

Hollywood welcomes Olympic artists

Art as cultural counterbalance to the Olympic Games //

Pacific Design Center hosts the ARTIADE for show in Los Angeles //

International films presented in PDC's Silver Screen Theatre //

When the athletes are competing for a place on the victory podium at the Olympic Games in Beijing, about 200 artists of their home countries will represent their culture as well, at the 4th ARTIADE.

Hellenic General Secretariat for the Olympics Games stated, "In the ARTIADE, artists-cultural ambassadors from every corner of the planet converse with the Olympic ideals in a multi-cultural feast: a supranational art dialogue of young artists-athletes where the experienced national background of their art production embraces the modern cultural reality"

"Starting from Atlanta in 1996, the Olympics of Art is held for the fourth time in Los Angeles - richer and more dynamic than ever - aiming at becoming the cultural event-institution of each future Olympic Games", so the Hellenic Ministry of Information.

The spectacular PDC - Pacific Design Center, well known for its classy interior design, the famous after Oscar® parties, the sublime Elton John AIDS Gala, the branch of the LA Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), and Wolfgang Puck's first-class restaurants WP and Red Seven, will be the home of this year's cultural main event in Los Angeles - the ARTIADE.

„The PDC will be the perfect surrounding for the international exhibits. The architecture of the PDC has an exceptional aesthetic and is a work of art for itself. We are very happy to present this forum of world culture by showing all fields of art, including paintings, installations, sculptures, photography, and a cinema for film and video art in this adequate venue", explained the founder Renate Westhoff-Reisch.

The ARTIADE - Olympics of Art, established 1994, has since then always taken place parallel and in the direct vicinity to each summer Olympic Games. For 2008 the organizers have changed the conception to be able to represent independent their own sponsors, to expand and broaden its spectrum.

PRESS RELEASE





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A smaller exhibition in Beijing shall be the link between the Olympic Games and the Olympics of Art in August this year.

"Our objective in 2008 is, in parallel to the sporting events, to create a cultural counter-balance to the Olympic Games. The visitors will have access to the cultural background of the Olympic Nations through the artists' thoughts, their important messages and aspect of roots and traditions. An unparalleled diversity of opinions and expressions. In this, the Artiade is not a competition but rather a merit of the world's artists through their works of art", stated Mrs Westhoff as well.

That is why the Hellenic Republic has become ARTIADE's patron already in 2004 during the summer Olympic Games in Athens.

PROFILE

PDC - PACIFIC DESIGN CENTER

The PDC is the West Coast's top decorating address, with showrooms, public and private spaces, a branch of the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) and two restaurants operated by chef and restaurateur Wolfgang Puck. The Center has 130 showrooms which display and sell 2,100 interior product lines to professional interior designers, architects, facility managers, decorators and dealers.

The Pacific Design Center hosts many screenings (e.g. A Beautiful Mind, Kill Bill, Lord of the Rings etc), exhibitions (e.g. Annie Leibovitz), lectures, meetings, special events (e.g. Sony's launch of the PS3, Sir Elton John's AIDS Gala etc.) and receptions for the design (e.g. Valentino's 40th Anniversary), entertainment (e.g.HBO Emmy Party) and arts communities. The post-Oscar parties hosted at the PDC are particularly well known.

ARTIADE - THE OLYMPIC GAMES OF ART

The "ARTIADE - Olympics of Visual Art" first took place in Atlanta in 1996 as an accompanying event to the Centennial Olympic Games, showcasing works by artists from nations represented in the sporting event. The idea was taken from the ancient Olympic Games, at which athletes and artists represented two different facets of a common culture, and were considered to be of equal merit. The ARTIADE pays tribute to this.

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This globally unique event has become a highlight of the international cultural scene and perpetuates the true Olympic Spirit by combining art and sport.

In 2004, 80 of the Olympic Nations not only sent their athletes to the Olympic Games of Sports but they also sent their artists to the Olympic Games of Art. The event offered a forum for artists to present their cultural identity and represent their Nation as "Cultural Ambassadors".

Since 1996, the ARTIADE has taken place at the same time and location as the Games. It is the only event - in addition to the Olympic Games themselves - which, under international Olympic Protection Law, is allowed to use the term "Olympics" in its title, thus becoming "Olympics of Art" and "Olympic Games of Art". Furthermore, the event was included in the official cultural guide of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture to the Olympic Games in 2004.

The event is widely recognized, which is underlined by the aegis of the Hellenic Republic and was supported by the late Johannes Rau, President of the Federal Republic of Germany. Other sponsors include various foreign and cultural ministries, state departments, several National Olympic Committees, embassies, international cultural organizations and private companies.

The aim of this 'peaceful meeting of nations' has always been to present the diversity of cultures and civilisations. The ARTIADE - the Olympics of Art - offers visitors new and fascinating artistic insights and perspectives and encourage the interest in the unfamiliar and greater understanding for the inherent variety of the international community.

Further information is available at: www.artiade.org

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