

PRESS RELEASE

International Foundation Manifesta
Amsterdam, May 2002

OPENING Manifesta 4

May 24, 2002 Frankfurt am Main, Germany

The International Foundation Manifesta and the Members of its Board, Henry Meyric Hughes, Francesco Bonami, Chris Dercon, Martin Fritz, Maaretta Jaukkuri, Vicente Todoli, Vasif Kortun, Hans-Ulrich Obrist, Barbara VanderLinden, Igor Zabel and Kasper König, congratulate the city of Frankfurt am Main, Germany, on the festive opening of the fourth edition of Manifesta, European Biennial of Contemporary Art.

MANIFESTA IN FRANKFURT

Manifesta is a European biennial for visual artists, initiated in 1994 by the former Netherlands Government Department for the Visual Arts. Its two-yearly editions infiltrate urban cultural environments where the climate that can be characterised as vital and multiform, with dynamic sociopolitical qualities. Manifesta host cities offer local and external (international) 'makers' a fertile breeding ground where innovative models of presentation and production can mature and freely develop. As a truly nomadic biennial, Manifesta moved from its place of birth, Rotterdam (1996), via Luxembourg (1998) and Ljubljana (2000), to Frankfurt, Germany (2002).

Frankfurt, being an important international place of transfer with manifest European symbolism, proposed to become a Manifesta city during a period of very interesting local developments. Rising from the ashes of an economic, and consequently also cultural, depression, the city is reviving because a new generation of young international cultural managers and curators, bringing fresh air and innovative ideas, has been given a chance to breathe new life into the cultural institutions. Hosting Manifesta fits in with this mood, and Manifesta feels at home in this atmosphere. Frankfurt, a spider in an international artistic network, provides Manifesta, as an open and nomadic platform, with a suitable context and breeding area for new cultural liveliness, discourse and forms of cooperation.

FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

The opening of Manifesta 4 presents the International Foundation Manifesta (IFM), the organisational structure within which the editions are taking place, with an appropriate moment for analysis. Now that the European Committee has granted the IFM a significant three-year subsidy in the context of the Culture Programme 2000, which puts an end to any acute existential problems, it is time for more in-depth development. Finally anticipating a certain financial and organisational security, the IFM wishes to open up a deeper layer in which its strategic vision of nomadic biennial will be reinterpreted. Moreover, there will be an investigation into the way in which a structure of permanence can be provided while preserving the elements of lucidity and dynamism. The IFM has set up a support structure in the form of an (Honorary) Membership, in order to keep up the active dialogue with, and involvement of, curators and organisers from the various editions. Within a context of many

new international biennials, the IFM will not be aiming at an increase in scale or cultural marketing, but rather, will concentrate on in-depth investigation, in collaboration with international partners within a growing Manifesta network. Activities planned, such as the production of a book, a 'journal', workshops and a website including digital archives, supply the need to preserve such objectives as discourse, interdisciplinary research, interactivity, critical self-questioning and reinvention, in the knowledge that the IFM and Manifesta can only survive by organising and supervising the organic.

For information about Manifesta 4: www.manifesta.de

For further details regarding the International Foundation Manifesta, please contact:

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