

Award ceremony of the Wilhelm Lehmbruck Prize 2017 to Rebecca Horn and opening of the exhibition

Rebecca Horn “Hauchkörper als Lebenszyklus”,
24/11/2017 – 2/4/2018

On 24 November, Rebecca Horn, one of the most distinguished German artists, will be presented with the Wilhelm Lehmbruck Prize for her life's work. With this prize she receives a distinction for sculpture that was first awarded in 1966 in honour of the expressionist sculptor Wilhelm Lehmbruck – an award for sculpture for an artist who pushed sculpture far beyond its boundaries.

Uncompromising, unique and unmistakable, Rebecca Horn has influenced and shaped such diverse disciplines as performance, sculpture, poetry, painting and, most recently, large-scale opera productions for more than fifty years. She paved the way for a contemporary generation of artists in a number of important fields: she was the first female professor at the Berlin University of the Arts and, in 1993, the first female artist to be honoured with a solo show at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York. This year alone, Rebecca Horn received two other eminent distinctions: the Grand Cross of Merit and the Order Pour le mérite for Sciences and Arts.

In the Duisburg exhibition, Rebecca Horn will show for the first time her latest work group, the “Hauchkörper”, which she created this spring: elegant, golden spears that sway gently, meditatively, and have a restful effect upon us.

After a stroke two years ago, Rebecca Horn is entering a new creative phase: “It is a new beginning, a completely new process. For me, it is exhilarating to have created sculptures which are not derivatives or extensions of earlier works. They stand in their own right, and that gives me the feeling that I am currently on the threshold of a new phase in my work.”

“Rebecca Horn's art is emphatic; it is oriented towards us – the viewers, the listeners, the sympathizers,” says Söke Dinkla, director of the museum. Horst Bredekamp writes in the exhibition catalogue: “Her works convey the impression of an inner vitality, but they remain alien to us; they come forward and yet jump back; they are threatening and yet turn away. This leads to an unparalleled tension, which means that while we approach them it is with a mixture of attention and repulsion.”

The perfect balancing of antipodes like distance and proximity, beauty and threat, male and female, stagnation and movement, nature and technology, and the tension arising from this mark both the artist's recent and early works. In addition to the new works, the extensive exhibition presents more than fifty pieces from various stages in her creative development and in different media, including documentations of her performances, films, water colours, paintings and installations.

The Wilhelm Lehmbruck Prize, which is being awarded for the first time to a female artist, is endowed with 10,000 Euros and has been awarded since 1966 to major artists like Richard Serra, Claes Oldenburg or Joseph Beuys.

An exhibition catalogue with essays by Prof. Dr. Horst Bredekamp, Peter Stephan Jungk and Dr. Söke Dinkla will be published.

Programme | Award Ceremony and Opening | 24 November, 6 p.m.

Welcome | Sören Link, Lord Mayor of the City of Duisburg

Welcoming Addresses | Isabel Pfeiffer-Poensgen, Minister of Culture and Science of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia

Thomas Krützberg, Head of Cultural Affairs of the City of Duisburg

Dr. Joachim K. Bonn, Chairman of the Board of the Sparkasse Duisburg

Introduction | Dr. Söke Dinkla, Director of the Lehmbruck Museum

Laudatory Speech | Prof. Dr. Peter Raue, lawyer and former Chairman of the Friends of the National Library

Music | Musicians from the Duisburg Philharmonic Orchestra play music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Giovanni Battista Pergolesi

(The event is already fully booked)

Images: Schildkrötenseufzerbaum: The Turtle Sighing Tree.

Tanz in einer Pirouette (not translated)