

2.2 PRESS RELEASE

In the Spotlight of the Night – Cities never Sleep

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TRANPARENCIES FROM THE 18TH/19TH CENTURIES**

PRESS-PREVIEW:

October 24, 2019, 11 am–2 pm

OPENING:

October 24, 2019, 7 pm

DURATION: October 25, 2019 to
February 9, 2020

CURATOR: Julia Höner



FORT, *The Shining*, 2013, HD Video, Sound, 8:57 Min., Replica of the entrance door to a techno club and dancefloor
Courtesy the artists; Sies + Høke, Düsseldorf, Camera, Photos by René Arnold

Glaringly illuminated petrol stations and shopping centres, crowded night clubs and shift work: the large-scale exhibition *In the Spotlight of the Night*, staged in cooperation with the Museum Marta Herford, focusses on phenomena related to the unbounded night. While in Herford, in the show *Life in the Gloom*, one can experience how the regulatory natural principle of light and dark has made way for a multifarious nocturnal life, the Düsseldorf exhibition *Cities never Sleep* is devoted to the myth of cities at night and highlights the numerous contradictions involved in the nocturnal life of urban environments.

There is no doubt: the city at night is a place of longing par excellence. People all around the globe have always been attracted by nocturnal cities and their promises of adventure, freedom and moments of bliss, remote from routines of everyday obligation. But can this modern myth still be seen as valid in our present day, when our understanding of the night is predetermined by countless clichés? As a countermovement to the ongoing commercialization of the night, as it is perpetually practiced in pop music, advertising and urban marketing, the artists of this exhibition seek out those marginalized areas and parallel worlds of society where there still exists an uncontrollable nocturnal space as an antipode to daytime. Yet it is precisely the urban night that offers itself to all those in search of a life beyond bourgeois morality and conformist concepts of identity. Social, moral or aesthetic differences, clearly distinguished in the light of day, will lose their sharp contours under the cover of nocturnal semi-darkness, allowing notions of the hybrid, the inexplicit and the shady to come to the fore. Instead of highlighting flashy commercial venues of night-time diversion or the main arteries through the city's blaze of lights, the artists of this show acknowledge desolate industrial zones or non-specific urban environments, scattered elements of street furniture, unexpected night encounters in sub-cultural milieus – and other kinds of hybrid appearances and impressions challenging our perception.

Correspondingly, the exhibition explores how nocturnal diversity and alterity have evolved, both in response and in opposition to the technical modernization of the metropolis. For instance, in the historical transparencies from the Werner Nekes Collection, where artificial illumination is used to create a fascinating illusionary nocturnal space – in response to the pioneering developments in lighting technology that would penetrate the entire western civilization with artificial lighting toward the end of the 19th century. Then again, artificial lighting has for centuries served as a powerful tool for gaining control of society on behalf of state authorities; especially today it is synonymous with the nocturnal surveillance of individuals, whose private lives are being illuminated up into their remote nooks and corners.

All works presented in the exhibition feed either upon observations of nocturnal activity or immediate experiences of the night. Echoing the significance of the city at night for creative processes, this confirms once more a familiar cliché: the city's nightly promise of a libertarian life without boundaries continues to unfold a tremendous appeal, and for many contemporary artists the night remains their preferred time of day.

The exhibition at KAI 10 | ARTHENA FOUNDATION is supported by

INNOGY FÜR ENERGIE
UND GESELLSCHAFT
STIFTUNG



In the Spotlight of the Night – Life in the Gloom at Marta Herford

Simultaneously, the Marta Herford Museum is devoting a large-scale exhibition to current symptoms brought about by the reversal of the age-old structural principle of brightness and darkness, giving way to a multifarious *Life in the Gloom*. Based on works ranging from early Modernism until today, one is able to experience how the light of dusk tends to spark the imagination and how, illuminated by artificial lighting, a masquerade of nocturnal protagonists emerges in a dazzling guise. The historical core, with works by Robert Delaunay, George Grosz, Brassai or Germaine Krull, among others, is based on a partial takeover of the exhibition "Peindre la nuit" from the Centre Pompidou, Metz.

A catalogue accompanying the exhibitions is published by Wienand Verlag.

The exhibition and catalogue are a cooperation between KAI 10 | ARTHENA FOUNDATION, Düsseldorf, and the Marta Herford Museum.



KAI10 | ARTHENA FOUNDATION

Focus of the Foundation KAI 10 | ARTHENA FOUNDATION

KAI 10 | ARTHENA FOUNDATION has been showing international contemporary art in a former warehouse in Düsseldorf's Medienhafen district for over a decade. Founded in 2008 by Monika Schnetkamp, this non-profit institution operates without a collection of its own. To date it has presented over 150 artists* in 33 thematic group exhibitions, documenting these activities in 32 publications and 23 films accompanied by numerous performances, guided tours, lectures and panel discussions. Despite focusing on international young art, established positions are also presented. In addition to its exhibition programme, KAI 10 | ARTHENA FOUNDATION funds the creation and presentation of works of art on its premises.

Supplementing other exhibition venues in the region, KAI 10 represents an innovative model of corporate arts support. It is open daily (except Mondays), admission free. Exhibition themes are explored in greater depth and examined from a broader perspective in accompanying events as well as publications featuring content and design as individual as the projects themselves. KAI 10 raised its international profile with a multi-part installation by Thomas Zipp at the 55th Art Biennale in Venice in 2013.

Visitor information

KAI 10 | ARTHENA FOUNDATION
 Kaistraße 10
 40221 Düsseldorf
 Opening hours: Tue–Sun 11 am–5 pm
 (Closed on public holidays)
 Entry free of charge

Press information

For press releases, press images and press kit
 for the exhibition please visit:
www.kaistrasse10.de/en/press.html

Social media

Hashtag: #imlichtdernacht #inthephotlightofthenight
 Facebook: /KAI10.ArthenaFoundation
 Instagram: @kai10_athenafoundation

Contact | Press and Public Relations

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