

PRESS RELEASE

JOSEPH BEUYS: THE SPACE CURATOR 26 MARCH 2021 – 18 JULY 2021 EXHIBITION OPENING

PRESSE

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Starting today, the Staatsgalerie is presenting the exhibition “Joseph Beuys: The Space Curator” in honour of one of Germany’s most important artists on the one-hundredth anniversary of his birth. The Stuttgart museum has at its disposal a Beuys Room set up by the artist in 1984 and unchanged to this day. On view until 18 July 2021, the show retraces the history of this room with the aid of photographs, films, and objects.

In the year marking his one-hundredth birthday, the Staatsgalerie is devoting an exhibition to Joseph Beuys exploring his relationship to the museum as an institution. The point of departure is the museum’s Beuys Room set up by the artist himself in 1984 with six highly unconventional works never previously on view to the public. The result was a new artwork in its own right.

Joseph Beuys was a charismatic artist with a creative will unfazed by the limitations of institutions and museums. His artistic actions also often took place outside their walls because ultimately his concern was with shaping society through art. When he did work in museums, he appropriated their spaces in ways that represented a radical departure from institutional conventions.

“Beuys thought the museum should be a place of social debate. The fact that we are ending the corona-related closure with the opening of an exhibition dedicated to him is undoubtedly quite in keeping with that spirit”, says Staatsgalerie director Christiane Lange.

The exhibition has been curated by Ina Conzen, the chief conservator of twentieth- and twenty-first-century art at the museum and the head of its research department for many years. She adds: *“Beuys died more than thirty years ago, but as a fierce advocate of grassroots democracy and ecological and spiritual concerns, he holds virtually astonishing relevance for the present. He was convinced that artists can change the world—how wonderful!”*

In photographs, film recordings, and objects, the exhibition revisits Beuys’s sensitive orchestrations of the interplay between the work, the viewer, and the museum. Among the testimonies to that process is a comprehensive group of photographs by Lothar Wolleh (1930–1979), who accompanied Beuys over a period of many years.

For further information, please contact us at: presse@staatsgalerie.de.

A press folder containing photos and an interview with the curator is available in the press section of our website.