HANSEATIC NEW GOLD
INTERNATIONAL VISUAL ART EXHIBITION

RĪGAS MĀKSLAS TELPA


41st international Hanseatic days in Riga
15th international art project HANSEartWORKS
"Docks" or facts about the exhibition:

• 30 artists
• 20 historical Hanseatic League cities
• 8 countries: Estonia, Russia, Latvia, the UK, the Netherlands, Poland, Germany and Sweden
• 2 Latvian stage designers
• 2 locations – "Riga Arts Space" exhibition hall and St Peter's Church in Riga
• 41st International Hansa Days in Riga
• 15th international HANSEartWORKS project
• A working group of 20 people as the "captains and rowers" of the exhibition toward its final destination
As was the case with the Upper German language during the Middle Ages, the word 'Hanse' had multiple meanings – "group", "suite", "mob" or "military congregation". That could be used to describe the team of artists who are taking part in the "New Hansa Gold" exhibition. They have varying styles, different approaches toward art and particularly nurtured original artistic techniques. The "suite" of artists that has created artworks for this exhibition has involved both individuals and groups of artists. They are artists with years of professional experience, and they are a creative "military congregation" that has rediscovered itself when responding to the invitation to take part in the exhibition.

The artists had no paucity of ideas about what new Hanseatic gold might mean today – a fragment of an ancient Beverly tree, historical materials about archaeological digs, ancient seafaring charts, sacred locations which heal and enrich the soul, the discovery that trees communicate with one another or that there is a Path of Light, the common horizons of nature and societies, a compass of internal values, the 19th century author who wrote that "my nation is my gold", internal and external upheaval, storms in the creative thinking of artist, the attempt of real people to answer questions that are posed, the construction of a new society, and the desire to shift from "me" to "you" and "us".

Artwork by Marijke Schellekens, “Amor Mundi - Connetion”
Set designer Artūrs Virtmanis: "Hansa' is a mythical alliance and territory, and it represents everything that we think about the imagined past, as if it were an underwater island. The real fact is that this economic alliance ended in the 17th century. The things that we think and say about it today represent myths and fairy tales which have little to do with historical facts. All of this is an enchanted reality of a sort. The various styles and approaches of the artists combine into something that is kaleidoscopic. That is the main thing in this exhibition – no one hides, no one is shy, and everyone seeks to manifest this diversity in a very direct way. In this sense, gold is represented by people who can create various interesting things, and I don't think that underneath this is there a formal structure of any kind. When I look at the artworks, I see links to territories, places and lands, but that is less to do with a political or economic structure, instead focusing on a human territory. We see this in the work of Latvian artists and artists from abroad. It is a central aspect which weaves throughout the entire exhibition. The same is true of its visual identity and graphic design. It was interesting to see and accept heralds from Hanseatic cities so as to emphasise fragments and details thereof. For the most part, this involves animals, living beings and attributes for the park that also reflects the idea and spirit of the exhibition. This is a parade of the work of various beings and artists, and taken together, this represents something that is very rich and lovely".
Set designers Kristians Brekte and Arturs Virtmanis asked every representative of a Hanseatic city to bring along to Riga a significant artefact. Taken together, they emphasise diversity and create the texture of the exhibition. It is not smooth, it is not polished, but it still shines in a golden way.
From 19 August to 19 September, the exhibition was visited by a total of 946 visitors, of whom 550 visited the exhibition during the Hanseatic Days from 19 August to 22 August.
Kristina Frank “Octopus's library”
Beate Steinmann “Wall Drapery Riga”
Ilze Vanaga “There is Nothing Standing Between a God and a Man”
Edith de Jong “Golden Compass”
Artists of the exhibition “Hanseatic New Gold”
EXHIBITION ARTISTS:

Graham Frank JOHNSON / Beverley, UK
Shirley GOODSELL / Beverley, UK
Marijke SCHELLEKENS / Doesburg, Netherlands
Anita WASIK / Gdansk, Poland
BART*GOLD*ROST / Greifswald, Germany
Edith De JONG / Hattem, Netherlands
Elīna MĂLIŅA / Koknese, Latvia
Agnieszka LAKOMA / Krakow, Poland
Teresa FRODYMA / Krakow, Poland
Annemarija GULBE / Kuldiņa, Latvia
Ieva VĪTOLA-LINDKVISTA, Ole LINDKVISTS / Kuldiņa, Latvia
Ilze VANAGA / Kuldiņa, Latvia
Frauke BORCHERS / Lübeck, Germany
Martin BĂUMŁ / Lüneburg, Germany
Markus WEGRIZIK / Lünen, Germany
Sigrid GEERLINGS-SCHAKE / Lünen, Germany
Aaron RAHE / Osnabrück, Germany
AI PALDROK, Taje PALDROK / Pärnu, Estonia
Sergey SEMYONOV / Pskov, Russia
Ilze LAIZĂNE / Rīga, Latvia
Rainer WEBER / Stralsund, Germany
Sarah KUNZE / Stralsund, Germany
Beate STEINMANN / Uelzen, Germany
Gabi KLEIPSTIES / Unna, Germany
Oleg VASILIEV / Velikiy Novgorod, Russia
Kristina FRANK / Visby, Sweden

Set designers: Kristians BREKTE and Artūrs VIRTMANIS
MEMBERS OF THE JURY OF THE EXHIBITION "HANSEATIC NEW GOLD":

WOLFGANG STREBLOW / Lippstadt, Germany
RICHARD PALERMO / Neuss, Germany
ALAR RAUDOJA / Pärnu, Estonia
LYSANNE BUUNK / Doesburg, Netherlands
HANS MOLZBERGER / Salzwedel, Germany
OLEG VASILIEV / Veliky Novgorod, Russia
SUSANNE ADLER / Lübeck, Germany

ORGANISED BY:

Association of Culture Institutions of Riga City Council
AGITA IKAUNIECE-RIMŠEVIČA / Head of the Exhibition hall
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MAIRITA LUKIANSKA / Project coordinator
PĒTERIS RŪCIS / Photographer
MATĪSS ANDERSONS / Photographer
KRIŠS APŠENIEKS / Video editing
International, large-scale exhibition ‘Hanseatic New Gold’
from August 19 to September 19, 2021
in the Exhibition hall ‘Riga Art Space’ (Kungu Street 3) and St Peter's Church in Riga

More information www.maklastelpa.riga.lv