

Floating Messages – The "Visions in Motion" Art Installation

As part of the festivities to mark the 30th anniversary of the Peaceful Revolution and the fall of the Berlin Wall, some **30,000 streamers bearing messages** from **30,000 people** will take to the skies above Straße des 17. Juni from 4 – 10 November in an **artistic installation** at the Brandenburg Gate by **Patrick Shearn, Poetics Kinetics**. Over the summer months, tens of thousands of people attended hundreds of workshops conducted by the Evangelical Church in Germany and other organizations as well as **numerous events in schools and churches, on the streets and at festivals**, where they drew inspiration from the banners displayed at demonstrations during the Peaceful Revolution and explored their wishes and hopes for the future and their memories of the past. At events held across Berlin – including at the Berlin Wall Memorial, the Palace of Tears, the East Side Gallery and at Berlin's Long Night of Museums – people came together to reflect on the past and to make their messages, wishes and hopes a part of the installation. At workshops held by the Evangelical Church of Berlin-Brandenburg-Silesian Upper Lusatia (EKBO), hundreds of people explored the history of the Peaceful Revolution and added their messages to the installation under the slogan **"Your vision in the skies above Berlin"**.

One of the artist's signature Skynet works, the installation is fashioned from multi-coloured, partly reflective streamers and appears to float almost weightlessly in the sky, spanning 150 metres along Straße des 17. Juni from the lime trees at the Brandenburg Gate. During the Peaceful Revolution, hundreds of thousands of people boldly raised their voices in protest, contributing to the fall of the Wall. The hand-crafted installation at the Brandenburg Gate by Patrick Shearn, Poetic Kinetics, bears witness to their courage. With its rectangular form, the installation evokes the memory of the former Wall; but instead of a heavy, impenetrable border, the form takes flight. On the installation in Berlin, Shearn says: *In collaboration with Kulturprojekte Berlin, we have created a narrative that symbolizes the freedom and unity earned when the wall came down, while holding aloft the current memories, wishes and hopes of all the people of Berlin, both East and West, as well as the world at large.*"

The thousands of floating messages symbolize that those who raise their voices together can overcome dictatorships and make the seemingly impossible possible. The messages, wishes, and hopes shared with the public in this artwork float aloft in the skies as symbols of freedom for all the world to see. Spanning over 150 metres, the installation comprises several thousand metres of rope, over 1,250 hand-tied knots and 120,000 rip-stop nylon and reflective fabric streamers arranged in a colourful pattern.

About the artist

Patrick Shearn of Poetic Kinetics is from Los Angeles, Berlin's twin city, and specializes in larger-than-life artworks made from ultralight materials. Works from his Skynet series have been shown in cities worldwide, including **Beijing, Lisbon, Miami** and Los Angeles. Shearn, who is the CEO and Creative Director of Poetic Kinetics, is also the creator of the wildly popular kinetic sculptures featured at Coachella Valley Music & Arts Festival.

Share your memories, messages, wishes and hopes online

People can still contribute to this project by sharing their messages via the festival website. These messages will be displayed on a video dome in front of the Brandenburg Gate during the festival week, allowing people from all over the world to contribute to the installation. Thousands of messages have been submitted to the platform over the last few months. For example, Joseph from Berlin: "I hope that the UK stays in the EU." And Marianne Birthler writes: **"I worry now about a new kind of wall – the wall between those who love freedom and those who fear it."**

Among the submissions are also more personal confessions such as the following by Oliver from Cologne: **"Honestly – I still experience tears of joy when I see pictures from that time!"** All of the messages can be viewed online at: www.mauerfall30.berlin/botschaften/.

"Visions in Motion" is an artistic installation created by US-American artist Patrick Shearn and his studio Poetic Kinetics, curated by Kulturprojekte Berlin. With the support of the Evangelical Church of Berlin-Brandenburg-Silesian Upper Lusatia (EKBO) and radioeins.

For further information and images for download, please see www.mauerfall30.berlin.

Press Contact

Susanne Galle
+49 (0)30 247 49-864
s.galle@kulturprojekte.berlin