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Fazit (Frimmersdorf) (detail), realities:united, 2011/2019, digital montage based on a photograph by Arne Hückelheim (CC-BY-SA 3.0)



realities:united

Fazit

27.4.–19.8.19

Press conference
Fr 26.4.19, 11 am

Opening
Fr 26.4.19, 7 pm

The exhibition “Fazit” is the prelude to an artistic project of the same name which has been initiated by realities:united, the studio founded by the artists and architects Jan and Tim Edler. As Germany phases out its nuclear and coal-fired power generation, the big thermal power stations so typical of centralised energy production will undergo an artistic refit and be integrated into a project that confronts industrial, cultural and social change. The idea is to modify live power stations during their final phase of operation so that, rather than just producing energy and pollutant emissions, they become attractive landmarks visible from afar, emitting huge rings of steam to symbolise and inspire the transformation.

In technical terms, the idea is founded on the physical effect discovered by Daniel Bernoulli that enables stable, long-lasting rings of steam to be created out of the chaotic plumes over the power station. Taking advantage of the regular maintenance required by these installations, realities:united will assemble a simple apparatus in the cooling towers. The plan is to install this work at most of the 44 eligible coal-fired and nuclear power stations scattered across the country.

The project accompanies the period of radical transformation that Germany is currently undergoing now that it has begun to phase out nuclear and coal-fired generation. Not only have major utilities announced a “significant reduction in headcount”, while politicians debate numerous measures for maintaining infrastructure in the regions and localities affected. Quite apart from the structural change to the economy, these power stations and the industries associated with them have played a big role in regional identities. As symbols of an era of economic prosperity and unswerving faith in progress, they have moulded the landscape and become little short of icons. Shutting them down creates a vacuum that needs to be understood and sooner or later filled. As a project designed to accompany the energy transition, “Fazit” (which means “conclusions” but also “outcome”) is intended as a framework and catalyst for society to confront urgent questions about the future. This exhibition is the prelude and it will be flanked by public debates with people representing politics, the arts and public life and with visitors to the show.



realities:united

realities:united was founded by Jan and Tim Edler in the year 2000 as a studio for art and architecture. They made their name internationally with projects like BIX, a light and media façade for the Kunsthhaus in Graz. Other building ventures have been implemented with Peter Cook and Colin Fournier in Graz, EM2N in Zurich, Moon Hoon in Singapore and Will Alsop in Toronto. The two brothers also set up Flussbad Berlin, an urban development project supported by the federal and state governments to open up the Spree Canal in the centre of Berlin for public use.

Exhibition catalogue

Distanz Verlag, 96 pages, Ger/Eng
museum edition: € 19.80
ISBN: 978-3-940208-59-0
book trade edition: € 24.90
ISBN: 978-3-95476-280-4

Programme (in German):

Talk and catalogue launch

8.5.19, 7 pm, admission free, no registration
Jan and Tim Edler of realities:united will be talking to Thomas Köhler, Director of the Berlinische Galerie and exhibition curator, and introducing the exhibition catalogues

Discussion: Where is Planet B?

15.5.19, 4 pm, included in museum admission, please register via bildung@berlinischegalerie.de
Event organised by the Berlinische Galerie Jugendbeirat (a sideviews e.V. project) and realities:united

Panel debate: Sustainability and energy transition as a cultural challenge

19.6.19, 7 pm, admission free, no registration
Speakers include Prof. Günther Bachmann (Generalsekretär Rat für Nachhaltige Entwicklung) and Olaf Zimmermann (Geschäftsführer Deutscher Kulturrat)

Panel debate: (Structural) change strategies for arts and culture in regions facing energy transition and the phase-out of coal

14.8.19, 7 pm, admission free, no registration
Speakers include Ellen Blumenstein (curator, HafenCity Hamburg) and Christine Herntier (Mayor of Spremberg)

Both panel debates will be chaired by Andreas Ruby (Director, Swiss Architecture Museum).

Press Berlinische Galerie

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Admission € 10, concessions € 7
Wed–Mon 10am–6pm
Closed on Tuesdays

Press conference Accreditation

You are warmly invited to the press conference on Friday, 26.4 at 11 am. Please email your accreditation details by 23.4 to: presse@berlinischegalerie.de

Accompanying events
berlinischegalerie.de/en/calendar/

Press images
berlinischegalerie.de/en/press/press-information/press-images-realitiesunited/

Online tickets
berlinischegalerie.de/service/online-tickets

Social media
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