steirischer herbst 2015 Biographies

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Gerard Byrne (IE)

Gerard Byrne was born in 1969 in Dublin, and works as a visual artist whose main focus lies on photographic and video installations. Using these media, Byrne aims to depict the ambivalent relationship between visual language and the documentation of time, so calling into question established thinking patterns concerning history. Following his studies at the Irish National College of Art & Design and the New School of Social Research in New York, in 2005 he received the "Paul Hamlyn Foundation Award", and his works were shown at venues including MUMOK Vienna, the Statens Museum in Copenhagen and at the ICA Boston. In 2009 Byrne was an artist-in-residence at the Augarten Contemporary in the Belvedere Vienna. His latest exhibition, entitled simply "Gerard Byrne", was staged at the Lisson Gallery Milan in 2014. Byrne lives and works in Dublin. www.gerardbyrne.com

copy & waste (DE)

Jörg Albrecht was born in 1981 in Bonn and is now based in Berlin. He is the author of prose, theatre and radio play texts as well as essays. From 2001 to 2006 he studied comparative literature, German philology and history in Bochum and Vienna, from 2008 to 2010 creative writing in Graz. In 2006 he published his debut novel "Drei Herzen". In the following year he and director and actor Steffen Klewar (b. 1982 in Darmstadt) founded the theatre collective copy & waste, which uses performance, installation art and theatre to explore the theme of urban culture in the 21st century. In 2013 their musical "Barbarellapark" premiered. Works by Albrecht und copy & waste have been shown at the Maxim Gorki Theatre in Berlin and at Schauspielhaus Wien, among other venues. In 2011 Albrecht and Klewar appeared for the first time at steirischer herbst showing "Die blauen Augen von Terrence Hill". Albrecht was to appear at steirischer herbst twice more, most recently in 2014 in cooperation with Gerhild Steinbuch ("You're not the same, Batman!"). In the same year Jörg Albrecht published his fourth novel, "Anarchie in der Ruhrstadt". copyandwaste.de

Phoebe Davies (UK)

Phoebe Davies was born in 1985 in Cardiff. She lives and works in London and Southerndown, a village in South Wales. From 2004 to 2007 she studied at the Wimbledon College of Art, and in 2008 presented her first performance collaborations in London, Bristol and Glasgow. Performance is however only one part of her creative repertoire: Davies has continually reinvented her art. Thus her biography also includes forays into installation art (such as the landscape artwork "Elope to the Hills", 2012), film ("In the Background", 2012) or music ("AMP", 2014 – a collaboration with British rapper Shay D). From 2011 to 2012 she was artist-in-residence at the Whitechapel Art Gallery London. Characteristic of her work are its versatility, ephemerality and fundamental concept of interaction. Davies is currently working with the British Council on projects in South Africa and the USA. www.phoebedavies.co.uk



Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker / Rosas (BE)

Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker was born in 1960 in Mechelen/Belgium. She is a choreographer and dancer, and one of the outstanding figures of contemporary dance today. Having studied in Brussels and New York, in 1982 she presented her widely celebrated debut production, "Fase, four movements to the music of Steve Reich". In the following year she founded her own dance company, Rosas, which during the same year won the "Bessie Award" with its debut of "Rosas danst Rosas". The ensemble's productions focus on the relationship between dance and other creative genres such as music and text: De Keersmaeker often makes use of elements drawn from jazz, pop music and literature, which combined with the strong expression and sensuality of her choreographies create a unique form of composition that has earned numerous prizes. Thus for instance in 2011 she was awarded the "Samuel H. Scripps Award for Lifetime Achievement" by the American Dance Festival. From 1992 to 2007 she also worked as a choreographer at the Brussels opera house La Monnaie. In 1995 this cooperation led to the foundation of the Performing Arts Research and Training Studios (P.A.R.T.S.), one of the most renowned dance schools in Europe. In 2010 "Cesena", a collaboration between De Keersmaeker and Belgian musician Björn Schmelzer, opened steirischer herbst.

www.rosas.be

Mikala Dwyer (AU)

