



Press Release from 12th January 2021

A Woodstock of ideas

- Joseph Beuys, Achberg and the German South

January 23 to July 4, 2021



On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of Joseph Beuys' (1921-1986) birthday in 2021, the Museum Ulm and the Kunsthalle Vogelmann Heilbronn (July 24 - October 31, 2021) are dedicating a joint exhibition project to the century artist.

The focus is not only on **Joseph Beuys** as an outstanding artist personality, but also as a political figure. The exhibition "*A Woodstock of Ideas*" focuses on

Joseph Beuys' artistic and political connection to the German Southwest. At its core, the artist's relationship to the German South becomes clear in connection with the International Cultural Center Achberg (INKA), as an important center of intellectual and political awakening in Germany in the 1970s and 1980s, and through the evaluation of Rainer Rappmann's Beuys Archive and its integration into the exhibition with letters, audio, visual and film documents.

Joseph Beuys' expanded concept of art and the idea of the "Social Sculpture" is also particularly suited to use the exhibition to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the first free municipal elections in Germany after World War II and to discuss current questions about the relevance of democracy with a young generation such as Fridays for Future.

For Joseph Beuys, an artistic medium of "Social Sculpture" was the multiple. The art objects published in multiple editions corresponded to his idea of sending out and multiplying ideas, and for him they were an expression of the democratization of art by addressing everyone and being affordable during the artist's lifetime, and therefore form another focus of the exhibition.

: A comprehensive joint publication will be published to accompany the exhibitions

The exhibitions are under the patronage of the Prime Minister of the State of Baden-Württemberg, Winfried Kretschmann

Pic.: Joseph Beuys, b/w photography, 1981 (c) Photo Archive Ruhr Museum Essen, Photo Jürgen Leiendecker