

Berlinische Galerie Alte Jakobstraße 124–128 10969 Berlin

Press Release

Berlin, 19 October 2012

Tue Greenfort GASAG Kunstpreis 2012 02.11.2012 – 08.04.2013

Press Conference: 31.10. 11 am, Award and Opening: 1.11. 7 pm

Tue Greenfort (*1973 in Holbæk, Denmark) is the winner of the GASAG Kunstpreis 2012. As a consequence, the Berlinische Galerie is to devote a solo exhibition to his work. The globally active artist who has chosen to make Berlin his home was most recently on show at Documenta 13.

In this new exhibition Greenfort focuses on the elements gas and glass, combining them in installations that cut across spaces. He blends new work with archive material to explore the artistic and social significance of glass and gas(light). In this way, he draws attention to the role GASAG played in lighting the city during the 19th and 20th centuries and to the history of the Berlinische Galerie as a cultural venue: the museum stands on the site of a former glass warehouse and has been entrusted with the Puhl & Wagner archives, documenting one of the leading 20th-century companies producing artistic stained glass.

By incorporating historical gas lamps, some of which have been converted to LEDs for the exhibition, Greenfort raises questions about (visual) traditions we have come to know and love and how compatible these are with present-day awareness of environmental factors – in a city which has more active gas lamps than anywhere else in the world. Other works have been created together with the college next-door, run by the Berlin Glassmakers' Guild. The show is completed by archive material on the artistic avant-garde of the 20th-century from the museum's own holdings.

The show is also a reflection on the art award itself, and on the role and freedom of the artist in a dialogue with museums and the corporate world. Greenfort attaches particular weight to the design of the exhibition catalogue, which is a central feature of the overall artistic concept.

The GASAG-Kunstpreis is being awarded in this form for the second time. Every two years, the partners use this prize to honour an artistic position at the interface between art, science and technology. The jury explained why they had chosen this artist, trained at the art academy in Fünen (Denmark) and the Städelschule in Frankfurt/Main (Germany) as follows:

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BERLINISCHE GALERIE



GASAG
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“Tue Greenfort belongs to a younger generation of artists who have opened up a new aesthetic approach to environment issues. The artist is not only interested, however, in questions about sustainability, but in how ecology is understood as a ‘systemic model for social, economic and cultural phenomena and their interconnections’ (Greenfort). He plies his material with subtle thematic allusions, formal precision and ironic references to the art of the 1960s and 1970s. His works are nonetheless always site-specific, delving into historical facts as well as chemical and physical processes. Instrumental scientific knowledge, artistic research and the quest for aesthetic composition achieve a fertile synthesis in Greenfort’s work.”

Jury: Prof. Dr. Eugen Blume, Director of the Hamburger Bahnhof, Museum für Gegenwart, Berlin; Markus Strieder, artist, Berlin; Dr. Luca Ticini, Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences, Leipzig; Dr. Susanne Witzgall, Academy of Fine Arts, Munich; Dr. Thomas Köhler, Director of the Berlinische Galerie; Observers: Birgit Jammes, Sponsoring-kommunikation GASAG, Berlin and Dr. Heinz Stahlhut, Head of the Fine Art Collection, Berlinische Galerie

Nominated artists : Aleksandra Domanovic, Simon Dybbroe Møller, Antje Engelman, Emanuel Geisser, Tue Greenfort, Wiley Hoard, Shirin Homann-Saadat, Cyrill Lachauer, Silvia Lorenz, Agnieszka Polska, Katinka Pilscheur, Reinigungsgesellschaft (Henrik Mayer and Martin Keil), Vanessa Safavi, Pola Sieverding, Ming Wong, Pablo Zuleta Zuhr

Curators: Marius Babias, Director of the Berliner Kunstverein; Katja Blomberg, Director of the Haus am Waldsee; Amir Fattal, artist, Tape Club curator and art director at the Atelier im Funkhaus Rekade, free-lance curator *inter alia* in Berlin and Nalepastrasse; Gabriele Horn, Head of Kunstwerke; Urs Kuenzi, manager of Substitut – Raum für aktuelle Kunst aus der Schweiz; Christiane Basel/CH; Heinz Stahlhut, Head of the Fine Art Collection, Berlinische Galerie; Frank Wagner, free-lance curator *inter alia* at the Neue Gesellschaft für Bildende Kunst (NGBK)

Curator-led tours: 05.11.12, 19.11.12, 17.12.12, 14.01.13, 11.02.13, 11.03.13,
2 pm, free with any admission ticket.

ACCREDITATION Press Conference, GASAG Kunstpreis 2012: 31.10. 11 am

Fax: 030 - 789 02 – 730 or email: arsjad@berlinischegalerie.de

I will attend

I will not attend

Surname, forename (in block capitals, please)

Medium / Desk

Email / Phone