



Berlin, 27th December 2002

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Künstlerhaus Bethanien presents:

Rest in Space

Atle Aas Marina Abramovic Maria Thereza Alves Anita Dube
Alex Flemming Lotte Konow Lund Aage Langhelle Lovedragon
Churchill Madikida Mitsuko Miwa Gordon Monahan Thomas Pihl
Peter Robinson Chiharu Shiota Anne Lise Stenseth Hanne Tyrmi

Curators: Steffi Goldmann and Inghild Karlsen

Opening: **Thursday, 9th January 2003, 7 pm**

Exhibition: **10th January - 2nd February 2003**
Wednesday - Sunday, 2 - 7 pm

Press conference/Preview: **Thursday, 9th January 2003, 6 pm**

Introduction: Morten Wetland, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway
Steffi Goldmann and Inghild Karlsen, curators of the exhibition
Boris Kremer, Künstlerhaus Bethanien

The exhibition project *Rest in Space* was initiated at Kunsternes Hus in Oslo, where it was presented from 18.10. - 24.11.2002. In Studio 1, Künstlerhaus Bethanien now shows an extensive selection of the works presented at Kunsternes Hus.

The main theme of the project is the world-wide web of artists' residencies. Ideally, these programmes offer a platform for logistic support, contacts, inspiration and exchanging artistic procedures. Accordingly, they form a useful backbone for a nomadic lifestyle and could be described as "nomads' camps", steadily gaining importance in the wake of ever-increasing global mobility. *Rest in Space* addresses the theme of artists' residencies from various angles, aiming to expose as many facettes as possible.

According to the initial idea, five Norwegian artists were to take part in residencies on different continents and were to provide a first insight in the variety and complexity of these programmes and the experiences made.

At the time of inception, two Norwegian artists happened to be already guests in artists' residencies: **Thomas Pihl** was ISCP stipendiate in New York in 2002 ; **Anne Lise Stenseth** already had a grant in Rotterdam in 2001 and has been consolidating her connection to Holland ever since.

Further locations therefore had to be made out in Asia, Africa, and Australia. The curators went on to select geographical situations that were in contrast to well-known travel destinations. **Hanne Tyrmi** obtained a six-week residency in Sanskriti Kendra on the outskirts of New Delhi; but she left the residency after a short while and moved to New Delhi where she felt she could experience Indian culture more authentically. **Aage Langhelle** was selected by the Bag Factory in Johannesburg and received a three-month residency including obligations such as workshops with students and a final exhibition. **Lotte Konow Lund** was a guest of the Australian-based institution IASKA and spent six weeks in Kellerberrin, a small town located in the midst of desert salt lakes, where she prepared an exhibition and gave lectures at schools.

In an effort to open a door to the opposite direction - a door that is often closed for artists with little money - and to consider the different views on cultures, Aage Langhelle and Hanne Tyrmi were each asked to invite a local artist for a residency in Norway. **Anita Dube** from India and **Churchill Madikida** from South Africa agreed to spend six weeks in Oslo, in Fall 2002. Just like the travelling Norwegian artists, they both created new work for *Rest in Space* during their residency.

In order to enlarge the circle of participants, two more artists with a stipend in 2002 were invited: Brazilian artist **Maria Thereza Alves**, who has made various experiences with international residency programmes over the past years, stayed several months in Helsinki in the framework of the HIAP programme, while the Japanese artist **Chiharu Shiota** took part in her first residency programme at Akademie Schloss Solitude in Stuttgart. She is furthermore scheduled to be a PS1 stipendiate in New York, in 2003.

While for the first part of *Rest in Space*, the curators selected artists, the second part consisted of choosing works whose creation was influenced by manifold experiences in connection with travelling – and here not exclusively in respect to residency programmes.

Rest in Space thus presents “Indian in India” , a book project by Japanese artist **Mitsuko Miwa**, herself an artist in residency at Künstlerhaus Bethanien, in 1996/97, before obtaining a grant in Sweden. “Ex-Touros” by Brazilian artist **Alex Flemming**, a traveller inbetween cultures, and “Ethereic Theremin Harmonic” , a sound installation by Canadian artist **Gordon Monahan**, a former daad stipendiate who has since moved to Berlin, are also on display. **Peter Robinson** from New Zealand, whose suitcases comment on the myth of John Frum, is yet another artist who decided to stay in Berlin after completing his stay at Künstlerhaus Bethanien.

Echoing the idea that travelling is not restricted to a physical experience, two works from

Marina Abramovic, “inner sky for departure” and “shoes for departure”, invite visitors on a spiritual journey.

Rest in Space not only intends to show the opportunities created by residency programmes; it rather hopes to induce visitors to travel and immerse themselves in different cultures. In this perspective, the sound carpet by **Lovedragon** operates as some sort of atmospheric soundtrack attuning the visitor to *Rest in Space*. **Atle Aas's** Freebags, in turn, are flexible seats inviting visitors to take a rest anywhere in the exhibition and make themselves comfortable.

The project is rounded off with an archive of information material – brochures and catalogues – which the curators have solicited from a couple of hundred different international residency programmes and made available in the form of a library in the exhibition. The website **<http://www-rest-in-space.net>** is linked to artists-in-residency programmes and holds a discussion forum as well as an online version of the catalogue, published on the occasion of the exhibition at Kunstnernes Hus and available during the show at Künstlerhaus Bethanien.

The exhibition opens Thursday, 9th January 2003 at 7 pm.

Morten Wedland, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway, Steffi Goldmann and Inghild Karl- sen, the curators of *Rest in Space*, and Boris Kremer, Künstlerhaus Bethanien, will each make a brief introduction.

Already at 6 pm, the media are invited to a press preview in Studio 1. The artists and the curators will attend.

For further information and exhibition documentation, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best regards,

Künstlerhaus Bethanien

