

1. BERLINER LISTE 09

The 2009 BERLINER LISTE presents contemporary art on over 6.000 m² at a new location in the Embassy Quarter

In its sixth edition, the BERLINER LISTE – fair for contemporary art, photography and art since 1960 – aims to continue the successful run of recent years. Over 15,000 collectors, curators, journalists and art enthusiasts visited the jubilee convention at the Haus Cumberland on Kurfürstendamm last year (in 2007 it was 9,000 visitors, and in 2004 it was 4,000). As a result of its distinct, alternative profile, the BERLINER LISTE has now definitively established itself as the most successful public exhibition next to the Art Forum.

With its open concept, the BERLINER LISTE offers the broadest imaginable basis from which to discuss the question “What is good art?” – and leaves it to the audience themselves to find a definition. A publication by the exhibition’s founder Wolfram Völcker serves as a handbook, the title of which asks that same question – “*Was ist gute Kunst?*” – recently issued in a new edition by the Hatje Cantz publishing house.

BERLINER LISTE 09 in the modern Palais am Tiergarten

This year’s BERLINER LISTE surprises with the temporary use of the modern **Palais am Tiergarten**, which is centrally located in the Embassy Quarter at Reichpeitschufer, between the Nationalgalerie and the Bauhaus Museum. This recently completed glass and clinker building offers light-flooded rooms and a marvelous court yard, the roof of which can be fully opened during good weather. The glass-paned top floor offers a sensational view across Berlin, and will be brought to life by the legendary Berlin nightclub Cookies during the opening party.

Using 25 tons of sheet rock, in two weeks time, over thirty workers transformed the empty office building into a professional exhibition space with spacious booths and numerous observation platforms. 60 international galleries and projects will present their most interesting artists here on four floors in a space of over 6,000 m².

Since its foundation in 2004 by the Berlin gallery owner Wolfram Völcker, the BERLINER LISTE has distinguished itself not only by the variety of exhibits displayed, but also by their unconventional and artistic presentation in buildings which had originally served other purposes and now offer a provocative environment for contemporary art: In previous years the electric power substation on Kopenhagener Straße in Prenzlauer Berg (the former Vitra Design Museum), the Postbahnhof am Gleisdreieck and Haus Cumberland at Kurfürstendamm have functioned as special exhibition locations for the BERLINER LISTE. “*These places are typical to Berlin. We want to organize a fair that specifically relates to Berlin, and part of that concept is choosing a special location.*” (Dr. Wolfram Völcker, co-founder and director of the BERLINER LISTE).

BERLINER LISTE 09: a voyage of discovery through the contemporary art scene

Since its beginnings, the BERLINER LISTE has offered an eclectic and extraordinary view into contemporary artistic work. It also rapidly developed into a platform for unconventional formats and new ideas, and has meanwhile earned a solid reputation on the international art fair landscape as an innovative fair with opportunities for discovery. *“Young galleries can experiment with inventive positions and try out innovative approaches at the BERLINER LISTE”* (Dr. Wolfram Völcker). In this respect, the BERLINER LISTE also offers a chance for young artists who have not yet arrived.

Counting among the fair’s highlights are the scenes – which alternate between fairytale and nightmare – by Luis Vidal (of the MiTO Gallery in Barcelona), who has been shown by Rosa Martinez (co-curator of the Venice Biennale 2005) and whose work can also be found in the Margulies Collection in Miami. There is Thomas Kohl, a student of Uecker, Cragg and a master-classman of Gerhard Richter, whose subtle and gentle work experimenting with color and technique is presented in Berlin by Hubertus Melsheimer (Kunsthandel Köln). Those searching for well-known names will find work by the likes of Jim Avignon (Zimmermann & Heitmann, Düsseldorf), photos by Robert Mapplethorpe (3 Puntos Galeria, Barcelona), pictures by Bernd Zimmer (thomas punzmann gallery, Marbella) and the Munich-based Moritz Michels (Filser & Gräf, Munich).

The BERLINER LISTE: international like never before

The sixth BERLINER LISTE is even more international than in previous years. Only half of the around 60 galleries exhibiting are from Germany, the other half are from other European countries, the USA, South Korea, the Dominican Republic – a total of fourteen countries.

Focus 2009: Eastern Europe

This year the BERLINER LISTE puts a particular focus on the Eastern European art scene. The Anaid Art Gallery from Romania will participate again in 2009. The Krokus Gallery from Slovakia and Photon Gallery from Slovenia will be taking part for the first time. Gallery Bastejs from Latvia will present the latest trends and tendencies from their country. With the explicit selection of many Eastern European galleries, the BERLINER LISTE aims to do justice to Berlin’s special historical and geographical position as the intersection between east and west.

Emphasis on Spain

Another point of emphasis this year is contemporary art from Spain. The thomas punzmann gallery from Marbella and the 3 Puntos Galeria from Barcelona will once again be present, following excellent sales last year. New additions include Galeria MiTO from Barcelona and the Son Espace Gallery from Palafrugell.

All booths are grouped around the atrium and open out toward the center. Through this special form of presentation, the BERLINER LISTE makes an effort to further stimulate the international exchange between artists and galleries and to contribute to the forging of connections within a worldwide network: *“With this concept, we are reflecting the sense of community in the art scene, offering an ideal basis for visitors to engage in a dialogue and promoting exchange related to art”* (Dr. Wolfram Völcker).

BERLINER LISTE 09 celebrates its opening with Berlin's nightlife institution Cookies

For the opening celebration, the Sky Etage of the Palais am Tiergarten will be brought to life by the legendary Berlin nightclub Cookies. This Berlin institution – “a joint that rocks” (Spiegel Online) – will move from its usual location on Friedrichstraße to the Palais am Tiergarten, creating a lounge with a dance floor. Show cooking, a live band, a live act and five DJs will provide for a fabulous start to the BERLINER LISTE beginning at 10pm on 23 September, 2009.

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Location:

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