

STADT GOSLAR

Informationen der Stabsstelle für Presse- und Öffentlichkeitsarbeit

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“A Director with Cult Status”

The Goslar Kaiserring 2010 is awarded to David Lynch

GOSLAR. The Kaiserring of the City of Goslar for 2010 is awarded to the American artist David Lynch. The announcement was made by Goslar's mayor Henning Binnewies at the traditional New Year reception in the Kaiserpfalz on Friday evening. The artist was born in Missoula, Montana, in 1946. He will receive the Kaiserring in Goslar on 9 October 2010.

According to the jury, David Lynch is being awarded the Kaiserring for his fascinating and powerful work, which from an early date dissolved the boundaries between art and film. “No other director makes such consistent reference in his shots to the experiences of the visual artist. Lynch composes atmospheres in pictures, drawings and photographs, subjects them to formal excesses which then find their echo in the films. It is a passionate form of painting that plays with a knowledge of the risk. Time and again an indomitable wildness breaks out of the images. Contraventions of rules, revolt against good taste, style and decency are unmistakable,” said the jury in their judgement.

David Lynch's career began with painting, and painting has accompanied his work to this day. Lynch is not only a respected painter, though, but also a film director, photographer, and sculptor. His works have been exhibited in famous galleries the world over, for example in New York, Paris and Tokyo. Lynch, who has been nominated for an Oscar on a number of occasions and in 2006 was awarded the Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival for his lifetime's work, is one of the most controversial film-makers of the age. He made a name for himself with such visually powerful films as *The Elephant Man*, *Blue Velvet*, *Wild at Heart* and *Lost Highway*.

Biography

David Lynch was born in Missoula, in the state of Montana, on 20 January 1946. In 1964 he graduated from high school in Virginia, and moved to Washington D.C. and then to Boston to study art. After a year he changed his plans and decided to become a film-maker. In 1965 he enrolled at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia

In 1968 a patron commissioned a “moving painting” from him. Lynch responded with a four-minute film, *The Alphabet*, and won a grant from the American Film Institute in Beverly Hills.

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There followed the work on the short film *The Grandmother*, for which he won an award in 1970. He continued his studies and spent six years making *Eraserhead*, which was released in 1977 and became a cult movie. The producer Mel Brooks enabled him to make the feature-length film *The Elephant Man*, which in 1980 made Lynch famous overnight. The film received eight Oscar nominations. Alongside his film successes, such as *Blue Velvet* and *Wild at Heart*, Lynch has made a number of shorts and commercials. In addition in 1991 he was responsible for the music videos *Dangerous* for Michael Jackson and *Wicked Game* for Chris Isaak. In 2005 Lynch released the short-film series *Dumb Land* as director, scriptwriter and executive producer.

Current exhibition

The Max Ernst Museum in Brühl is currently displaying more than 140 works by David Lynch at the *Dark Splendor* exhibition, which continues until 21 March 2010. It is the first museum in Germany to have exhibited his work.

Further information and pictorial material can be found on the websites of the Mönchehaus Museum (www.moenchehaus.de) and the City of Goslar (www.goslar.de). We would be glad to answer any queries by telephone at (+49) 5321 704226. Inge Langner is in charge of Kaiserring affairs for the City of Goslar and will also be glad to answer your questions, tel. (+49) 5321 26950.

The Goslar Kaiserring is one of the most highly regarded prizes for modern art worldwide. Previous prizewinners have included Henry Moore, Max Ernst, Alexander Calder, Joseph Beuys, Günther Uecker, Georg Baselitz, Christo, Gerhard Richter, Cindy Sherman, Sigmar Polke, Christian Boltanski, Jenny Holzer, Robert Longo, Jörg Immendorff, Matthew Barney, Andreas Gursky and last year Bridget Riley.

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