

## Press Release

29 January 2019

### **Käthe Kollwitz Prize 2019. Hito Steyerl**

Exhibition Opening and Award Ceremony at 20 February, 7 pm

Exhibition until 14 April 2019

### **Invitation to the Exhibition Opening and Award Ceremony: Wednesday, 20 February 2019, 7 pm**

Akademie der Künste, Pariser Platz 4, 10117 Berlin

### **Press preview of the exhibition from 11 am to 1 pm**

### **Press briefing with the artist: 6 pm to 6.30 pm**

**Due to the limited number of places available, we ask that you register in advance:** Tel. +49 (0)30 200 57-1514 or [presse@adk.de](mailto:presse@adk.de)

Exhibition Opening and Award Ceremony with

#### **Hito Steyerl**

Welcome **Kathrin Röggla**, Vice President Akademie der Künste

Welcoming address **Rolf Tegtmeier**, Director Kreissparkasse Köln

Statement Jury **Katharina Grosse**, Member of the Fine Arts Section of the Akademie der Künste

Laudatory speech **Florian Ebner**, Head of the Department of Photography, Centre Pompidou, Paris

By awarding the Käthe Kollwitz Prize 2019 to Hito Steyerl, the Akademie der Künste is honouring an international artist who is particularly interested in the media, technology and the dissemination of images. Her discourse revolves around several socio-political processes: in a diverse panoply of media, Steyerl visualises postcolonial critique, abuse of power, violence, feminist representation logic and the influences of globalisation on the financial, labour, and commodities markets. The jury consists of Akademie members Douglas Gordon, Katharina Grosse and Ulrike Lorenz.

On the occasion of awarding the prize, the Akademie der Künste is, among other things, showing *Hell Yeah We Fuck Die* (2016), a room-filling installation made of steel dividers and walls with compiled audio-video sequences of humanoid robots. Here, Steyerl concretises the question as to how virtual realities influence users and recipients in regard to the role of computer technologies in war situations. The 2-channel video work *Abstract* (2012) juxtaposes a military conflict in a Kurdish-populated region of Eastern Turkey with mobile phone footage the artist recorded

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on Pariser Platz. The prize winner will also be screening her filmic study *Empty Centre* (1998) on an LED wall. The montage contrasts visions of the future from passers-by for the wasteland between the Reichstag building and Potsdamer Platz using almost forgotten documentary images filmed before its reconstruction. Her video works *Normality 6* (1999) and *Babenhausen* (1997) will also be shown.

**Hito Steyerl** (born in 1966 in Munich) is a Professor of Experimental Film and Video, as well as a co-founder of the Research Center for Proxy Politics at Berlin University of the Arts. She studied cinematography and documentary film direction in Tokyo and Munich. In 2003, she completed her doctorate in philosophy at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna. Her works have been exhibited at the Biennale in Venice, the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles and the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York, among others. In addition to her work as an artist, she has also worked at the Center for Cultural Studies at Goldsmiths, University of London, and as a guest professor at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Copenhagen and the Academy of Fine Arts, Helsinki. The Royal College of Art, London awarded her an honorary doctorate in 2016.

The Käthe-Kollwitz-Preis, which the Akademie der Künste awards to a visual artist on an annual basis, has a value of EUR 12,000. Previous winners include Adrian Piper (2018), Katharina Sievering (2017), Edmund Kuppel (2016), Bernard Frize (2015) and Corinne Wasmuht (2014). The prize and the accompanying exhibition and publication are co-financed by Kreissparkasse Cologne, sponsor of the Käthe Kollwitz Museum Cologne.

A publication will accompany the exhibition.

With the kind support of Kreissparkasse Cologne, sponsor of the Käthe Kollwitz Museum Cologne.

**Käthe Kollwitz Prize 2019. Hito Steyerl**

**Exhibition opening:** Wednesday, 20 February 2019, 7 pm, free admission

**Exhibition:** 21 February – 14 April 2019, Tue – Sun 11 am – 7pm

Admission EUR 5/3, free admission for visitors up to 18 years

and on Tuesdays from 3 pm to 7 pm

Akademie der Künste, Pariser Platz 4, 10117 Berlin

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>> **Press photos** online at <https://www.adk.de/de/presse/pressematerial.htm>

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