



© FIT Berlin by Dida Zende

PRESS RELEASE

Goethe-Institut launches Goethe Satellite Vancouver with Art Project by Berlin Artist and Visit by Secretary General

Vancouver, BC – May 10, 2011- Dr. Hans-Georg Knopp, Secretary-General of the Goethe-Institut, will visit Vancouver to launch *Freie Internationale Tankstelle*, or FIT, a “fueling station for the creative spirit” by Berlin artist Dida Zende, the first project chosen for the Goethe Satellite Vancouver.

Founded in 2002, FIT has created cultural platforms within industrial structures such as gas stations in Berlin, Copenhagen and Miami. The project is inspired by Joseph Beuys and the idea of social sculpture.

Launching in Vancouver with a special **FIT preview on Monday, May 16, 2011 from 4:30 - 5:30 pm**, the FIT Vancouver takes the form of a custom architecture built from shipping containers at the **Waldorf Hotel**. The hotel at 1489 East Hastings has been in operation for 63 years but has recently reopened as a vibrant creative compound featuring contemporary art, music and food.

FIT is the first in a series of projects presented by Goethe Satellite Vancouver, a **two-year initiative of the Goethe-Institut** with partner **Revised Projects** to create a programming framework where artists and curators are invited to develop projects in Vancouver.

Goethe-Institut Toronto
100 University Ave.,
North Tower, Suite 201,
mailbox #136
Toronto, ON M5J 1V6
Canada

Sonja Griegoschewski
Director
T +1 416 593 5257
F +1 416 593 5145
director@toronto.goethe.org

www.goethe.de/toronto

www.goethe.de

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Satellites are mobile platforms that connect people and enable global networks through the reception and transmission of sound, image, data and text. Rather than establishing itself within a singular space, the goal of the Goethe Satellite is to facilitate unique site-specific projects and pop-up spaces around the city, where artists, organizations and collectives will have the opportunity to collaborate, perform, and show work that expands current artistic practices.

Until May 25, 2011, a call for proposals welcomes entries for further projects within the Goethe Satellite framework 2011/2012.

Projects should

- present important cultural positions, contemporary ideas and arts practices from Germany and Europe to Canada and diverse Canadian audiences
- focus on German-Canadian cross-cultural artistic relationships
- establish sustainable relationships between German and Canadian organisations, groups or artists and have a relevance to West Coast/B.C./Vancouver arts scene and discourse bridging into cultural relationships with the Asia-Pacific region.

The official opening of FIT Vancouver later this May is a free event, open to families and people of all ages.

Please **RSVP for the FIT preview event** on Monday, May 16 from 4:30-5:30 at the Waldorf Hotel:

Jutta Brendemühl
Program Coordinator, Goethe-Institut Toronto
arts@toronto.goethe.org
Tel. +1 416 593 5257 ext.205
www.goethe.de/toronto

For almost 50 years, the Goethe-Institut has been promoting dialogue and exchange between Canadian and German artists.

New York Times blog on FIT from March 31, 2011:
<http://intransit.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/03/31/transforming-a-berlin-gas-station-into-art/>

Goethe Satellite Vancouver blog: www.goethe.de/satellite

www.goethe.de

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