



LUTHER UND DIE AVANT GARDE

Press information, 6 December 2016, Berlin

The artists Gilbert & George confirm their participation in the exhibition in Berlin's St. Matthew Church with their SCAPEGOATING PICTURES

At the invitation of the organisers, the Foundation for Art and Culture, Gilbert & George paid a visit to Berlin's St. Matthew Church on December 2, 2016. They are planning to exhibit a massive group of their extraordinary SCAPEGOATING PICTURES, whose central themes are war, religious and human conflict. Famous for their provocative actions and images, Gilbert & George have, as "living sculptures", adopted a resolutely anti/pro-clerical and a moral but anti-moralistic stance since the 1960s.

"The participation of Gilbert & George will initiate a radical examination and discussion on the reformist ideas of Luther, who is hailed as a visionary and avantgardist of his time", comments Walter Smerling, Chairman of the Foundation for Art and Culture and Chairman of the Curatorial Committee. "Their artistic focus on themes such as life and death, sex, violence and power could not be more appositely presented than in a church setting. The attitude of artists today, in a world in which concepts such as plurality, democracy, freedom and equality are under growing scrutiny, is more crucial to our society than ever before."

The exhibition Luther and the Avant-garde will be presented from May 19 to September 17, 2017 by the Foundation for Art and Culture, Bonn, in cooperation with Reformationsjubiläum 2017 e.V. The historic prison in Wittenberg will serve as a central exhibition venue and is being renovated and opened to the public on the occasion of the exhibition. Additional exhibition sites are Berlin and Kassel, where art takes up residence in church buildings. The exhibition is being made possible thanks to the support of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD).



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Some 65 internationally-acclaimed artists have been invited to take part in the exhibition. On show are works by, among others, Eija-Liisa Ahtila, Ólafur Eliasson, Ayşe Erkmen, Isa Genzken, Pascale Marthine Tayou, Günther Uecker, Ai Weiwei, Erwin Wurm and Zhang Peili.

Openings / Press conferences

WITTENBERG

Central Opening: 18 May 2017

Central press conference: 16 May 2017

BERLIN

Opening: 19 May 2017

Press conference: 17 May 2017

KASSEL

Opening: 21 May 2017

Press conference: 19 May 2017

More information about the exhibition: www.luther-avantgarde.de/2017/en/

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Picture credits

Left picture: Gilbert & George in front of the St. Matthew Church Berlin. Photo: Daniel Biskup.

Top right picture: Gilbert & George at St. Matthew Church Berlin. Photo: Daniel Biskup.

Artwork (bottom right): Gilbert & George: ASTRO STAR 2013, Series „SCAPEGOATING PICTURES“ © Gilbert & George

