

## Press Release

21 December 2022

### **Woman\*, Life, Freedom: The Akademie der Künste stands in solidarity with the protesters in Iran**

Evening event with performances, discussion, film and concert

Tuesday, 10 January 2023, 6–11.30 pm, Akademie der Künste, Hanseatenweg

In solidarity with the ongoing protests in Iran, the Akademie der Künste has invited Iranian, Kurdish and German artists to organise an evening event on 10 January 2023 focusing on the role played by the arts in the revolutionary process. Artists, activists, political scientists and journalists will take part in a programme of discussions, performances, a film screening and a concert. Admission receipts and donations will go to the transnational feminist collective Woman\* Life Freedom. The Berlin-based group campaigns against the crimes and corrupt activities that have been carried out by the Islamic Republic for years.

On 16 September 2022 Jina (Mahsa) Amini, a 22-year-old Kurdish woman, was killed by the so-called morality police while in custody in Tehran. Since then, people in Iran have staged protests against the terror perpetrated by the state, while calling for a change of regime. To date, more than 18,400 people have been arrested during the uprisings and many protesters have been abused and tortured. Over 500 people have been killed, including a large number of children, teenagers and students. The Kurdish slogan “Jin\*, Jîyan, Azadî” or its Farsi equivalent “Zan\*, Zendegi, Āzādî” (“Woman\*, Life, Freedom”) figures at the heart of the uprisings and is the basis for a revolutionary movement that is spearheaded by women and those subject to discrimination on the basis of their gender identity as well as by ethnic groups (especially Kurds, Lurs and Baloch), university and school students and striking workers.

After a video performance presented by anonymous women artists, political scientist **Ali Fathollah-Nejad** will provide some historical context for the protests. This will be followed by a discussion with activist and author **Sanaz Azimipour**, author and literary critic **Maryam Aras**, journalist **Omid Rezaee** and a Kurdish activist. The discussion will be moderated by **Johanna M. Keller**, head of programmes at the Akademie der Künste.

Journalist **Sham Jaff** will present the interactive film documentary *Big Village* by Beri Shalmashi and Lyangelo Vasquez. The film reconstructs a place that now only exists in the memories of Kurds: a Kurdish Peshmerga camp that was bombed out of existence. It tells the stories of former inhabitants of the camp, a community that has now been scattered across the world.

Press and  
Public Relations

Pariser Platz 4  
10117 Berlin  
T 030 200 57–15 14  
F 030 200 57–15 08  
presse@adk.de  
www.adk.de

The evening will finish with a poetic intervention by poet **Tanasgol Sabbagh** and a musical performance by **Nazanin Noori** (modular synthesiser), **Shabnam Parvaresh** (bass clarinet, clarinet), **Azin Zahedi** (santoor, bansuri, flute) and **Kimia Bani** (daf, percussion). The video installations in the foyer of the Akademie der Künste on Hanseatenweg are by various artists whose work engages with the revolutionary process.

Programme

**6 pm: Video/performance** *to be, or to be* by anonymous

**Welcome by Kathrin Röggla**

**6.15 pm: Keynote address** by Ali Fathollah-Nejad

**6.30 pm: Discussion** with Ali Fathollah-Nejad, Sanaz Azimipour, Maryam Aras, Omid Rezaee, N.N.; moderation: Johanna M. Keller

**8.30 pm: Film screening** *Big Village* (directors: Beri Shalmashi, Lyangelo Vasquez, 2020), presented by **Sham Jaff**

**9.15 pm: Poetic intervention** by Tanasgol Sabbagh

**9.30 pm: Concert** by Nazanin Noori, Shabnam Parvaresh, Azin Zahedi and Kimia Bani

Event details

**Jin\*, Jīyan, Azādī / Zan\*, Zendegi, Āzādi / Woman\*, Life, Freedom / Frau\*, Leben, Freiheit – The Revolutionary Process against the Islamic Republic and the Role of the Arts**

Performances, discussion, film, concert

Tuesday, 10 January 2023, 6–11.30 pm

In English and German

Akademie der Künste, Hanseatenweg 10, 10557 Berlin, Tel. (030) 200 57-2000

€ 6/4

Press passes can be reserved by telephone or email: 030 200 57-1514 / [presse@adk.de](mailto:presse@adk.de).

Press and  
Public Relations

Pariser Platz 4  
10117 Berlin  
T 030 200 57–15 14  
F 030 200 57–15 08  
[presse@adk.de](mailto:presse@adk.de)  
[www.adk.de](http://www.adk.de)