

Press Release – Verbier Art Summit announces full 2019 programme

Verbier, Switzerland, November 2018 – The Verbier Art Summit has released details of its programme for the 2019 Summit. From 1-2 February 2019, the third edition of the Verbier Art Summit will take place in Verbier, Switzerland, in collaboration with museum director Jochen Volz of Pinacoteca de São Paulo, Brazil, under the theme:

WE ARE MANY ART, THE POLITICAL AND MULTIPLE TRUTHS

In times of increasing uncertainty, with the erosion of democratic principles through the manipulation and bias of social and conventional media, we are in need of a deeper understanding of the multiplicity of narratives around us.

“I truly believe in the transformative capacity of art,” states **Jochen Volz**. “Brexit, the recent elections in Brazil and the political shifts in the US, once again prove our increasingly binary understanding of the world. At the 2019 Verbier Art Summit, we will explore art’s readiness to hold multiple truths, and search for new ways to apply this to other fields of public life.”

TALKS PROGRAMME

The 2019 Summit speakers include artists **Tania Bruguera**, **Latifa Echakhch**, **Grada Kilomba**, **Ernesto Neto** and **Rirkrit Tiravanija**; art educator **Naine Terena**; curator **Gabi Ngcobo**; philosopher **Federico Campagna**; Tate director **Maria Balshaw**; professor of neurophysiology **Wolf Singer**; and professor of sociology **Boaventura de Sousa Santos**.

Art has the potential to give voice to forgotten and silenced narratives, but also to envision new possibilities. The 2019 Verbier Art Summit will begin its exploration by questioning who is enabled to write histories. Teacher, researcher and art educator **Naine Terena** explains, “We are many and we are very invisible. The narratives by the Terena indigenous people of Brazil are superimposed by hegemonic discourses that insist on making us extras of our own history.”

Art joins thinking with doing. Artist **Tania Bruguera** uses art as a tool (*Arte Util*) to continually ask how art can change lives and search for new methods of engagement. In Verbier, Tania will discuss the language of politics and power in her work. The 2019 Summit will go further to probe the role of institutions in engaging with art. **Maria Balshaw**, who became director of Tate in June 2017, comments, “If cultural institutions like museums are to stay relevant in the turbulent times we live in, we have to learn how to hold an open space for the contradictory, ambivalent and multiple views that emerge from the encounters between art, artists and the communities of people we engage.”

Artist **Rirkrit Tiravanija** will hold the 2019 Summit keynote talk, demonstrating how we can reconfigure our relationship with one another while exploring new ways of thinking that foster solidarity. On this, **Jochen Volz** adds, “Together, we can shape and direct the things that are happening. Art can and should be a means by which to challenge prevailing thinking and spur individual and collective action.”



Director of Tate **Maria Balshaw**
© Hugo Glendinning, 2017
Artist **Rirkrit Tiravanija**
© Anette Aurel, *Broken Arm*

CULTURAL PROGRAMME

In addition to the talks programme, the Verbier Art Summit collaborates every year with cultural partners, international organisations and academic institutions to present a cultural programme throughout Verbier. In light of the 2019 political theme, the Summit is delighted to announce a new partnership with the **United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR)**, working to protect and assist refugees everywhere. UNHCR will present their Lifetime Honorary Goodwill Ambassador, the acclaimed opera and jazz singer **Barbara Hendricks**, who will explain how art initiatives are transforming the lives of refugees.

The 2019 Summit will also feature the **EPFL+ECAL Lab**, that fosters innovation by collaborating between Swiss Universities and international institutes. The Lab is working on an immersive environment of information, to generate a deeper understanding of information and its sources. In addition, the **Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève** will present a film screening created specifically for the 2018 Biennale de l'Image en Mouvement. Finally, free guided tours will be organised by the **Verbier 3-D Foundation** in their Sculpture Park in the snow, including an experimental sculptural demonstration (test run) of AERO CAB, the latest work by Verbier 3-D's current artist in residency **James Capper**.



