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German contemporary art in Beijing Rheinmetall backs German-Chinese cultural exchange

“Deutschland 8” is the title of a major exhibition in the Chinese capital designed to introduce a broad public to first-class German contemporary starting 19 September 2017. As one of the exhibition’s corporate sponsors, Rheinmetall is lending significant support to the initiative.

“German contemporary art has never been on display in China in such a comprehensive and prominent way”, notes Armin Papperger, chief executive of Rheinmetall AG in Düsseldorf, Germany. “This exhibition isn’t just a unique opportunity to encourage cultural exchange between the two countries: it’s also a means of further strengthening the close and friendly ties that exist between Germany and China.”

“Rheinmetall Automotive has been present in China for many years”, notes Mr Papperger, pointing to the Group’s 5,000 employees in the country, who generate roughly a billion euros in annual sales. “We greatly admire China and its people, and are wholeheartedly supporting the Deutschland-8 project. We wish the exhibition every success and the many visitors a wonderful art experience and a fascinating encounter with an important aspect of German culture.”

The cooperation contract for the exhibition “Deutschland 8 – German Art in China” was signed in May 2017 in Peking by Liu Yandong, vice premier of the People’s Republic of China, and Sigmar Gabriel, vice chancellor and foreign minister of Germany. Joint organizers of the exhibition are the Foundation for Art and Culture in Bonn and the Central Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA) in Beijing.

Some 320 precious works of art by 55 German artists will be on show at exhibition locations in Beijing, including the CAFA Art Museum, Today Art Museum, Beijing Minsheng Art Museum, the Red Brick Museum and the Tai Miao Temple in the Forbidden City.

On show will be major works by Georg Baselitz, Joseph Beuys, K.O. Götz, Katharina Grosse, Andreas Gursky, Candida Höfer, Anselm Kiefer, Alicja Kwade, Markus Lüpertz, A.R. Penck, Sigmar Polke, Neo Rauch, Gerhard Richter, Michael Sailstorfer, Emil Schumacher and Rosemarie Trockel.

The exhibition debuts on Sunday, 17 September 2017 in the Forbidden City. This will be the first time ever that Western art has been on display in this highly historic setting. The works will be on show until 31 October 2017.

“Deutschland 8” is a response to “China 8”, the large, extremely successful exhibition of Chinese contemporary art that took place in 2015 in eight cities in Germany’s Ruhr Valley. Sigmar Gabriel praised the project as an excellent means of fostering international understanding and intercultural dialogue.

Rheinmetall in China:

Rheinmetall Automotive has been active in the fast-growing Chinese market ever since 1997, with multiple joint ventures and wholly owned subsidiaries. At ten different locations, the Group produces components for electrically and conventionally powered vehicles destined for top international and Chinese automakers, and is now the largest producer of cylinder heads for passenger cars in China. Today Rheinmetall’s subsidiaries and joint ventures in China employ a total of 5,000 people, with annual sales of around €1 billion.

For more information, please contact:

Oliver Hoffmann
Head of Public Relations
Rheinmetall AG
Tel.: +49-(0)211-473 4748
oliver.hoffmann@rheinmetall.com