

1. PRESS RELEASE

30 YEARS OF MUSEUM ABTEIBERG

in the museum's sculpture garden



30 YEARS OF MANUEL GÖTTSCHING's E2-E4

live and open-air on June 23, 2012, 9 pm – 10 pm

30 years ago, on June 23, 1982, the Museum Abteiberg opened in Mönchengladbach. Designed by the then young Viennese architect **Hans Hollein** as a venue for contemporary art with entirely innovative architecture it presented a manifesto for postmodernism. Ever since the publication of Hans Hollein's first drafts in the 1970s, the new Museum Abteiberg has been hailed as an "artwork for art". As with much of Hollein's multi-award winning architecture the museum offers an intensive spatial experience and a remarkable dialogue between art and architecture. Hollein designed the museum to comprise a variety of different structural shapes. Tower, temple and factory building unite to form a multipartite complex – a "city within a city". The architect was to comment: "I went about the planning of the museum as an architect and artist...as an artist who considers a building as a piece of art." In 1985 Hollein was awarded the international Pritzker Architecture Prize for his work. When formulating the design Hollein was sympathetic to the historical townscape, taking the abbey and its steep, sloping garden into consideration. He affiliated the different complexes in such a way that they open to visitors as a unified whole, from top to bottom. Architecturally the museum's arrangement of rooms and external appearance provides opportunities for ideas, variety and surprises, whilst still possessing a beauty, functionality and individualism. The result is a structure that comfortably holds its own alongside the world's most renowned museums. The Museum Abteiberg is to be understood as the dialectic between a building, exhibition space and monument – "not in the sense of integration, but in the sense of confrontation, making the potential of the objects and the space visible and real." (Hans Hollein)

Today, the Museum Abteiberg holds one of the most important collections of art since the 1960s, including works by Joseph Beuys, Gerhard Richter, Andy Warhol, Mike Kelley and Martin Klippenberger a.o. Furthermore it is considered to be both an icon of retro chic and a source of fascination for the younger artistic generation. It has earned great respect as a result of its exhibitions, which have featured Lucio Fontana, Yves Klein and Group Zero, to name a few. Pop Art, Op Art, Minimal, Conceptual Art and the works of the Nouveaux Réalistes have shared a space with manifold compilations of late modernism, or better insipient postmodernism. The central space of the collection holds rooms that are each dedicated to a certain artist and can be seen permanently. These include artist like Marcel Broodthares, Gerhard Richter, Sigmar Polke and Mike Kelley. The museum is also in possession of the displayed important works of American artists such as Bruce Nauman and Gordon Matta-Clark. Recent acquisitions by Paulina Ołowska, Richard Wright, Martin Creed and Robert Morris and original rooms from the u r house of Gregor Schneider are also displayed.

Above all, it was at the Museum Abteiberg, where the international Museum Boom developed into the strand of international culture tourism, now called the "Bilbao Effect": The famous Guggenheim-Museum in Bilbao was only built due to the success of the museum at the Abteiberg: "*There wouldn't have been Bilbao without Mönchengladbach*", as Frank Gehry stated in his opening speech in Bilbao in 1997.

2007 for its 25th anniversary the German cult band Fehlfarben from Düsseldorf played a concert in the sculpture garden, which deliberately offered free entry to the general public. The performance of singer Peter Hein on the stage of the museum became a terrific homage and the gig a discourse-charged time machine, during which the 1980s were vividly and intensely recalled.

2012 for the 30th anniversary there is going to be another experiment of this type, featuring an acclaimed artist and directed at a far wider audience than the average classical museum visitor. An open-air concert by the musical visionary Manuel Göttsching will take place in the museum's sculpture garden on a stage built especially for this occasion. For the show Göttsching is to play his seminal composition **E2-E4**, which is the same age and has the same magical reputation as the museum. It was recorded on December 12, 1981 in his Berlin studio.

E2-E4

In international music circles this composition is considered to be the latest stage in the development of conceptual Minimal Music in the tradition of the American minimalists La Monte Young, Steve Reich, Philip Glass, Terry Riley and John Adams. At the same time it marks a milestone in Electronic Music, being a major inspiration for Detroit techno and electronic dance music. Manuel Götsching is also known as the leader of the band Ash Ra Tempel, later AshRa, who alongside Tangerine Dream, Can and Kraftwerk were responsible for revolutionary developments in German music during the 1970s.

E2-E4 was recorded on the evening of December 12, 1981 in just one hour and one take in Götsching's Berlin studio, without any later mixing or other alterations. Three years passed until Götsching was able to release this live recording but **E2-E4** went on to become the new anthem for America's most influential discos, subsequently conquering the world. Years later, "Sueno Latino" a song based on **E2-E4**, became a world hit. - Initially labelled as "Muzak" in Germany, today there is no doubt about the impact of **E2-E4** on music history. As the founder of Virgin Music, Richard Branson stated: *"It is one of the strokes of genius of the 20th century"*.

"Three decades ago, Ash Ra Tempel grandmaster Manuel Götsching made his opening move with his pioneering electro minimalism of E2-E4 and reset the pace for a new age of repetitive dance beats and rock meditations."

The Wire, December 2011, Keith Moliné

"Synthesizers and drum machines build up a single, burbling, trance-like riff, topped with fluid guitar."
UK Q Magazine: The Best Chill-Out Albums of All Time

"The birth of club music was a murky affair. There is one record, however, that is so far reaching that almost every club-music camp agrees it's a starting point for electronic dance music: E2-E4."
Remix Magazine, USA

„And today, its textured, ecstatic grooves are generally acknowledged as an influential starting point for early house and experimental techno music, referenced by artists ranging from Junior Vasquez to The Orb to Carl Craig. But E2-E4 just keeps on giving. In the meantime, it belongs also to the repertoire of classical Zeitkratzer ensemble and to renowned French Jazz Pianist Maxence Cyrin.“
Bill Bragin, Lincoln Center New York

30 years after the original recording in Berlin Manuel Götsching will perform his legendary **E2-E4** live in Mönchengladbach. The world premiere took place at Japan's Mt. Fuji in the summer of 2006 and on December 12, 2006, **E2-E4**'s 25th birthday, Manuel Götsching played the piece at Berlin's Berghain, one of the hippest venues for Electronic Music worldwide. Two other performances followed in 2008, a gigantic open-air concert at New York's Lincoln Center, held in honour of the 800th anniversary of Minimalism, which was invented in the 13th century by the most important composer of the Parisian Notre-Dame school Pérotin, also known as Perotinus magnus. *"And not even the rain would keep the thousands of people from enjoying the show."*, as Bill Bragin, the Director of Public Programming pointed out in a letter to Goettsching; and at Beijing's unique Art Zone 979. Just recently Götsching opened the internationally renowned festival "ELECTRONICA EN AVRIL" at the sold out La Casa Encendida in Madrid on April 12, 2012. **Götsching will perform his E2-E4 in the sculpture garden at the Abteiberg** for the museum's and the composition's 30th anniversary for the second time ever in Germany – open-air and with free entry, presented on a stage designed especially for this occasion by young sculpture artists: an artistic shell-like structure, that will later become the new live venue for the museum. **E2-E4** starts at 9 pm and ends at 9:59:40 pm, afterwards the garden bar will be open until midnight.

International Press on E2-E4: <http://www.ashra.com/press/welcome.htm>
More information on Manuel Götsching: www.manuelgoetsching.com

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