

PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT OF 28 AUGUST 2012

**The Desire for Freedom. Art in Europe since 1945.
An Exhibition of the German Historical Museum, Berlin
17 October 2012 to 10 February 2013**

The German Historical Museum is in the process of organising the XXX Council of Europe exhibition, 'The Desire for Freedom', which will open to the public on 17 October 2012.

This exhibition will for the first time present a view of art in Europe that sets aside all the ideological divisions associated with the Cold War. In twelve sections, it will examine the different ways in which artists have come to grips with the ideals of the Enlightenment, and the belief in universal human rights, freedom, equality and democracy.

100 works from 28 countries will be included – among them, photographs, drawings, videos and installations by artists such as Ian Hamilton Finlay, Mario Merz, Aurora Reinhard, Sabina Shikhlinskaya, Carlfriedrich Claus, Gerhard Richter, Ilya Kabakov and Fernand Léger. The countries in question are Albania, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Croatia, Czech Republic, The Netherlands, Norway, Austria, Poland, Rumania, Russia, Switzerland, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

Monika Flacke, the chief curator and project leader of the German Historical Museum, has already addressed some of the key questions relating to the different attitudes and approaches to the history of European reconstruction in her exhibitions, 'Mythen der Nationen' ('National Myths'), of 1998 and 2004-2005. She now places the focus on art in Europe since 1945, to show how the visual arts present a special approach to these concerns. The exhibition not only gives visual reality to the idea of freedom, but questions its very premises.

The XXX Council of Europe exhibition is the fruit of extensive international collaboration, led by the German Historical Museum and supported by the European Commission.

Additional venues on the tour: Palazzo Reale, **Milan** (spring 2013), KUMU, **Tallinn** (summer 2013) and MOCAK, **Krakow** (autumn/ winter 2013)

Project leader and chief curator: Monika Flacke, German Historical Museum, Berlin

Accompanying programme: public discussions (Sundays, at 14.00); exhibition tours for groups of Kindergarten children, schoolchildren and adults; film series in the Zeughauskino.

Exhibition catalogue: Verführung Freiheit, Kunst in Europa seit 1945. Sandstein Verlag, 352 p., ca. 300 illustrations, hard cover, incl. electronic catalogue (ISBN: 978-3-942422-90-1).

Museum edition: Soft cover with (ISBN 978-3-86102-175-9) and without (ISBN 978-3-86102-174-2) electronic catalogue.

E-book: Verführung Freiheit, Kunst in Europa seit 1945. Sandstein Verlag. Electronic catalogue with 184 extensive descriptions of individual works, ca. 200 artists' biographies, ca. 500 reproductions and videos, and a variety of search capabilities (ISBN 978-3-942422-98-7).

Press contact, German Historical Museum, further information, texts and visual material:

Astrid B. Müller, Tel.: +49 (0)30-203 04-234, Fax: +49-(0)30-20304-458, Email: amueller@dhm.de

Council of Europe, press office:

Panos Kakaviatos, Tel.:+33-390-21 5027, Email: Panos.kakaviatos@coe.int

