

Since 11. September 2020, Urban space of Karlsruhe

## SEASONS OF MEDIA ARTS 2020: Start of the Karlsruhe Media Arts Festival with an attractive program for visitors

- The Media Arts Festival starts on 11 September 2020 and presents media art and events throughout the entire city of Karlsruhe
- The Festival is a successful collaboration between the city's Cultural Office and the ZKM as a UNESCO Creative City of Media Arts

On September 11, 2020 the *Seasons of Media Arts* Festival has begun in Karlsruhe. From September to December 2020 Karlsruhe's public spaces are the stage for video, sound, and light installations, projections on building facades and streets, artistic interventions and experimental events by international and local artists, initiatives, and institutions. The artworks focus on global issues such as the climate crisis and democracy in the age of social media.

In 2019 the City of Karlsruhe, in collaboration with the ZKM, applied to join the UNESCO Creative Cities Network as UNESCO Creative City of Media Arts. The strategy is to foster creativity, diversity, and cooperation in a democratic balance by means of media technology and media arts. This is what the *Seasons of Media Arts* stand for. Karlsruhe was accepted and joined the UNESCO Network; the Media Arts Festival, curated by ZKM and the City of Karlsruhe, became an established event.

Executive Mayor Dr. Frank Mentrup is delighted that the arts festival is now up and running: "Karlsruhe is a magnet for the international media art scene and the only German UNESCO Creative City of Media Arts in the international network. Our digital edition of the *Schlosslichtspiele* in 2020 was the start and thrilled virtual visitors from more than 120 countries while introducing many newcomers to Karlsruhe. The *Seasons of Media Arts* are now continuing this; the ZKM and the Cultural Office work very successfully together. With the opening of the *Seasons of Media Arts* Festival Karlsruhe again shines as an international creative city and enables everyone to experience the city on site in a very special way."

The artworks presented in the festival are on the one hand projects selected by a jury of experts from the new project funding program set up in 2020 by the City of Karlsruhe for media art, and on the other hand there are works by internationally renowned media artists selected by the ZKM. The second edition of *Seasons of Media Arts* puts on performances in public spaces across the entire city, including the City Palace gardens, the Günther Klotz Park, the Square of Human Rights, and the Via Triumphalis central thoroughfare. Media artworks will also be on show in shop windows, on Werder Square, in the Karlsruhe Kinemathek, on the Turmberg, and in the Zoological Gardens.

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**Press Contact Department of Cultural Affairs of the City of Karlsruhe**

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Funded by



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"In the second year after its foundation the *Seasons of Media Arts* has established itself as one of the most important events for enthusiasts of media art in Karlsruhe," said Dr. Susanne Asche, head of the Cultural Office. "As part of the international UNESCO Creative City of Media Arts network, we want to send out a message of hope in these uncertain times from our city and demonstrate how important local support for culture is as a driving force to reflect on and engage with current issues." "In this time of social distancing, urban media art links and connects people. In the past, art was pro deo, for God, and consequently took place in churches. In the age of bourgeois society, art was pro domo and thus found in the houses of the bourgeoisie. The *Seasons of Media Arts* take place pro urbi — in the city, for the city, for the citizens, and thus pro civis," added Professor Peter Weibel.

All of the *Seasons of Media Arts* artworks can be accessed with the browser-based app UrbanExplorAR in two modes: via Share Location and Augmented Reality users can explore works in their real environment, and the app also provides information about the works and the artists who created them.

"I am really looking forward to a festival that radiates far and wide into the world from our city and I wish the *Seasons of Media Arts 2020*, its artists, organizers, and all its visitors an exciting and rewarding festival," said Mayor Dr. Albert Käuflein.

Participating artists: Aram Bartholl, Michael Bielicky, Jonas Denzel, Holger Förterer, Eva Judkins, Walter Giers, Mira Hirtz, Ulf Langheinrich, Alexander Liebrich, Marco Zampella, Christian Lölkes, PONG. Li Studios, Didi Müller, Marc Teuscher, Betty Rieckmann, Sabine Schäfer, Ulrich Singer, Marie Sester, and Xenorama.

Events that are part of *Seasons of Media Arts 2020* will take place at the following venues: Independent Days | Internationale Filmfestspiele Karlsruhe des Filmboard Karlsruhe; Jazzclub Karlsruhe; Jubez Stadtjugendausschuss Karlsruhe; Kulturzentrum Tempel; and at the ZKM | Karlsruhe.

#### To download press material:

[www.cityofmediaarts.de](http://www.cityofmediaarts.de)  
[www.zkm.de/en/presse](http://www.zkm.de/en/presse)

#### More information on exhibition:

[www.zkm.de/en/seasons-of-media-arts.de](http://www.zkm.de/en/seasons-of-media-arts.de)  
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