Verbier Art Summit Founder Anneliek Sijbrandij opens the 2018 Summit.
© Frederik Jacobovits Photography

With the aim to educate, provoke and inspire, the Verbier Art Summit welcomes those with a love for art and innovation to participate for free in its two-day programme of art talks on-site in Verbier, or online via its series of live broadcasts.

To register for the 2019 Verbier Art Summit, and for more information on the theme, speakers and the Summit's cultural programme, please visit: verbierartsummit.org

About the Verbier Art Summit

The annual Verbier Art Summit is an international platform for discourse in a non-transactional context. The Summit connects thought leaders to key figures in the art world to generate innovative ideas and drive social change. The Summit speakers also take part in a programme of debate and dialogue alongside invited art world stakeholders, to work together on generating new initiatives and collaborations. To expand the conversation into a global dialogue, the speakers contribute to the Verbier Art Summit publication series, available online and in art book shops worldwide.

The Verbier Art Summit is an independent initiative organised by a non-profit association in partnership with a yearly rotating museum director. Past collaborators have included Beatrix Ruf of the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam (2017), who co-designed the format of the inaugural Verbier Art Summit, and Daniel Birnbaum of the Moderna Museet Stockholm (2018). Held in a unique location at an altitude of 1500m with views across the Swiss Alps, the Summit offers participants the best possible art talks and cultural programme.

For press inquiries or any further questions, please contact:

Camille Regli at Pickles PR
camille@picklespr.com | +44 (0) 78 35 23 7292

Noepy Testa
info@verbierartsummit.org | +31 (0) 629 14 10 54

2019 VERBIER ART SUMMIT PROGRAMME

FRIDAY 1 FEBRUARY 2019

Mid-day inspiration

13.15-14.00: Verbier 3-D Foundation – Art walk in the snow, *meet at Medran at 13.00*

13.15-14.00: EPFL+ECAL Lab – Interactive research experience, *W Hotel*

14.30-18.00: Talks programme Verbier Art Summit, W Hotel

14.30-14.35: Welcome – Anneliek Sijbrandij, Founder Verbier Art Summit

14.35-14.45: Introduction – Jochen Volz, Museum director Pinacoteca de São Paulo

14.45-15.05: **Grada Kilomba** – Artist

15.05-15.25: **Federico Campagna** – Philosopher

15.25-15.45: **Naine Terena** – Art educator

15.45-16.00: Q&A panel

16.00-16.30: break

16.30-16.50: **Gabi Ngcobo** – Curator

16.50-17.10: **Wolf Singer** – Professor of neurophysiology

17.10-17.30: **Ernesto Neto** – Artist

17.30-17.45: Q&A panel

17.45-18.00: Closing remarks – Jochen Volz, Museum director Pinacoteca de São Paulo

Evening programme

22.30: Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève – screening from the Biennale de l'Image en Mouvement, *Verbier Cinema*

SATURDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2019

Mid-day inspiration

13.15-14.00: Verbier 3-D Foundation – Art walk and test run by James Capper, *meet at Medran at 13.00*

13.15-14.00: EPFL+ECAL Lab – Interactive research experience, *W Hotel*

14.30-18.00: Talks programme Verbier Art Summit, W Hotel

14.30-14.35: Welcome – Anneliek Sijbrandij, Founder Verbier Art Summit

14.35-14.45: Introduction – Jochen Volz, Museum director Pinacoteca de São Paulo

14.45-15.05: **Barbara Hendricks & Eloi Rossier** – UNHCR Ambassador & Verbier Mayor

15.05-15.25: **Boaventura de Sousa Santos** – Professor of sociology

15.25-15.45: **Tania Bruguera** – Artist

15.45-16.00: Q&A panel

16.00-16.30: break

16.30-16.50: **Latifa Echakhch** – Artist

16.50-17.10: **Maria Balshaw CBE** – Director of Tate

17.10-17.30: **Rirkrit Tiravanija** – Artist

17.30-17.45: Q&A panel

17.45-18.00: Closing remarks – Jochen Volz, Museum director Pinacoteca de São Paulo