

Musealia – an artistic and documentary research project

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1. INTRODUCTION

Musealia (www.musealia.org) is a democratic long-term art archive and research project. Each year artists around the world will upload to Musealia their most important work of the previous year as digital file.

The non-profit project is set up to last for generations and shall provide an extended overview and documentation of the development of art worldwide. The project was started initially in Switzerland and is now extended to all other countries. Several hundred artists are currently participating every year.

2. LONG-TERM DOCUMENTATION

Long-term documentation makes it possible to follow the development of individual artists and to observe the transformation of the cultural spirit of the times. If Musealia had existed a thousand years ago, one would know more about the diversity of the artists of that time, the interaction and the self-image of the artists of that time.

Musealia supports the handing down of culture, as well as cultural memory for future generations. Musealia is planned for generations – like the collection of a museum. A first milestone will be 2020 with an initial Musealia-retrospective in various museums.

3. HOW IT WORKS

Artists visit the website www.musealia.org and upload a digital file of their most important work of the previous year. They can also provide text and metadata about the art piece. No registration is required. Before upload, copyright terms / license to publish in the context of Musealia have to be accepted.

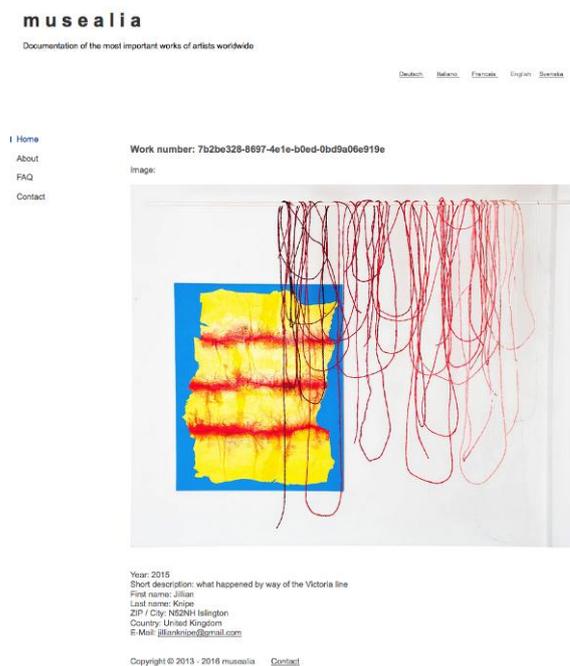


Figure 1: Example of submitted artwork to Musealia

4. NOT AN INTERNET PHOTO GALLERY

Musealia is not an Internet photo gallery. The submitted works will be presented each year at one or more Musealia meetings in rotating regions of various countries. Everyone who participates in Musealia is invited to these meetings, as well as art historians, journalists and art agents. From 2017 onwards works will be available online for the first time.

Professional artists as well as amateurs participate in Musealia. It is valuable for art history research when artists of all backgrounds document their most important works in this way. From a historical and artistic-sociological perspective artistic diversity is demonstrably more meaningful than simple-mindedness.

5. HOW MUSEALIA COMPLEMENTS ART MUSEUMS

Musealia gathers just one work of an artist per year. But these works are "the artist's choice" and thus relevant and interesting from an art historical point of view. Musealia's approach complements the traditional way how museums are building up contemporary collections. Today, museums or scholar institutions cannot answer the question of what significance an artwork was to the artist. Musealia among other things provides an answer to this question.

6. PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES

- We would like to suggest that artists put their Musealia upload under Creative Commons (CC), in order to allow public access to the works of artists.
- To make it clear that Musealia is useful to artists and the society, even if it is not a gallery and the artist might not get recognition in the first place.
- To spread the idea of Musealia among artists worldwide and encourage them to participate every year. Art universities should propose Musealia to art students.
- To make it clear that the works and related data are available on request for research at any time.
- The meaningfulness of Musealia is among other things the extension of a museum's collection and archive.
- It's not clear whether Musealia should be limited

to visual art or also cover other art forms, like for example performative arts.

- How to ensure the long-term existence of the archive.
- We suggest depositing hard copies of the uploaded works in National art archives/galleries.
- Musealia cannot provide complete monographical information of an artwork, but a short summary of the intention and evaluation of the artist her/himself one year after she/he has produced the artwork.
- The funding is not solved. There are no bigger sponsors till now. To make it clear that Musealia is under development and needs a million pounds.

7. VISION

Musealia is of long-term use to art history.

8. REFERENCES

Musealia. <http://www.musealia.org>

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