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Joint press release issued by the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden, Bayerische Staatsgemäldesammlungen, Munich, Museum Frieder Burda, Baden-Baden, and National Art Museum of China, Beijing

German museums present Gerhard Richter retrospective and German landscape paintings in Beijing

Major German museums are holding two joint exhibitions in Beijing. On 14th May the exhibitions “Living Landscapes. A Journey through German Art” and “Gerhard Richter. Paintings 1963-2007” will be opening simultaneously at the National Art Museum of China (NAMOC). A total of nearly 120 works will be on show which together will give an impressive insight into important trends in German painting, with the spectrum extending from the Romantic period via Expressionism up to the present day. Furthermore, the Gerhard Richter retrospective will pay tribute to one of the world’s most important, influential and successful contemporary artists and will be the first major Richter exhibition to have been held in China. This has been made possible through the collaboration between the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden and Bayerische Staatsgemäldesammlungen, Munich. In addition, the Gerhard Richter exhibition is being held in collaboration with the Museum Frieder Burda, Baden-Baden, which has provided a large proportion of the Richter works for this event.

Together, the three major state museum associations of Berlin, Dresden and Munich constitute a unique force in the museum world. Their successful collaboration first bore fruit last year in the exhibition entitled “Views on Europe. Europe and German Painting in the 19th Century” at the Centre for Fine Arts in Brussels. The impressive joint show in Beijing will build upon the success of that collaborative effort. In May last year the Directors-General of the museum associations, Martin Roth of the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden, Peter-Klaus Schuster of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, and Reinhold Baumstark of the Bayerische Staatsgemäldesammlungen, Munich, signed a contract concerning their joint cooperation with the National Art Museum of China in the presence of Federal President Horst Köhler and Chinese State President Hu Jintao in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. Now the result of that cooperation can be presented to the public for the first time.

In the exhibition **“Living Landscapes. A Journey through German Art”** a total of 62 works from the holdings of the museum associations will be brought together. A broad spectrum of top-quality works illustrating the history of German landscape painting over the past 200 years will be presented, with paintings ranging from the Romantic period via Expressionism right up to the present day. The theme of “Figure and Landscape” is a determining and unifying factor. All three of the said periods constitute milestones in the history of art and in the history of Dresden, Berlin and Munich as centres of the arts and of artists. Moreover, all three artistic trends are major collecting focal points for the institutions involved. The exhibition will be presented to the Chinese and international public as a “journey in pictures” with a unique range of objects, from works by Caspar David Friedrich and Carl Spitzweg via Ernst Ludwig Kirchner to Georg Baselitz, to name just a few of the artists represented.

In the exhibition **“Gerhard Richter. Paintings 1963-2007”** the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden and the Museum Frieder Burda, Baden-Baden, in collaboration with the Bayerische Staatsgemäldesammlungen, Munich and the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin will be showing the first major retrospective of paintings by the Dresden-born artist in China. A total of 56 paintings will provide an overview of the comprehensive and multifaceted oeuvre of this great artist. Gerhard Richter himself has

determined the selection of works and the style of presentation at the National Art Museum of China. The exhibition is under the curatorship of Götz Adriani.

For the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden the exhibitions in China are part of the series of events taking place this year under the overall title "China in Dresden in China". Four further exhibitions in this series will be taking place in Dresden and Beijing up to the spring of 2009. They will be devoted both to contemporary Chinese art and to encounters between the cultural and artistic traditions of China and Germany. From 27th June until 14th September 2008 the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin will be presenting the exhibition "*Zeichen im Wandel der Zeit. Chinesische Tuschemalerei der Gegenwart*" (*The Transforming Marks of Ink. Contemporary Chinese Ink Painting*) in the special exhibition hall of the Museen Dahlem.

For further information about the individual exhibitions please see the enclosed press information.

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