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open: di, do 16-22<sup>00</sup> so 11-18<sup>00</sup>  
and by arrangement  
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status 05.05.08

## The art project **„Body-Ob stallation “**

Under the aegis of mayor Josef Wirges, the mayor of the district Köln-Ehrenfeld

## Title **Baaaaa! Schöne Körper! (Baaaaa! Beautiful bodies!)**

**The art of body-ob stallation in contemporary and emerging art**

### **The Vision**

**A European art network of “body-ob stallation”.**

The Starting point is the notice, that European artists have started afresh to focus their interest on the human body.

### **Aim of the project**

The aim of the project is the manifestation of those new positions of artists in Europe, based on ideas which focus on the human body:

### **Target audience**

Most of all a diversified public, interested in fine arts and looking for innovation and quality; and, of course, open-minded curators and art agents.

### **Awareness of corporeality today**

„The life of a human being is the life of his body “, says the French philosopher Jacques Derrida. The human being becomes aware of himself in his body. His body is the instrument of his erotic conquests, the place of his joys, woes and identity, the body is signum for life and death. It appears that a strong body awareness is reawakening in many people.

### **Depiction of the body in art up to the present**

The 20<sup>th</sup> century was characterized by a multitude of experiments and efforts. These led to photography taking over almost the entire field of – in the broadest sense – realistic presentation of the human body. Or the portrayal of the body in terms of nude was relegated to artistic exercises or was attributed to merely erotic art.

### **The art of body-ob stallation**

The aesthetics of the human body and its possibilities of expression shall again be put into the focus of common interest as in heydays of former advanced civilisations. After a century of many experiments and irrelevances the newly emerging art of body-

obstallation is a deliberate bridging between the old masters of previous eras, as for example the Renaissance, and the new young “masters” of the present and the future. The disruptions and achievements of modernity are combined with the old masters’ perfection of expression. Philosophical, ethical, socially relevant and innovative topics are treated by means of body depiction with technical perfection worthy of the Old Masters.

### **Obstallation**

Obstallation means confrontation. Work of art and observer are confronted at the same eye level in a room. The presentation of the body is comprehensible for everybody and thus avoids elitist exclusions.

### **Realization of the project’s aim**

The presentation of selected artists shall confront the public with positions from different European countries and cultures. The quality of each artist and the consequent illustration of his position shall be in the foreground. In each individual piece of art, a high standard of the topic, as well as the idea, must correspond with a high quality demand in the area of the formal aesthetic realisation. Exhibition locations could be art rooms or other rooms in Cologne with a strong connection to the human body.

**Artists** Bianca van Baast (The Netherlands), Marcos Carvalho-Canto (Brazil/Paris), Armelle Fox (Paris), Grzegorz Maria Glazik (Krakow), Liliane Helsen (Antwerp), Eva Jaskolski (Cologne), Kirches-Ban.de (Cologne), Uta Schotten (Cologne), Zhang Bing (China/Cologne) (preliminary list)

**Curators** Anne Rust, Winfried Kirches, Dr. Erhard Kluge

**Locations** Kunstraum Ba Cologne, Ort der Obstallation, Neptunplatz 7  
Hochbunker Köln-Ehrenfeld, Körnerstr. 101  
Galerie im Bezirksrathaus Köln-Ehrenfeld, Venloer Str.419-421  
Neptunbad Health Club & Spa, Neptunplatz 1  
abba – astrid bahne bewegungs art, Köln-Merheim, Madaustr. 1A  
(preliminary list)

### **Dates / programme**

15.08.08 20.00 official overall-opening at Neptunbad, exhibition 15.08. - 21.09.  
15.08.08 21.00 opening (with performance) at Hochbunker, exhibition 15.08. - 21.09.  
15.08.08 23.00 opening + party at Ba Cologne, exhibition 15.08. - 21.09.  
21.08.08 19.00 opening (with performance) at Bezirksrathaus, exhibition 04.08. - 31.08.  
22.08.08 19.00 opening at abba, exhibition 29.08. - 21.09.  
19.09.08 21.00 overall-finissage at Ba Cologne (preliminary list)

**Sponsoring** (hitherto) Stadt Köln, Sparkasse KölnBonn, Neptunbad, abba

**Organisational team** Helmut Bahne, Cyril Kirches, Julitta Kirches, Winfried Kirches, Dr.Erhard Kluge, Nina Matzick, Bernhild Schröter, Jens Splett, Christina Weise

**Project management** Winfried Kirches

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