

OLAFUR ELIASSON, JENNY HOLZER, YAYOI KUSAMA, HANS HAACKE, ILYA KABAKOV, NATHAN COLEY AND BARBARA KRUGER LEAD THE VISUAL ARTS LINE-UP FOR AARHUS 2017 EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE

Press Release

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A series of once-in-a-lifetime exhibitions and special commissions by artists from across the world make up the visual arts programme for **Aarhus 2017 European Capital of Culture**. Highlights include Olafur Eliasson's ground-breaking scenography for Wayne McGregor and the Paris Opera Ballet's *Tree of Codes* (27 April – 1 May), Nathan Coley's illuminated text works stretching across Jutland (all year), the Seven Deadly Sins reinterpreted by contemporary artists for seven museums across the region (until 28 May), an exhibition bringing together the two Scandinavian giants Edvard Munch and Asger Jorn (until 28 May), and a show which asks contemporary artists to respond to the work of the Italian avant-garde artist, Piero Manzoni (opening 21 April).

Coast to Coast features a series of site-specific works and projects that bring some of the world's leading artists to the region. Nathan Coley has devised ten temporary illuminated text works known as 'fairy light attractions' that will be shown at a number of key locations on the coast. Australian actress Cate Blanchett stars in Julian Rosenfeltdt's collage of artists' manifestos. Other participating artists include the Slovenian artist Jasmina Cibic, Mikhail Karikis, Berlinde De Bruycker, Maria Hassabi, Angelica Mesiti and Ulla von Brandenburg.

Danish and international contemporary artists and seven art museums collaborate to rethink the Seven Deadly Sins in society today. Seven Deadly Sins is presented as seven large-scale exhibitions and a series of public programme events. The artists are: Barbara Kruger: Gluttony, Rebecca Louise Law: Pride, Jenny Holzer and Christian Lemmerz: Lust, Jamex and Einar de la Torre: Sloth, Katja Bjørn: Envy, Martin Erik Andersen with René Schmidt: Anger, and Peter Linde Busk, Steinar Haga Kristensen and Alexander Tovborg: Greed.

JORN + MUNCH is a major exhibition at Museum Jorn in Silkeborg bringing together two of Scandinavia's greatest artists, Edvard Munch and Asger Jorn. Jorn and Munch belong to different generations, yet both dealt with the human condition in modern society. This major exhibition of over 100 works provides a fascinating insight into the ways in which both artists dramatize the themes of dreams, fear and death.

The OverHEARD invites everyone to explore the live environment and become attuned to the distinctions between music, noise and ambient sounds. The project unfolds through three complementary artistic interventions that will enable anyone to mix and create a real-time soundtrack to their lives throughout 2017:

Socle du Monde 2017 at the HEART Museum in Herning explores the artistic universe of Piero Manzoni. A group of 60 internationally acclaimed artists and curators take Manzoni's boundary-breaking art as their starting point, contributing contemporary as well as historic angles on the subject. A number of leading

curators will also take part headed by Mattijs Visser, founding director ZERO foundation, with curators Olivier Varenne, Jean-Hubert Martin, Daniel Birnbaum and Maria Finders. Artists featured in the exhibition are Piero Manzoni, Yves Klein, Lucio Fontana, Hans Haacke, Günther Lecker, Ilya Kabakov, Yayoi Kusama, Wim Delvoye, Rirkrit Tiravanija and Tomas Saraceno.

Olafur Eliasson has created the spectacular designs for choreographer Wayne McGregor and the Paris Opera Ballet highly acclaimed dance work, *Tree of Codes* with music composed by Jamie xx. A major collaboration between three world-class artists, *Tree of Codes* is a breathtakingly rhapsodic encounter between music, dance and light.

Rebecca Matthews, Aarhus 2017 CEO, said: "Aarhus 2017 is going to be a creative tour de force, with new works, special commissions, premieres, major events and festivals. And it will encompass plenty of free as well as ticketed events - experiences that are huge and human scale all at once. We hope that the different perspectives and creative energy expressed by the outstanding artists assembling in Aarhus over the year will inspire people all over the world."

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