

Kunsthaus Dresden
Städtische Galerie für Gegenwartskunst
Rähnitzgasse 8
01097 Dresden

Press release

Dresden, 05/06/2020

Mit sicherem Abstand [At a Safe Distance]. An art action on both sides of the Dresdner Elbufer on May 8

The art performance taking place on **Saturday, May 9, from 2 to 4 p.m.** on the Elbufer on both sides of the Elbe River in Dresden, centers on the showing appreciation for 75 years of peace and commemorating the anniversary of the end of the Second World War and thus of the National Socialist period in Dresden.

The performance with 17 rolling angel sculptures made of white concrete by the Norwegian-Danish artist Marit Benthe Norheim with music by composer Geir Johnson will be presented under the title *ROLLING ANGELS. Mit sicherem Abstand* simultaneously on both banks of the Elbe at the three historical bridges, Augustusbrücke, Albertbrücke and Blaues Wunder. All bridges in Dresden, except for Blaues Wunder, were destroyed by German troops shortly before the end of the war and rebuilt after the war. Today, the bridges can also be regarded as symbols of the connectedness of the urban community.

The performance stands for a reassessment of closeness and empathy that in times of the Corona pandemic preoccupies people all over the world. Various mythologies and religions share angels or guardian spirits as a positive motif and moral authority – Judaism, Islam, Christianity, and also Buddhism are familiar with them. The view back to history and the significance of solidarity among humans in the world are constantly reassessed – hopefully from a safe distance. **Annekatriin Klepsch, Deputy Mayor, Department of Culture and Tourism of the City of Dresden, states:** “May 8, 1945, was the day on which Germany and Europe were liberated from the Second World War and the National Socialist dictatorship. That the Kunsthauus honors the 75th anniversary of this historic date in Dresden with an art performance, thus stressing the importance of repeatedly building vital bridges in Europe and of coherence in solidarity, deserves not only our thanks and appreciation, but is also a powerful symbol of the freedom of art and the promotion of art in our state.”

We thank visitors and passers-by for adhering to the protection measures and maintaining a safety distance of 1.5 meters during their encounter with the angel sculptures!

The performance *ROLLING ANGELS. Mit sicherem Abstand* is a contemporary art project of the Kunsthauus Dresden/ Museen der Stadt Dresden commemorating the anniversary of the end of the Second World War. On the occasion of May 8 and Europe Day on May 9, events will take place throughout Germany, among others, upon the initiative of the nationwide action alliance DIE VIELEN.

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