Mikala Dwyer was born in 1959 and lives and works as an installation artist in Sydney. She studied fine art, including a focus on sculpture, at Sydney College of Art – where she is now also a lecturer – and at Middlesex University London. During the 1980s Dwyer was chiefly active as an installation and performance artist, before her first solo exhibition, "Primavera", was staged in 1992 at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney. Four years later her work was shown for the first time outside Australia in an exhibition at the Sarah Cottier Gallery in Basel. Further works were shown at venues including Cardiff, Berlin and Potsdam. Within the context of steirischer herbst 2015, Mikala Dwyer's work – which is primarily based on everyday objects – will be on show in Austria for the first time. mikaladwyer.com

Friðgeir Einarsson / Kriðpleir Theatre Group (IS)

Friðgeir Einarsson was born in 1981, and lives and works as an author, director and performance artist in Reykjavik. He studied theatre and Icelandic literature before presenting his debut "IKEA Travel" as both author and actor in cooperation with the theatre group 16 Lovers in 2008. Since then Einarsson has collaborated in various roles in over 15 productions and in 2012 co-founded the **Kriðpleir Theatre Group** with Ragnar Bragason (author), Árni Vilhjálmsson (musician; including FM Belfast) and Bjarni Jónsson (dramatic advisor). Today the Kriðpleir Theatre Group has six members. In the same year the collective put on their first performance, "Block", in Einarsson's own flat. Like this debut piece, two further works created by the group, "Belated Inquiry" (2014) and "Tiny Guy", move between theatre, performance and cabaret, constantly seeking interaction with the audience. www.fridgeireinarsson.com / www.kridpleir.com

Encyclopédie de la parole / Joris Lacoste (FR)

Joris Lacoste was born in 1973 and lives and works as a director and performance artist in Paris. Initially active as an author for various theatre and radio productions, Lacoste began to expand his creative focus by founding the "W" project group in 2004. Today his artistic biography resembles a patchwork of highly diverse formats and ranges from show (e.g. "Purgatoire", 2007) and performance (e.g. "The Empty House", 2012) through to exhibition (e.g. "12 Prepared Dreams", 2012) and even the development of parlour game concepts (e.g. "The Block Game", 2003). All of these fields are also combined in **Encyclopédie de la parole,** an art project initiated by Lacoste in 2007, with a group of musicians, directors, visual artists and writers. The collective concentrates on working with sound documents of all kinds – from advertising jingles through to speeches or fragments of film. From these various recordings they produce their equally diverse works. Whether it is an exhibition ("Collection", 2011), concert ("Pièces Sonores", 2007) or performance ("Suites Chorales", 2013), the basis of each work is always sound and its effect on the audience. jorislacoste.net / www.encyclopediedelaparole.org



Fourdummies (AT)

In 2013, performance and installation artists Waltraud Brauner, Peter Baur and Georg Klüver-Pfandtner formed the collective **Fourdummies**. Based on the fictional 20-year collaboration of the group, the three members create a *Gesamtkunstwerk* located between fact and fiction and including both performative and interactive elements yet always retaining the character of an installation. Fourdummies has presented this mix of static and active art at venues including Vienna's brut ("Image Recovery", 2014 and "Das Verflixte 8. Jahr", 2015). Within the context of steirischer herbst, the collective will also be appearing in Styria, with a blend of the present day and the future in keeping with this year's leitmotif.

fourdummies.tumblr.com

Tessa Giblin (IR/NZ)

Tessa Giblin was born in 1978 and is a New Zealand curator living and working in Dublin. Having graduated in fine art from the Canterbury University School of Fine Arts in Christchurch in 2001, from 2002 to 2004 she worked as the director of the urban installation project "Gridlocked". Giblin curated her first exhibition in 2003 at the Jonathan Smart Gallery in Christchurch before working on the curatorial programme at the De Appel Arts Centre in Amsterdam from 2004 to 2005. Tessa Giblin has been curator of visual art at the Project Arts Centre in Dublin since 2006. She is currently in the middle of planning the group exhibition "Riddle of the Burial Ground" as well as solo exhibitions by David Claerbout and Gretchen Bender.

