

PRESS RELEASE

The Garden Bridge

An outdoor project curated by Kinderhook & Caracas

Duration: 11 August–13 October 2019, daily 11 am– 5 pm, closed Tuesdays

Opening: 11 August 2019, 12 noon

As part of the Brücke Museum Summer Party, 11 August 2019, 12 noon–6 pm

Venue: in the Brücke Museum's garden, Bussardsteig 9, 14195 Berlin

In *The Garden Bridge*, an exhibition at Brücke Museum is making use of the garden and the woods that are part of the grounds for the first time. The exhibition is being curated by Berlin project space Kinderhook & Caracas. The two city names refer to the two artists Christopher Kline (born 1982, Kinderhook, USA) and Sol Calero (born 1982, Caracas, Venezuela). As part of the project, they have invited representatives of ten artistic positions to temporarily inscribe their work in the museum's outdoor space and at the same time rethink, animate and explore the focus on nature that was so deeply embedded in the *Brücke* as an art community.

The Berlin-based artists invited to participate are Ana Alenso, Kasia Fudakowski, Monika Grabuschnigg, Stephen Kent, Nuri Koerfer, Petrit Halilaj & Alvaro Urbano, Annika Rixen and STONEROSSES (Mirak Jamal & Santiago Taccetti) who all rely on an expanded notion of sculpture. In the Brücke-Museum they focus on the diverse ways the venue can be used and address nature in any number of different ways. They all seek to create a special physical experience that goes over and above merely seeing. Kinderhook & Caracas have consciously chosen very varied artistic positions for *The Garden Bridge*, with the spectrum ranging from assemblages of found objects (Alenso) and elaborately handcrafted works (Grabuschnigg, Kent, Koerfer) or playful approaches (Fudakowski, Halilaj & Urbano) to conceptual, process-based works (Rixen). At the opening on 11 August, the installation-like positions will be accompanied by performances by Sea Urchin and Heatsick.

Ana Alenso places her sculptures made of hosepipes, gas pump nozzles and metal pipes (artefacts and leftovers of industry) in the forest. Stood on the floor or suspended from trees, they almost graphically merge with the woods. Mirrors and the seemingly natural shapes of the alienated industrial products reflect the surrounding nature and unite with it. Monika Grabuschnigg's ceramic relief contrasts the corporeality of its organic shape and the fragility associated with the material to its immediate surroundings, a niche made of concrete. Nuri Koerfer's seating sculptures made of styrofoam and papier-mâché invite visitors to the garden to tarry a while. When you sit on them, your own body snuggles up to the highly colourful animal/furniture hybrids. Stephen Kent's mosaic likewise stands out for its expressive colours. The still life with flowers as a theme

conceals an interior view of Berlin's largest Asian market, the Dong Xuan Center in Berlin-Lichtenberg – an unexpected view at the edge of Grunewald forest. The pieces by Kasia Fudakowski are more subtle – two sentences lean casually against a tree, a marble slab on the ground addresses visitors directly. Intended originally for the space between a field of mustard and one of wheat, it functions in the garden as the starting point for sowing mustard seeds and wheat grains, and thus reshapes the surrounding space. Petrit Halilaj & Alvaro Urbano's artwork does not directly catch the eye, but is immediately audible: Two birdhouses high up in the trees emit the sound of the two artists snoring. It is an intimate piece that, with its repetitive-meditative character, melds with the feel of the woods, for example, the soft swaying of the treetops in the wind or the tapping of a woodpecker. Annika Rixen transfers plants from an abandoned large compost heap in a Brandenburg village into the Brücke Museum garden. On the hill, pumpkins, sunflowers and tomatoes – they all now have a new place in the flowerbed in the museum garden, which in turn gives them a new lease of life. Here, the compost is also a place for decay and resurrection: The plants not only populate new beds, but emerge as a cyanotype on a large piece of fabric and as a print on a garden chair.

For their piece *SR#8*, artist duo STONEROSSES have invited other artists (Jazmin Berakha, Susann Brännström & Tore Wallert, Diego Castro, Enrique Giner de los Rios, Joseph H, Joe Hoyt, Jay Isaac, Melanie Kittl, Kareem Lofty, Sam Marshall-Lockyer, Marlie Mul, Beatriz Olabarrieta, Adriana Ramic, Ben Schumacher, Stephen Suckale, Anne de Vries, and Angharad Williams) to present drawings in the woods in the museum's grounds – hence they focus on a medium that was fundamental to the *Brücke* artists. This "exhibition within the exhibition" can only be accessed and experienced by guided tours led by Jamal and Taccetti. Back in 2014 to 2015, STONEROSSES episodes took place in the nearby Grunewald forest.

Christopher Kline, curator of the exhibition, comments: "The *Brücke* artists attempted to create something for the future. At the same time, we never know the future, so they could never have predicted where art would be in Berlin today. With its publications and exhibitions, the *Brücke* attached great importance to establishing an artistic community. It is good for artists here and now to see the *Brücke* as a precursor of this kind of activity, for this gathering of people in order to jointly move things forward."

The award-winning Kinderhook & Caracas project space always works by collaboration, with individual artists or, as in this case, with Brücke-Museum. In the past, among other things, it founded a TV station (CONGLOMERATE) and conceived exhibitions that adapted various formats and spaces from other fields, such as a catwalk, puppet theatre, community choirs, a restaurant or an office. Thus, *The Garden Bridge* is a continuation of Sol Calero and Christopher Kline's artistic and curatorial activities: The project opens up new spaces and creates situations that centre on communities. This social, interactive element has been evident since May 2018 in the form of Sol Calero's *Casa Isadora* pavilion in the museum garden. The new show continues the new life brought to the venue as initiated by that first collaboration.

The artists group *Brücke* existed from 1905 to 1913. Its members included Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, Erich Heckel and Karl Schmidt-Rottluff. The group members endeavoured through their lives and works to forge a harmony between nature, art and human beings. Nature was not only an important theme as subject matter but also played a central role in the reality of the members' lives, as the artists spent several months each year out in nature. Brücke-Museum as a venue stands out for the way the natural surroundings are highlighted in harmony with the architecture and the collection. The aspect of nature will in future play a stronger role in the museum's programme.

The opening day also sees the finissage of the exhibition *Escape into Art?*. On the occasion of both events, Brücke Museum is hosting a major summer party with a highly varied programme and workshops, as well as various creativity stops for children.

Important information: Brücke Museum is closed from 12 August–16 November 2019 for renovation. The garden is accessible during regular opening hours (Wed–Mon, 11 am to 5 pm). The grounds are not completely barrier-free. Toilets and a café are to be found in Kunsthaus Dahlem, which is showing the exhibitions *Inspiration Africa. A Continent in the Eyes of German 20th Century Sculpture*, *Manga Bell* (23 August–3 November 2019) and *Jussuf Abbo* (7 November 2019–20 January 2020).

Images can be obtained by emailing presse@bruecke-museum.de or online in the museum's press section.

Press desk:

Isabel Fischer

Tel: 030-83900866

Email: presse@bruecke-museum.de