film sur l'art, Montréal, Akademie Schloss Solitude, British Council

Sponsors: Allianz Kulturstiftung, EuroArts, Elektrofilm, TV Synchron Berlin

The Accreditation form for the festival can be downloaded from 1<sup>st</sup> of August. More information: [www.doku-arts.de](http://www.doku-arts.de) / [info@doku-arts.de](mailto:info@doku-arts.de). Press Contact: Anja Zenk / ++49 - 30 - 200 57 - 16 73 / [presse@doku-arts.de](mailto:presse@doku-arts.de). For more information or questions please don't hesitate to contact us.

From now on we will continuously update you about the films and the program of DOKU.ARTS. You will find Information on the following films at <http://www.doku-arts.de/pgse/filme.html>:

**"... wo ich noch nie war": Der Komponist Helmut Lachenmann („... where I've never been before: The Composer Helmut Lachenmann")**

Director: Bettina Ehrhardt, 87', Germany 2006

**Jours Tranquilles au Musée Précaire Albinet (Thomas Hirschhorn), (Quiet days at the Makeshift Albinet Museum)**

Director: Coraly Suard, 54', France 2004

**Richard Serra – Thinking On Your Feet**

Director: Maria Anna Tappeiner, 98', Germany 2006

**Soy Cuba, o Mamute Siberiano (I am Cuba, The Siberian Mammoth)**

Director: Vicente Ferraz, 90', Brazil 2004

**Traces, Empreintes de Femmes (Traces, Women's Imprints)**

Director: Katy Ndiaye, 52', Senegal/Burkina Faso/Belgium 2005

**Walk With Us - The Collaborative Works of Janet Cardiff and George Bures Miller**

Director: Wiebke von Carolsfeld, 52', Canada 2005

**Beatbox Colombia**

Director: Dirk Lienig, 60', Germany/Colombia 2005