

Pressemitteilung

Berlin, 29 October 2019

In a few days "30th Anniversary of the Peaceful Revolution – Fall of the Berlin Wall" kicks off! Invitation to press events & all you need to know about the program

In six days, the city-wide festival week will kick off. To mark the 30th anniversary of the Peaceful Revolution and the fall of the Wall, the city of Berlin is inviting visitors and residents to get together, look back, talk and celebrate over a week of festivities. For seven days, at seven locations across the city – sites of key events in the Peaceful Revolution – Berlin will become a huge open-air exhibition space and festival venue: with over **200 events, seven open-air exhibitions, 3D video projections** on building facades, **30,000 messages within a floating art installation, augmented reality projects** and a **stage show** at the Brandenburg Gate on the evening of 9 November.

In order to provide you with comprehensive coverage of the festival week, we will be offering following **press events**:

Further press appointments

Friday, 1 November, 13:00 p.m.

Insight into the composition of the art installation at the Brandenburg Gate. The CEO of Kulturprojekte Berlin, Moritz van Dülmen, project manager Simone Leimbach and the artist Patrick Shearn, Poetic Kinetics, present the participatory artwork. Photography welcome | Registration until October 31 required under mail@steinbrennermueller.de

Monday, 4 November, 5:30 p.m.

Opening of the festival week by Governing Mayor Michael Müller

Start of the 3D video projections and the event program at Alexanderplatz.

Photography welcome | Registration required until November 1 under

mail@steinbrennermueller.de. Meeting point is the world clock on Alexanderplatz.

The festival week at a glance:

30,000 wishes, hopes and ideas of 30,000 people will take to the skies as part of the **"Visions in Motion" art installation** by **Patrick Shearn** and **Poetic Kinetics**, at the **Brandenburg Gate** and along the boulevard Straße des 17. Juni. Taking the placards and banners held by protesters during the Peaceful Revolution as inspiration, tens of thousands of people participated in workshops, events and actions in schools, churches, on the street and at festivals over the past few months to reflect on those demonstrations and write their own messages under the heading **"Your vision in the skies over Berlin"**. The shimmering, multi-coloured **ribbons** make up a hand-crafted art installation – one of the artist's signature 'Skynets' – which will appear to float weightlessly in the air for 150 metres along the boulevard Straße des 17. Juni from the Brandenburg Gate.

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With its rectangular shape, the installation calls to mind the Wall; but instead of a heavy, impenetrable border, its form takes flight.

Seven **open-air exhibitions** – at the Gethsemane Church, Alexanderplatz, the Brandenburg Gate, the Kurfürstendamm, the former Stasi headquarters, Schlossplatz and the East Side Gallery – will shed light on the events of 1989/90 at the sites where they took place and provide a factual base for an artistic exploration of the Peaceful Revolution in the form of large-scale **3D video projections**. Every day after dark historical film footage combined with evocative light and sound effects will transfer visitors back in time to gain an impression of the mood pervading the years 1989 and 1990. For example, the 15-minute story at Alexanderhaus on **Alexanderplatz** will bring back demands of hundreds of thousands of demonstrators who bravely defied the SED leadership here on 4 November 1989. At the **Humboldt Forum**, the historic façade of the Palast der Republik that stood here will be made visible again and the key stages and events on the way to a democratic GDR shown. Over **200 events** will look at a wide range of historical aspects and build a bridge into the present – from punk concerts in the former Stasi headquarters and poetry slams at the East Side Gallery to eyewitness discussions at Breitscheidplatz and theatre performances on Alexanderplatz.

The festival week will reflect the many and varied perspectives on the events of 1989/90. The **stage show at the Brandenburg Gate on 9 November** will commemorate the most significant event in the city's recent history: the fall of the Berlin Wall. A team of civic-minded people, some of whom were protagonists of the historic events, join in a two-hour cross-media production, blending **musical acts, drama, light shows** and a **talk with civil rights activists** into a narrative about a part of the German history of freedom. The stage show will be opened with some words of welcome by the Governing Mayor of Berlin **Michael Müller**, and addresses by German President **Frank-Walter Steinmeier** as well as **Marianne Birthler** civil rights activist and Federal Commissioner for the Records of the State Security of the former German Democratic Republic. The orchestra of the **Berlin State Opera (Staatskapelle Berlin)**, conducted by **Daniel Barenboim, and Anna Loos, Trettmann, Dirk Michaelis, Zugezogen Maskulin** and **Die Zöllner** are the artists scheduled to perform on stage in front of a monumental video dome serving as a screen for projections. The stage show, directed by **Sven Sören Beyer** of the Berlin artists' network **phase7 performing arts**, will culminate in an after-show party hosted by **DJ WestBam**, which will link up with the European Club Night, taking place in 27 clubs in Berlin and 27 clubs across Europe.

The **augmented reality app MauAR** and **augmented reality stories accessible via Facebook Messenger** will enable visitors to immerse themselves in the history. The MauAR app, for example, answers the question “Where exactly was the Wall?” by visualizing the entire 160 kilometres' length of the Wall as it was, and describing life with the Wall in East and West Berlin in interactive stories. In addition, **five extra episodes** created especially for the festival week will trace the events leading to the Peaceful Revolution across the sites where they took place. At all the festival's locations, visitors will be able to experience history through over **30 augmented reality stories**, developed in cooperation with Facebook and ZDF Digital. By scanning the QR code via Facebook Messenger, participants will encounter various figures, such as “wallpeckers” at the Brandenburg Gate.

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A project of Kulturprojekte Berlin GmbH on behalf of the Berlin Senate Department for Culture and Europe. In cooperation with the Berlin Commissioner for the Examination and Reappraisal of the Communist Dictatorship in East Germany, Berlin Wall Foundation, Robert Havemann Society and many more partners, funded by the Senate Department for Culture and Europe and supported by H&M, Berliner Sparkasse. Further: Wall GmbH und STRÖER, Stromnetz Berlin GmbH and Berliner Wasserbetriebe.

With the media cooperation of ZDF and rbb

Further information

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