

SWAN Day Berlin Turns Two



SWAN Day Berlin will be celebrated for a second time on Saturday, March 28, 2009. SWAN Day or Support Women Artists Now Day is a new international holiday which takes place every year on the last Saturday in March. The purpose of SWAN Day is to recognize and honor the cultural contributions of woman artists and their power to bring about positive change in society.

The festival SWAN Day Berlin 2009 will be curated and presented by Shannon Sullivan and Joey Juschka of Performance Lab Berlin. The event consists of films by international filmmakers, music, installations, spoken word performances, and an open space. Only artistic works by women will be presented; all are invited to attend the festival as guests.

SWAN Day Berlin will take place at "Die Wabe", Danziger Str. 101, 10405 Berlin-Prenzlauer Berg. For the complete program of events and information about the participating artists please visit www.swandayberlin.org.

Program Overview:

6:00 pm – Short Film Program I

7:30 pm – Short Film Program II

9:00 pm – Musical Performance by Heini Nukari and Shut Up & Speak- Spoken Word Performances followed by an Open Mike

Admission: 14,-€ / 12,-€ / 10,-€ / 8,-€; the ugly duck at the entrance decides

Filmmakers from Germany, Israel, Turkey, Serbia, Tunisia, France, Italy, Poland and the United States will show their work in the two short film series. The films depict the artists' examinations of life in their country of origin and current events as seen through the lens of their personal and cultural history. "Untitled" by Nancy Buchanan and Anne Bean, which documents the artists' journey to northern Iraq, is one of many powerful pieces in the program.

At 9pm Shut Up and Speak meets SWAN Day Berlin for a series of spoken word performances. Spoken word is a very direct and intimate form in which self-written texts are performed by the author for the audience. Designed to give poetry back to the people, spoken word has its roots in the Beat Generation and Hip Hop. The performances will be held in German and English, followed by an Open Mike.

The Open Space and interactive discussions are designed to raise awareness for the issue of equal representation and equal pay for women artists. At different stations the public are invited to take a deeper look into the statistics and get involved. In the "Count for Yourself Box" audience members are encouraged to leaf through current programs of theaters, cinemas, music halls, etc. and count the number of female directors, authors, conductors they can find. At a different stand audience members can take the WITASWAN pledge and commit themselves to seeing at least one work a month which was written, directed, composed, etc. by a woman.

2008 was the very first year in which SWAN Day was celebrated. The response worldwide was enormous: over 160 Events were celebrated in 11 countries. SWAN Day has already been recognized by the mayors of New York, Boston, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C., among others. SWAN Day was initiated by the Fund for Women Artists and WITASWAN. For more information and a listing of international events please visit: www.womenarts.org. SWAN Day Berlin 2009 is presented by Performance Lab Berlin in cooperation with the Fund for Women Artists, MusenTritt and Shut Up and Speak.

SWAN Day Berlin 2009

presented by Performance Lab Berlin: Shannon Sullivan (Artistic Director) & Joey Juschka (Management)
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