

# The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release  
June 1987

## PERFORMANCE AS PART OF BERLINART EXHIBITION AT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

In conjunction with the major exhibition BERLINART 1961-1987 (June 4 - September 8, 1987), The Museum of Modern Art presents a series of performances on June 9, 10, and 12, 1987, demonstrating the mixed-media approach taken by many artists today. BERLINART: 3 PERFORMANCES includes works by the Berlin group, Die Tödliche Doris (The Deadly Doris); Thomas Kapielski and Frieder Butzmann, also of Berlin; and New York artist Joan Jonas, who lived and worked in Berlin in 1982. All performances take place at 7:00 and 9:00 p.m. each evening in the Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2. The schedule is as follows:

### Tuesday, June 9

Die Tödliche Doris (The Deadly Doris)

"Noch 14 Vorstellungen (Still 14 Performances)"

Formed in 1980, Die Tödliche Doris is composed of Käthe Kruse, Wolfgang Müller, and Nikolaus Utermöhlen. The group represents an ironic, Dadaistic sensibility of the art of the early eighties in Germany. Its performances are multi-media concerts including punk-related music and self-produced film and photo-projections.

The members of Die Tödliche Doris have collaborated on projects including music concerts, ballet, live performance, film, photography, and the publication of books, music cassettes, and records. They have performed throughout Germany and Austria, and in other European countries such as Belgium, Hungary, France, The Netherlands, and Poland. They were included in the "GTO (Germans Together Outrageously) Festival" in 1984 at The Kitchen in New York.

### Wednesday, June 10

Thomas Kapielski and Frieder Butzmann

"Lard pour Lard"

Coming out of the same ambiance as Die Tödliche Doris yet closer to Berlin's Fluxus tradition, Thomas Kapielski and Frieder Butzmann concentrate in their performances on language and sound. Their works consist of numerous short

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pieces, humorous in nature, which combine and juxtapose elaborate sound effects with text, visual projections, and other special devices.

Kapielski, who was born in Berlin, has studied linguistics, geography, and philosophy. Since 1980 his interest in language, literature, and writing has led to a preoccupation with multi-media performance. He has performed throughout Germany and other European countries. Butzmann, who has lived in Berlin for ten years, has studied music and communications. Since 1977 he has played and recorded with German New Wave bands and has worked together with other musicians, filmmakers, and performers in Germany and throughout Europe. Kapielski and Butzmann were also represented in the Kitchen's "GTO (Germans Together Outrageously) Festival."

Friday, June 12

Joan Jonas

"Volcano Saga"

This work is based on the thirteenth-century Icelandic myth, The Laxdaela Saga, which Joan Jonas represents visually through video and slide projections of Icelandic scenes and landscapes, drawings, and dancelike movement. Sound effects consist of songs written for the piece by Alvin Lucier and Jonas's recordings of the Icelandic environment and its folk music. Texts are drawn from The Laxdaela Saga and other folktales, guidebooks, and the writings of Haldor Laxness. Lindzee Smith and Rhonda Wilson are narrators. Part of a work-in-progress that will culminate in an hour-long videotape coproduced by the artist and Continental Video in Antwerp, this performance has been presented in The Netherlands, San Francisco, Pittsburgh, and Hartford.

Joan Jonas is a multi-media artist who has performed since the late sixties throughout the United States and Europe. She began to work with narrative forms in 1976, with such pieces as The Juniper Tree, Upside Down and Backward, He Saw Her Burning, and Double Lunar Dogs. She worked in Berlin in 1982 as part of the DAAD program.

Tickets--\$10 for the general public, \$9 for Museum Members, \$8 for student--are available at the information desk in the Museum lobby. For performance information call 212/708-9850.

BERLINART 1961-1987 and BERLINART: 3 PERFORMANCES have been organized by Kynaston McShine, senior curator in the Department of Painting and Sculpture.

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For further information or photographic materials, contact the Department of Public Information, 212/708-9750.