



LIGHT IN DARKNESS

Pressinformation

18 September, 2010, 7 pm – 2 am

In the Medienhafen, Düsseldorf – Zollhof 11, Ueckerplatz and at the commercial docks

As part of the 2010 Quadriennale, the ZERO foundation is mounting a discourse-based art event entitled LIGHT IN DARKNESS, to take place in and around the Zollhof building in Düsseldorf's 'media port', the seat of the ZERO foundation, on the evening of 18 September from 7 pm on. The event, with a prestigious line-up of speakers and performers, will comprise debates, lectures, performances, projector shows and readings on the theme of 'Light in Art'. It will be open to the public free of charge.

LIGHT IN DARKNESS will be centred on lectures and debate. The American artist and writer, Elizabeth Goldring, whose own vision is impaired, will give a lecture on her 'seeing machine' for the visually challenged and the blind. In a symposium with artists Günther Uecker and Olafur Eliasson and the scientists Roger Malina and Semir Zeki, Daniel Birnbaum, Vice-Chancellor of the Städelschule at Frankfurt am Main, will debate on the projects and visions of the classical avant-garde and on contemporary and future trends, with reference to the central leitmotif of Light. Olafur Eliasson is a co-founder of the Institut für Raumexperimente in Berlin, Dr. Roger Malina is an astrophysicist and researches into ultraviolet light, Prof. Dr. Semir Zeki is a neurobiologist whose fields of activity include the biological premises of aesthetic perception and the visualisation of shapes and colours by the brain.

Topics to be discussed at the symposium will also relate to accompanying projector-screened material and performances. At Ueckerplatz, American film director and stage artist Robert Wilson will give a poetry performance/recital of poems selected from the anthology, *Eye Poems*, by the artist Elizabeth Goldring. There is more. On a big screen an experimental film by British artist Anthony McCall will be shown, as will a statement by the American light artist, James Turrell, and Laszlo Moholy-Nagy's avant-garde film of 1930, *Lichtspiel schwarz-weiss-grau (Light Play: Black-White-Grey)*, will run for the duration of the overall event.

Alongside Günther Uecker, the two other initiators of the ZERO foundation and artists of the ZERO movement, Heinz Mack and Otto Piene, are also represented with works. Otto Piene will perform *The Proliferation of the Sun*,

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dating from 1968. The performance consists of slide projections accompanied by an original tape recording with words of suggestive power. Visitors are invited to take in the performance at Zollhof 11 lying down. LIGHT IN DARKNESS concludes with a performance of Heinz Mack's *Feuerschiff* (Fire Ship/ Light Ship) in Düsseldorf's commercial docks. This entails a large wooden construction, pyrotechnical installations and all, being ignited in an artistic drama in the water. Heinz Mack produced the original *Feuerschiff* in 1968. Visitors will be able to watch the spectacle from the quayside.

Under the auspices of LIGHT IN DARKNESS and its theme, the Düsseldorf gallery *Beck & Eggeling* and the *Langen Foundation* at the former missile base at Hombroich are organising various exhibitions in collaboration with the ZERO foundation. The Arthena Foundation at the *KAI 10, Raum für Kunst* art space at the harbour, will be placing that space at the disposal of media artist Mischa Kuball. With students from the Kunsthochschule für Medien Cologne, he will be developing temporary spatial/installation experiments in a Light-Art context under the name *below zero*. KAI 10 will keep its doors open to visitors of the LIGHT IN DARKNESS event deep into the night.

LIGHT IN DARKNESS is the ZERO foundation's first public event. The overall concept has been drawn up by Mattijs Visser and is being co-ordinated by the ZERO foundation's team. The ZERO foundation is also bearing fifty per cent of the costs; for the other half we gratefully acknowledge the financial support of sponsors and public and private foundations.

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