

FOCUS 09

CONTEMPORARY ART

FOCUS AFRICA

**CAPE TOWN/DAKAR/
LUSAKA/JOBURG/NEW
YORK/OSLO/PARIS/
SIERRE/BASEL**

VOLTAHALLE

01.-14. JUNE 2009

FOCUS09 – a new off-space during Art Basel

After the big success of voltashow.01 2005 and solo-project 2008 the voltahalle and the Büro für Kulturvermittlung mueller/schoen launch a special type of an independent art presentation. FOCUS09 is a culture and exhibition project, which is understood to be a platform for contemporary art with focus on Africa, parallel to Art 40 Basel, from 1 - 14. June 2009.

The current edition of FOCUS is the prelude to a novel exhibition, which is set to be enriching Art Basel 2010 with contemporary art from Africa and its diasporas.

During the first week of FOCUS09, four artists from Senegal and Zambia use the voltahalle for an open workshop. During the second week, their draft is supplemented by international artists, whose works deal with the manifold images of the African continent. FOCUS consciously emphasizes on quality and not quantity. A wide range of supporting programs and the compact architecture of the exhibition halls make the fair a unique experience and create an atmosphere of encounter, exchange and creative reflection.

GASTSPIEL – the previous project

The idea of FOCUS09 emerged from the exhibition project „GASTSPIEL“ that first took place in 2008. Its objective was to present contemporary art work from Africa and its Diaspora during the Art fair in Basel. FOCUS is gathering the initiative of GASTSPIEL, perpetuates it and is trying to transform the exhibition program into a completely novel exhibition until next year.

support committee

Anita Lachenmeier-Thüring (national councillor, Grüne Basel)
«One only understands how a person thinks and acts when one knows their cultural background»

Prof. Dr. Till Förster (head research group «visual culture», ethnological seminar, University Basel)
«The objective of FOCUS involves the representation of contemporary African art with the presence of African artists at one of the largest art fairs worldwide; this is in accordance with the African artists desire to co-decide the form and content of the presentation of their work.»

PD Dr. Claus Volkenandt (art history seminar, University Basel)
«The encounter with art can open our eyes to other cultures and enable to better understand them. This is why FOCUS's work is important.»

Veit Arlt (coordinator Center for African Studies, Basel)
«Africa is a core theme in research and teaching at Basel University. FOCUS's cultural commitment is a valuable addition to this academic discourse and helps make contemporary artists from Africa known in Basel»

Further information

The project's homepage www.focus09.ch is giving more information about the manifold program of FOCUS09 and the central ideas of the initiative.

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FOCUS in 2009

This year, FOCUS stands as a launching project: the idea of the exhibition is set to be approved by artists, galleries, scientists and, of course, the audience.

FOCUS09 emphasizes on contemporary art from Africa and its Diaspora – but other international artists whose works are directly related to one of the manifold art scenes in Africa will be attending FOCUS, too.

Also scheduled are Jazz concerts, performances, movie presentations and the ARTPORT-short-film-award.

Important program points

GASTSPIEL/01.–05.06./1 p.m. – 8 p.m.

performing artists: Aicha Aidara, Martin Chanda, Dié Fall Kane, Samba Fall

EXHIBITION/10.–14.06./1 p.m. – 8 p.m.

contemporary art with focus on Africa

Friday/05.06. /8 p.m: **Jazz**, Hilton Schilder, Cape Town

Saturday/06.06. /8 p.m: **Party**, Festa Caboverdiana

Sunday/07.06. /8 p.m: **Jazz**, Paul Hanmer & McCoy Mrubata Duo, Johannesburg

Wednesday/10.06. /6 p.m: **Vernissage** Exhibition

Thursday/11.06. /8 p.m: **Representing African Art?** Introduction, Prof. Till Förster, University of Basel

Friday/12.06. /8 p.m: **ARTPORT - video and short film award**, cool stories for when the planet gets hot II

Saturday/13.06./8 p.m: **Scénographies Urbaines**, film and performances

Partner:



voltahalle

müller|schön
büro für kulturvermittlung



media partner:

RADIO X
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