



Into the Unknown: Art in the Times of Coronavirus

May 2020

Dear artists

In recent weeks we have experienced as a global destiny community what it means to be exposed to the unknown, to live with uncertainty. This is an experience that artists well know: it accompanies, it even determines every artistic process. And yet art and culture are precisely what have been classed as irrelevant and almost forgotten in the crisis of recent weeks. This demonstrates that the socio-cultural role of art needs to be reviewed and re-evaluated. Let us take up this review and re-evaluation of the purpose of art together. A small step in this direction is an exhibition that we would like to curate at the Goetheanum in Dornach. The exhibition is titled *Into the Unknown: Art in the Times of Coronavirus*.

Each of us has experienced the last eight weeks in different ways: for some this has been a period of calm and peace which they had been longing for, others have been able to intensify and deepen their meditative practice; remarkable experiences of nature have allowed some to see the world in a new light, while others are fighting for survival; yet others still are taking to the streets to protest against the threat to our basic human rights. This crisis has presented us with new experiences; it has also brought major challenges to every individual human being on the planet.

The Section wants to warmly invite you to share with us your response to the crisis and any new initiatives that are emerging in your artistic work. It would be wonderful if you can submit to us by post one, two or three pieces of work that you have completed in recent weeks. (Submission in person is also an option.) We will then curate an exhibition at the Goetheanum with a selection of the submitted works of art, which will open on July 4 and run until August 28. We are planning to open both the exhibition (at 4 pm) and the Section's new home in the Jewellery House (at 6 pm) on July 4 and are hoping to welcome many of you to the celebration.

We look forward to receiving your work!

With our very best wishes

Rik ten Cate

Yaïke Dunselman

Christiane Haid

Barbara Schnetzler

Pieter van der Ree

Submissions Criteria on the next page:

Submissions Criteria

We are extending the invitation to all those professional artists who feel connected to anthroposophy!

We are looking for works from within the visual arts, e.g. drawings, sketches, paintings, objects, sculptures, photographs or video performances.

Please submit a written statement about your work and its origins or about the current circumstances alongside your work or works of art. We aim to produce a small exhibition brochure from what is submitted if we possibly can. Please bear in mind that we will be selecting items from those submitted and exhibiting only one piece by any individual artist. Exceptionally, three works may be selected if the contents indicate that they complement each other.

Focus of the Exhibition

Any work submitted needs to stand in a direct or indirect relationship to the current coronavirus crisis: this will be the focus of the exhibition.

Entries

Entries may be submitted by post from now on and up to June 14. They can also be delivered by hand to the Goetheanum and handed in at Reception; otherwise please mail them to the address below:

Sektion für Bildende Künste
Goetheanum. Freie Hochschule für Geisteswissenschaft,
Rüttiweg 45
CH-4143 Dornach
Switzerland

Questions? Please send an email to sbk@goetheanum.ch

* As producer, the Section will cover the cost of returns up to A4 in size; artists are requested to cover the costs of returning larger objects themselves. All the works accepted for exhibition will be returned to the artists by the end of September 2020.

Duration and place of the exhibition

The exhibition will run from July 4 to August 28, 2020 in the foyer and on the first floor of the Goetheanum.

We are planning to hold a public ceremony to honour the exhibited works and will be informing you on the Section website as to the exact date and time.