

## PRESS RELEASE

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### The CULTural ISLAND of Sylt

**At the beginning of the 20th century, Sylt was a popular holiday destination for artists looking to swap the hustle and bustle of city life for the tranquillity of the island and finding inspiration for their works in elementary natural phenomena. Today's numerous cultural offerings follow this tradition.**

Various exhibitions and lectures throughout the year have turned the kunst:raum sylt quelle Foundation in Rantum into a pilgrimage site for culture lovers from all over Germany, providing an insight into recent developments in research and a modern scientific and artistic understanding of life processes. The kunst:raum sylt quelle Foundation promotes all disciplines of international contemporary art and has been awarding an annual literature grant to German authors since 2001. The much-visited Science Summer in Sylt brings top-class speakers and guests from science and culture, Nobel Prize winners and artists together every summer from July to August, to sit down and talk in a series of lectures and debates.

For the past three years, Sylt-Quelle has also been the summer residence and venue of the "Meerkabarett" (Ocean Cabaret). Amidst water tanks and bottling plants, an exciting festival line-up of cabaret, comedy and music explodes onto the stage from 12 July to 25 August 2010, when the production hall is converted into a theatre and all those who have made a name for themselves on the entertainment scene grace the stage. Regular guests such as Götz Alsmann, Piet Klocke and Joja Wendt are just as much a part as Florian Schröder or Mike Krüger, who make their Meerkabarett debut this summer.

Literature is at home in Kampen. Great writers, ambitious journalists, famous publishers and promising new authors have been coming to Kampen for over 100 years – and continue to do so. Peter Suhrkamp, Ferdinand Avenarius, Thomas Mann, Max Frisch and Axel Springer have all been there, shaping the island's literary landscape. Kampen's tourism service has been reviving this tradition since 1997, inviting authors and literary figures into the "Kaamp-Hüs" from July to September. Now in its 13th year, Literary Summer in Kampen is focusing on big names, current topics and dazzling personalities. The literature series will be accompanied by Classical Summer in Kampen, with concerts from Brahms to boogie.

The Sylt Art Festival has become a constant in the island's cultural life. From 11–25 April, the Romantik Hotel Benen-Diken-Hof invites guests to the third festival of the senses – with top-class artists, in a private setting, at charismatic locations. Artistic Director Thomas Fey has put together a top-class entertainment programme consisting of classical music, jazz and fine arts. The line-up also includes world-class cellist Sol Gabetta, accompanied by Sebastian Knauer on the piano, star pianist Martin Stadtfeld and Turkish pianist Fazil Say, who will be performing as a concert pianist with the Heidelberg Symphony Orchestra and also as a jazz pianist.



MEER. LEIDENSCHAFT. LEBEN.

Co-organiser of the Sylt Art Festival, Thomas Fey, has initiated another top-class cultural programme on the island of Sylt. With the new "Salon.budersand" series of events, its namesake hotel aims to follow the 19th-century tradition of salon concerts, which were primarily social meeting points for intellectual entertainment. The Budersand Hotel's first monthly cultural programme of the year on 2 January 2010 kicks off with "Die Liebeslis(z)t": actress Gudrun Landgrebe recites passages from Marquis de Sade and Guy de Maupassant, accompanied by Florian Uhlig on the piano with music by Franz Liszt. During the course of the year, other prominent artists will unite to create the much-desired connection between music and literature.

The music plays in Westerland: with the traditional opening concert on 1 May, the sounds of "Music by the Sea" emanate from the music shell in Westerland. Until late October, the Romada Singers give guest performances in the island's capital, entertaining audiences with German pop, evergreens and musical melodies, while Camerata Budapest adds classical music to the daily music programme. In July and August, the 16-piece orchestra shines with a varied repertoire of classical music. Lovers of classical music must reserve a seat on the promenade on 4 August, when lively operetta melodies accompanied by Camerata Budapest will be sung at the "Arias by the Sea". Just three days later, on 7 August, Gospel Night provides the ultimate "heavenly" pleasure, with rousing gospel songs and spirituals at the music shell. There is also top-class musical entertainment in Sylt's churches, with weekly concerts every Wednesday in St. Severin in Keitum, and every Sunday in the Westerland church St. Nicolai.

One can hardly miss, least of all list, the wealth of exhibitions in Sylt's numerous galleries, for example regular exhibitions by Sylt art lovers in the city gallery Alte Post in Westerland. The Sylt craftspeople, who dwell primarily in the east of the island, add their own very special touch by producing impressive, one-of-a-kind handmade creations with painstaking attention to detail: filigree gold and silver jewellery, pottery and blown glassware attest to the creativity of these manufacturers. New ideas often come about in groups, when friends are designing and working hand in hand. An example of this can be seen in the menu offered by the craftspeople in the "Kökken" restaurant of the Benen-Diken-Hof in Keitum. Every day except Wednesdays, servings of exclusive creations made by the Sylt craftspeople and culinary delights rustled up by chef Julien Dherbecourt are dished up. As many as ten people can sit down and enjoy the menu at a long table laid with items specially created for the evening in the workshop of the craftspeople – from the tablecloth to the salt cellar to the fish knife.