

DAS MINSK

KUNSTHAUS IN POTSDAM

PRESS RELEASE

Potsdam, November 8, 2022

RUTH WOLF-REHFELDT

Nichts Neues

Februar 11 – May 7, 2023

In spring 2023, DAS MINSK Kunsthaus in Potsdam will present the retrospective *Nichts Neues*, devoted to the artist Ruth Wolf-Rehfeldt (*1932 in Wurzen) and her artistic life's work between 1960 and 1990. The exhibition examines Wolf-Rehfeldt's typewritings, print graphics, collages, and paintings in three thematic episodes that open new perspectives on the artist's oeuvre.

The first episode, "Many Open Questions," is dedicated to tracing and overcoming physical, cognitive, and systemic boundaries. "Whether Nature Overreached Itself When It Took on Mankind" is the point of departure for the second episode. Topics like environmental destruction, environmentalism, and the relation between human and nature appear repeatedly in the artist's work. Wolf-Rehfeldt intensively dealt with socially relevant topics, such as information technology, feminism, interhuman relations, and the effects of the Cold War. The final episode asks the question "Where Do You Stand?" and invites viewers to reflect upon their own perspectives and beliefs.

Wolf-Rehfeldt began to write her first poems in the early 1960s and created pastels, drawings, and paintings as a self-taught artist. Her typewriter graphics, which she calls "typewritings," were preceded by a long-term and intensive exploration of image, script, and language. Ruth Wolf-Rehfeldt's first typewritings were created in 1972. The typewriter became her artistic means of production. She experimented with the image formation of language and laid the foundation for her concrete poetry. In a manuscript entitled *Signs Fiction*, the artist explained how for her, pre-existing signs became the building blocks of fictive signs by conferring words and alphabetic symbols with new meaning. The qualities of the alphabet became material for her visual compositions. Wolf-Rehfeldt thereby used signs beyond their linguistic meaning and in her typewritings gradually developed her own formal language.

Ruth Wolf-Rehfeldt was engaged with a vast network of international artists known as the Mail Art movement. She and her partner, Robert Rehfeldt, were pioneers within the GDR of a type of artistic exchange that allowed for the uncensored circulation of art and ideas.

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After the fall of the Berlin Wall, Wolf-Rehfeldt stopped making work altogether. Her newly found geographical freedom had fundamentally altered the function of making and distributing art.

The exhibition is curated by Paola Malavassi and Marie Gerbaulet.

PROGRAM PREVIEW 2023

June 3 – August 20, 2023

Collection presentation

The summer exhibition shows a selection of works from the former GDR that are part of the Hasso Plattner Collection.

September 16, 2023 – February 4, 2024

Louis Armstrong

Curated by Paola Malavassi and Jason Moran

The exhibition focuses on the legendary concert tour that led jazz musician Louis Armstrong through the GDR in 1965.

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We would be happy to assist you if you need further information or images.

Further Information

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OPENING HOURS
Daily except Tuesdays
Wednesday to Monday 10 am – 7 pm

ADMISSION
10 Euros, 8 Euros concession

Combined ticket 20 Euros, 12 Euros concession
The combined ticket is valid for the Museum Barberini and DAS MINSK Kunsthaus in Potsdam.

The MINSK team is always happy to receive contact from contemporary witnesses of the former terrace restaurant "Minsk" by mail or e-mail: zeiten@dasminsk.de.

DAS MINSK Kunsthaus in Potsdam is a project of the Hasso Plattner Foundation. The goal of the Hasso Plattner Foundation is to promote the digitalization of scholarship and education, to improve access to art and culture, and to support the preservation of the environment.

www.plattnerfoundation.org