

Press release

Basel is ticking differently

"Laughter allowed" an art event of the Open Church Elisabethen in the center of Basel. For the first time a bell tower in Switzerland is going to sound differently than usual. For two weeks between August, 8th - 24th 2012 the tower will laugh every quarter of the hour. The laughing will rise everytime and ends in a big smile feeling to the full hour. Then the Melody will start from the beginning.

The sound installation "Laughter allowed" is an art event of the German artist group Cabri, Carolyn Krueger and Brigitte Kottwitz who live in Frankfurt am Main. The daily sound will bring smile to Basel residents from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Laughter may also be perceived as a tourist summer event.

A bell tower which is usually attracting people by the ringing of bells, will attract new attention the rushing passers-by with putting questions like "why is this laughing here? Is somebody laughing at me?" Or - and this would be the best regarding health - they simply laugh heartily. This cheerful back-pedalling with laughter offers the modern city dwellers a moment of relaxation.

The opening will be Friday 10.8.2012 at 6 p.m. with a speech of pastor André Feuz and Laughter Yoga Groups of Basel and its surroundings. The religious scholar, philosopher and laughter trainer Harald-Alexander Korp, Berlin, will talk about "Is God laughing? Joke and humor in religion" in order to expand our laughter horizon. "About what are religious people and believers laughing nowadays? Where can liberating laughter be found in Christianity? Is the the laughter gone in the religions?

The sense of the laughing sound installation

Even Immanuel Kant knew: "The sky is giving three things to the people as a counterweight to the hardships of life: The hope, the sleep and the laughter".

And Rainer Maria Rilke wrote: "Laughter is opening the senses for the singing of the things." Today when more and more people fight against depression, negative stress and a future in anxiety, they are presented an unusual action which shows that we have an ability to protect ourselves against it. This ability is the hearty Laughter. For he who laughs heartily, he can not simultaneously be anxious, depressed or be plagued by negative stress.

At the same time laughing ans smiling people present a positive presence, which also will extend to other people in the city.

Carolyn Krueger and Brigitte Kottwitz have been working as an artists-pair named Cabri and already let the installation "Laughter allowed" laugh its sound in Frankfurt am Main and in a village church in the Odenwald, in Berlin Kreuzberg and at the 500 year old townhall in Alsfeld/Hessen. Their artistic work includes film, video, ceramics and installations. Both are active in the global laughter movement. Kottwitz founded and lead the laughter club in Frankfurt since 13 years, Krueger is running the German Laughter Yoga Forum Lachclub.info. The artists will be present on opening.

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