

# DAS MINSK

## KUNSTHAUS IN POTSDAM

### PRESS RELEASE

Potsdam, August 10, 2023

#### **I've Seen the Wall**

**Louis Armstrong on Tour in the GDR 1965**

**September 16, 2023 – February 4, 2024**

DAS MINSK Kunsthaus in Potsdam will present the exhibition *I've Seen the Wall* in the fall of 2023, focusing on the legendary concert tour that led Louis Armstrong through the GDR in 1965.

In the midst of the Cold War, the African American jazz musician performed in East Berlin, Leipzig, Magdeburg, Erfurt, and Schwerin. The tour was very tightly scheduled with 17 concerts in just nine days. The halls, with a capacity of no less than 2,000 to 3,000 seats, were quickly sold out—around 45,000 people experienced Louis Armstrong and his All Stars live in the GDR.

The exhibition at DAS MINSK takes this historic event as its starting point for an examination of the ambivalence of this official invitation against the backdrop of the civil rights movement in the United States and the Iron Curtain in Europe. One of the central questions in the exhibition is: What does it mean to tour the world, to visit oppressive systems and dictatorships in the name of freedom? What does it mean to repeatedly experience recognition and racism at the same time on the road and to return home to be confronted with racism all over again?

Armstrong's performance in the GDR is a sign of freedom, even if only for the duration of the show. It is a sobering observation that has been true for centuries in regard to Black music. Experiencing the love and amazement of the public on the stage contradicts the difficulties that the musicians were, and continue to be, confronted with backstage. Can love and hate, worldwide success and oppression, recognition and racism coexist?

The exhibition *I've Seen the Wall* brings together paintings, photographs, archival material, and installations by Terry Adkins, Louis Armstrong, Pina Bausch, Romare Bearden, Peter Brötzmann, Volkhard Kühn, Norman Lewis, Glenn Ligon, Gordon Parks, Adrian Piper, Evelyn Richter, Lorna Simpson, Willi Sitte, Wadada Leo Smith, Rosemarie Trockel, Andy Warhol, Ruth Wolf-Rehfeldt and others. Filmmaker Darol Olu Kae (b. 1984 in Los Angeles) is producing a new film work commissioned by DAS MINSK for the exhibition.

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In the fourth installment of the INTERPLAY series, an original trumpet by Louis Armstrong from the holdings of the Louis Armstrong House Museum is juxtaposed with a work by Andy Warhol from the Hasso Plattner Collection.

The exhibition is curated by Paola Malavassi and Jason Moran.

The exhibition is created in close collaboration with the Louis Armstrong House Museum (LAHM) in Corona, Queens, New York. Thanks to the Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation. The exhibition is co-curated by jazz pianist, composer, and visual artist Jason Moran, who also curated the permanent exhibition in the LAHM's new Louis Armstrong Center, which opened in summer 2023.

The exhibition at DAS MINSK is accompanied by a catalog published by Hatje Cantz Verlag with essays by Tina Campt, Paola Malavassi, and Jason Moran.

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### PRESS CONTACT

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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