

Press release, 14 May 2019

Werkleitz Festival 2019 *Model and Ruin*

Exhibition Parcours, Film Programme, Excursions

25 May – 9 June 2019 in Dessau

Georgengarten, Mausoleum, Meisterhäuser



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The 2019 Werkleitz Festival *Modell und Ruine* (Model and Ruin) will take place from 25 May to 10 June in Dessau as part of the Bauhaus Centenary celebration. The festival will present 13 first-class artists whose works react to the aesthetic, historical and philosophical tension between the phenomena of models and ruins. As powerful images, models – much like ruins – serve to construct history, explain the present and generate the future. The recurring rise and fall of Dessau seems to draw such connections together like a burning glass. In Dessau two central vanishing points of the modern period intersect: classical modernism and the classical age. The **exhibition parcours** connects the early modern Georgengarten with the ensemble of the Bauhaus *Meisterhäuser*.

The artists included in the exhibition are:

Haseeb Ahmed (US/BE), Rosa Barba (IT/DE), Aram Bartholl (DE), Michael Beutler (DE), Haris Epaminonda (CY/DE), Holmer Feldmann (DE), feat. Piotr Baran (FR), Angela Ferreira (MZ/PT), Nikolaus Gansterer (AT), Christoph Girardet (DE), Cornelius Grau (DE), Romain Löser (FR/DE), Andrea Pichl (DE) and Magdalena Rude (DE).

What the works that they have developed for *Model and Ruin* have in common is that they all explore dimensions of appropriation characteristic of the modern age. They capture the simultaneity of forms and ideas from different time periods and places that are representative of an epoch in which alongside nature, culture became an important resource. The development of the modern outlook on the world emerges in a simultaneous love for ruins and ongoing technical progress, in colonialism and a touristic perspective. As a result any reception of Bauhaus has to come to terms with the blight of colonial appropriations.

The **film programme** curated by Florian Wüst examines the thematic relation between model and ruin with a focus on the city as a venue and barometer of societal upheaval. The cinematic installation in the Mausoleum and the film programme at Kiez-Kino feature films by: Harun Farocki, Ulrike Franke & Michael Loeken, Johannes Gierlinger, Detlef Gumm & Hans-Georg Ullrich, Juliane Henrich, Sasha Litvintseva & Graeme Arnfield and Adnan Softić.

On the festival weekends **Guided Tours** of the exhibition parcours will be offered: **Excursions to Wörlitzer Park**, to the **Dessau-Roßlau city archives** and to the **Museum of City History** round out the programme.

The **catalogue** with a variety of texts on *models and ruins* and on Dessau as a site of various facets of modernity will be released at the beginning of the 2019 Werkleitz Festival. Contributors include Svetlana Boym, Henrik Karge, Mark Lewis and Rose Macaulay.

The **Model and Ruin festival opening** will take place on **Saturday, 25 May at 7 pm at the Mausoleum Dessau** with welcome addresses by Rainer Robra, Minister of State and Minister of Culture of Sachsen-Anhalt, and Friederike Zobel, *Bauhaus Today Fund*, German Federal Cultural Foundation.

Further Werkleitz events for Bauhaus100:

The **exhibition and communications project** *Atlas – Im Spiralnebel der Moderne* [Atlas – In the Spiral Galaxy of Modernity] was developed in conjunction with the Werkleitz Festival. The work of images and work with image are central elements. With seven interactive stations, the project inspired by Aby Warburg's studies presents *Sehmaschinen* [visual slot machines] and *Bilderfahrzeuge* [image vehicles] that range from tourist panorama, to bureaucratic organization, to war simulation. The Atlas can be experienced at a dizzying height on a scaffold in the **Mausoleum** constructed especially for the project.

At **8 pm on Saturday, 8 June** Transforma will present their current piece *Manufactory* on the historic Bauhaus stage. The performative live installation examines historical changes to working environments. The soundtrack was composed by the award-winning musician Sascha Ring (Apparat).

If you are interested in participating in the media discussion and preliminary tour of the exhibition with the curators on Saturday, 25 May at 3 pm please send a request to: presse@werkleitz.de. We look forward to seeing you there.

The complete festival programme and further information are available on the festival website: modell-und-ruine.werkleitz.de

Cooperation partners of the 2019 Werkleitz Festival

Anhaltische Gemäldegalerie Dessau, Dessau-Roßlau city archives, Förderverein Anhaltische Gemäldegalerie und Georgengarten Dessau e.V., Förderverein Mausoleum e.V. Dessau Förderverein Technikmuseum "Hugo Junkers" Dessau e.V., Kiez-Kino Kulturstiftung Dessau-Wörlitz, Kurt-Weill-Gesellschaft e.V, Museum für Stadtgeschichte Dessau Rotary Club Dessau, the city of Dessau-Roßlau, Tierpark Dessau, VorOrt e.V.

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