Joachim Hainzl (AT)

Joachim Hainzl was born in 1968 and lives and works as a social historian and adult educator in Graz. He is also active as a visual artist, author and curator. In 2006 he founded the sociocultural development association Xenos and in the same year presented his first installation work, "Der Plan von Graz". His installation "Pecunia non olet!" appeared the following year on the main square of Graz. Both addressed the theme of the capitalist throwaway society. Hainzl's works are clearly shaped by socio-historical issues. From 2007 to 2009 he was programme member and co-supervisor of the archive at Forum Stadtpark Graz. He has participated several times at steirischer herbst, most recently in 2014 as co-curator of the exhibition "Am Südrand" at Schaumbad – Freies Atelierhaus Graz.

Mette Ingvartsen (DK)

metteingvartsen.net

Mette Ingvartsen was born in 1980 in Århus/Denmark and works as a choreographer and dancer. By the mid-1990s she was already taking part in several dance collaborations, subsequently studying at the Hogeschool voor der Kunsten in Amsterdam and the Performing Arts Research and Training Studios Brussels from 1999 to 2004. In 2002 Ingvartsen presented her first independently conceived performance, "Solo Negatives"; 16 more were to follow over the years. Her most recent – "69 positions" – premiered in 2014 in Essen. Ingvartsen is studying for a doctorate at Uniarts Stockholm and has since 2013 been active as an artist-in-residence at the Kaaitheater Brussels. Apart from her solo pieces Ingvartsen also works regularly with other choreographers, including Boris Charmatz ("Expo Zero", 2010) and Xavier Le Roy ("Floor Pieces", 2010). In 2009 she also appeared at steirischer herbst, presenting two works: "GIANT CITY" and "evaporated landscapes".

metroZones / Jochen Becker / Christian Hanussek / Daniel Kötter (DE)

Jochen Becker lives in Berlin. As well as being an editor and author (e.g. "Kabul/Teheran 1976ff", 2006), Becker works as a curator (e.g. "Urban Cultures of Global Players", 2012) and university lecturer (since 2014 at the Royal Institute of Art Stockholm, for instance). In addition he was artistic director of the "Global Players Project" at the Haus der Kulturen der Welt in Berlin in 2012. In 2007 his focus on urban culture led to him co-founding **metroZones**, an independent association for critical city research. Both interdisciplinary and supraregional, the project is located on the interface of art, science and politics. Its objective is to focus on the public treatment and politicisation of urban issues, everyday worlds and conflicts.



metrozones.info

Christian Hanussek was born in 1953 in Frankfurt am Main, and lives and works as an author, curator and multimedial artist in Berlin. Following his studies of art and art theory in Frankfurt and Haarlem/Netherlands, Hanussek has worked primarily with elements taken from painting, installation and video art. He additionally concentrates on the promotion of African art, such as his regular collaborations with painter and sculptor Salifou Lindou from Cameroon. In 2001 he co-founded "Laboratoire Déberlinisation" with Mansour Ciss Kanakassy and Baruch Gottlieb. The aim of this Berlin-based project is to foster dialogue between North and South. Hanussek is also active as a member of the urban science art initiative metroZones.

Daniel Kötter was born in 1975 in Bergisch Gladbach, and works as a director, film-maker and video artist. From 1996 to 2001 he studied music and theatre with philosophy in Berlin and went on to concentrate on the blending of techniques in structuralist experimental films on the one hand, and performative and documentary elements on the other. The resulting works were in many cases funded by the German Goethe Institute and shown internationally within the context of numerous film and video art festivals and also in galleries and concert halls. Kötter's six-part experimental documentary film series "state-theatre" (2009-2014), for example, was produced and presented in Nigeria, Iran and the USA, among other countries. He is currently collaborating with composer Hannes Seidl on a musical theatre project "Ökonomien des Handelns 1-3" (begun in 2013), the first part of which, "Kredit", premiered at steirischer herbst in 2013.

Nature Theater of Oklahoma (US)

In 2006, Pavol Liska and Kelly Copper founded the **Nature Theater of Oklahoma**, in the meantime one of the most famous off-off Broadway groups in the USA. Following initial projects rooted in choreography, the "OK Theater" quickly evolved into a multimedia ensemble that moves effortlessly between classical theatre, comic and animation art as well as film. All of these elements are combined in its monumental work "Life and Times", whose nine episodes break down the boundaries between fiction and real life. Both unsettling and intimate, the group's art is always targeted at the full attention of the audience, challenging their perception of reality. In 2008 and 2013 they won the "Obie Award". They have already appeared three times at steirischer herbst – most recently in 2014 with episodes 4.5, 5 and 6 of "Life and Times". Its three-part continuation appears at steirischer herbst in 2015. www.oktheater.org

Nesterval (AT)

The **Nesterval** theatre group presented the first of its now famous scavenger hunts in Vienna in 2011. The goal: to give the traditional concept of the scavenger hunt a new flavour with ingredients such as theatre and mystery. In the meantime 16 different hunts – described by the group as "adventures" – have been staged, all of them somehow connected with the fictional Nesterval family created by collective founder Martin Hötzeneder. During the four years that they have existed, Nesterval has sold about 1800 tickets to their urban explorations and will now appear for the first time at steirischer herbst in 2015, to write the next chapter of their family story in Styria. www.nesterval.at

orizzontale (IT)

Under the title of "Spin-Off", **orizzontale** – a seven-member collective of Italian architects – is planning and designing this year's steirischer herbst festival centre. Founded in 2010 in Rome, the group itself describes their work as "do-it-yourself" architecture. Their first public installation, "Le Orecchie di Giussano" was also shown in 2010. Over the next five years they presented more than 30 projects, their focus always on the use of urban space. Initially only active in Italy, their installation "Pop up device" (2013) took the group abroad for the first time within the context of the Barcelona EME3 Festival. During the same year, the project "La Nef des Fous" was selected for the "Yes We Camp" competition in Marseilles; in the following year the design of the "8 ½" mobile theatre was awarded the international prize of the Young Architects Program ("MAXXI 2014"). Although orizzontale's creative focus has constantly expanded over the years and their creative work in the meantime now includes happenings (e.g. "Eco Agro Cult



Urbano", 2011) and workshops (e.g. "Red Carpet", 2012), the group has never lost sight of the interactive character of its projects.

www.orizzontale.org

Mariano Pensotti / Grupo Marea (AR)

Mariano Pensotti was born in 1973 in Buenos Aires and works as an author and director. He is considered one of the greatest talents in Latin American theatre. After studying film and theatre directing as well as drama writing, Pensotti worked mainly in theatre, concentrating on constantly testing its boundaries by involving film and performance elements. His directing debut ("Ojos Ajenos", 2000) was followed by 15 pieces performed worldwide in over 25 countries, all of them combining Pensotti's literary and theatre work. In 2006 within the framework of the Buenos Aires International Festival he received the "Germán Rozenmacher Award" for dramatic composition for his complex piece "Vapor". His latest piece – "Cineastas" – premiered at the Kunstenfestivaldesarts in Brussels in 2013 and also played at the Wiener Festwochen. Mariano Pensotti has appeared twice before at steirischer herbst: in 2008 " kollege von niemand" by Graz author Johannes Schrettle was shown, while in 2010 Pensotti's piece " Encyclopaedia of Unlived Lives" premiered at the festival. In 2015 the Argentinian director returns to Austria with a new production for the first time with his own theatre group, **Grupo Marea.**

Anna Peschke (DE)

Anna Peschke was born in 1978 in Heidelberg and works as a performer and director. In 2009 she completed her studies in applied theatre science in Giessen and has since focused mainly on free performance projects that cross the conventional limits of genre, blending theatre, new music and visual art. Her first production, the theatre installation "Käppkkra", premiered in 2009. Two years later her cooperation with Chinese soprano Nan Li and musician Song Yuzhe ("Mein chinesisches Herz singt dir ein Lied") was awarded the Berlin Opera Prize. Peschke's most recent project is entitled "Das Gräsertheater", a public garden laid out in Mannheim in which the plants play the lead.

www.annapeschke.de

Die Rabtaldirndln (AT)

There is no such place as the Rabtal, but the Dirndls do indeed exist. The five Styrian actresses formed a group in 2003 to put on theatre under the name of the **Rabtaldirndln**, examining and reworking the field of tension between urban and rural culture. The collective presented their debut independent production, "Halbdurch Ganzdurch Tod", during their first year. In 2009 their piece "Aufplatzen" won an award at the Freischwimmer Festival in Berlin; two years later "Berge versetzen" appeared at the Pathos Theater Munich. In the same year "Zielsicher" won the Rabtaldirndln the main prize at BestOFFStyria for the first time. In 2014 they again received the award, this time for "Einkochen". The group's latest production – "Du gingst fort" – premiered in 2015 at brut Wien. dierabtaldirndln.wordpress.com

Rimini Protokoll / Helgard Haug / Daniel Wetzel (DE)

Helgard Haug, Stefan Kaegi and Daniel Wetzel met during their theatre studies at the University of Giessen. Since 2000 they have been working together as a team of authors and directors. In 2002 the three named their collective **Rimini Protokoll**. Although the Berlin-based group also focus on radio and exhibitions as well as theatre, their work always pursues the same objective: it highlights unusual perspectives of reality, although without ever losing sight of it. The German-Swiss collective and its Europe-wide performances have received numerous prizes, including the German theatre award "Der Faust" (special prize, 2007) and the "Silver Lion" at the 41st Theatre Biennale in Venice (2011). Conceived by Kaegi, the play "Radio Muezzin" also appeared at steirischer herbst in 2009. In the same year, Swiss-born Kaegi was also a contributor to the "Randnotizen". The other two thirds of Rimini Protokoll – Haug and Wetzel – will be guests of steirischer herbst in 2015.



Rotozaza / Ant Hampton / Silvia Mercuriali (UK)

Anthony "Ant" Hampton works as a theatre director and performance artist. In 1998 he co-founded the multimedia project Rotozaza with performance artist Silvia Mercuriali, which focused on the experimental merging of performance, theatre and installation art. Within the context of the 2007 Edinburgh Festival, Hampton and Mercuriali presented their last joint production ("Etiquette"), which has since been shown in over 20 countries and translated into 14 languages. "Etiquette" did not just mark the end of Rotozaza, however; it also served as the beginning of the "Autoteatro" series – Hampton's most recent cycle of projects which positions the audience at the centre of the production. Alongside his solo work Hampton also collaborates regularly with other artists (including Britt Hatzius, Glen Neath and Joji Koyama) and in 2008 was chief dramatic advisor at Manifesta7.

Johannes Maria Staud (AT) / Josef Winkler (AT) / Ensemble Modern (DE).

Johannes Maria Staud was born in 1974 in Innsbruck. From 1994 to 2001 he studied composition, electroacoustic composition, harmony and counterpoint in Vienna and Berlin. In 2001 he received the Republic of Austria's Special Prize for Music, five years later the State Scholarship for Composition. He has collaborated with the Vienna Philharmonic and the BBC Symphony Orchestra, among others. In 2001 Staud was capell-compositeur at the Sächsische Staatskapelle Dresden. In 2014 he worked as composer-in-residence at the Lucerne Festival, where his opera "Die Antilope" premiered. Johannes Maria Staud has also appeared several times in Graz at steirischer herbst for musikprotokoll, most recently in 2014 with "Dichotomie", a premiere on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the British Arditti Quartet.

Josef Winkler was born in 1953 in Kamering/Carinthia. He is one of the most prominent Austrian writers of his time. After school he was first employed in a dairy, later – at the same time as attending the Evening Business Academy in Klagenfurt – working for a publishing company. His first venture into the literary world lay some years back, however: even as a child on his parents' farm, he had felt a yearning for literature, for "language". In 1979, at the age of 26, he published his first novel, "Menschenkind", winning second place in the contest for the Ingeborg Bachmann Prize in the same year. Several novels and also awards were to follow over the next 35 years. His most recent work was "Winnetou, Abel und ich", which appeared in 2014. Since the 1970s the father of two has often been a guest at steirischer herbst literature symposia. His text "Tintentod" was staged by Tina Lanik in 2001 and 2002.

Ensemble Modern was founded in 1980 with the aim of supporting new music. The Frankfurt am Main-based group is today one of the international leaders in its field. The grass-roots democratic – i.e. organised without an artistic director – group currently brings together 22 soloists from all over the world – whose cultural background forms a special feature of the ensemble. Yet it is not only the members but also their experiences and interests that determine the multi-award-winning Ensemble Modern, meaning that it can easily move between musical theatre, dance and video projects as well as chamber music. They have displayed this diversity at steirischer herbst time and again since the 1980s, most recently in 2004 when "...ce qui arrive..." by Olga Neuwirth premiered at musikprotokoll. www.ensemble-modern.com

Tom Struyf (BE)

Tom Struyf was born in 1983 and is a Belgian actor, performance artist and author. From 1999 to 2007 he studied performing arts in Leuven (Belgium) and in Maastricht (Netherlands) and subsequently worked chiefly as an actor. During his collaboration with Belgian theatre group fabuleus he expanded his repertoire and also began to conceive and write his pieces himself (e.g. "El Gran Teatro del Mundo", 2008). In the meantime he has worked on over 50 productions – in many both as author and actor. Conceived and performed by von Struyf, "The Tatiana Aarons Experience" was invited to the Het Theaterfestival in Amsterdam in 2011, while his performance "Another Great Year for Fishing" was selected for the "Stückemarkt" competition at the Theatertreffen of the Berliner Festspiele 2015. Struyf himself describes his works as "realitytheatervideoperformances". He appears this year for the first time at steirischer herbst with the theatre-video blend "Act to Forget".



The Loose Collective (AT)

Founded in 2009, **The Loose Collective** is an Austria-based group of international performance artists, musicians and choreographers who jointly develop democratically structured dance and music performances. In 2011 the musical "Here Comes the Crook" was their first stage production, performed at venues including Dance Week Zagreb and Tanzwerkstadt Europa in Munich. In 2013 the nine-member team received both the Jury and the Audience Prize at BestOFFStyria for "The Old Testament According to the Loose Collective", which was also performed internationally. With their most recent production, "The Music of Sound" – which alludes not just to the title of the US film "The Sound of Music" – The Loose Collective will appear for the first time at steirischer herbst, which is co-producing the piece.

www.theloosecollective.at

Theater im Bahnhof (AT)

Founded in Graz **Theater im Bahnhof** is not only a stage that changes depending on each production, but also the largest professional free theatre ensemble in Austria: around 20 artists work continuously on its reinvention, evoking hitherto unseen sides of the theatre concept and so constantly redefining it. According to its own description, TiB – the ensemble's well-known abbreviation – sees itself as "contemporary folk theatre" that has located itself at the intersection between tradition and pop culture. Theater im Bahnhof has already demonstrated its diversity many times at steirischer herbst, most recently in "Operation Wolfshaut" in 2013, a cooperation with Gaststubentheater Goessitz which ran in pubs around west Styria.

 $www.theater\hbox{-}im\hbox{-}bahnhof.com$

Ulla von Brandenburg (DE)

Ulla von Brandenburg was born in 1974 in Karlsruhe, lives in Paris and works as an installation and performance artist. From 1995 to 2004 she studied stage design and visual art in Karlsruhe and Hamburg. Her early works were shown at a number of group exhibitions. Her first solo show "Ja. Auch Sie!" was staged in Hamburg in 2001. In the meantime her installations have been exhibited all over the world in over 15 countries, including Vienna ("Innen ist nicht außen", 2013), Philadelphia ("The Way Things Are", 2012) and Peking ("Memento Mori", 2012). Von Brandenburg's work focuses especially on mutimedia practices; she uses elements from film and literature specifically in order to demonstrate transience and to create uncertainty.

