

# DEUTSCHER RECHSTUEDE PAVILLON 2013 AI WEIWEI ROMUALD KARMAKAR SANTU MOFOKENG DAYANITA SINGH

1<sup>ST</sup> JUNE TO 24<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2013  
55<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL ART EXHIBITION  
LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA



Ladies and Gentlemen,

Susanne Gaensheimer, the Curator of the German Pavilion at the 55th Venice Biennale is delighted to announce that the *Sparkassen-Kulturfonds* of the *German Savings Banks Association* (Deutscher Sparkassen- und Giroverband, DSGV) has agreed to be the main sponsor of the German Pavilion 2013.

The Sparkassen-Kulturfonds will thus facilitate implementation of the plans for this year's German contribution, developed by Dr. Susanne Gaensheimer, Director of the Museum of Modern Art, Frankfurt am Main, in collaboration with Ai WeiWei, Romuald Karmakar, Santu Mofokeng, and Dayanita Singh. The German contribution 2013 is to be presented in the French Pavilion, while France will be exhibiting its works in the German Pavilion.

"Without a strong sponsor, the Germans could not have such a presence at the Venice Biennale," explains Gaensheimer. "While the Foreign Ministry has raised its basic funding, and thanks to the initiative of the Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations (ifa) there is now a society of friends, the ifa *Freunde des Deutschen Pavillon / Biennale Venedig e.V.*, financing the project has always been a major challenge for the pavilion curator. I consider myself most fortunate in having a sponsor like the Savings Banks Finance Group, one of Germany's outstanding and most active promoters of arts and culture, at my side, and am aware that without its support, we could not have gone ahead with the realization of our plans."

The Sparkassen-Kulturfonds **of the DSGV** was founded in 1999 with the aim of supporting top-flight cultural projects of national significance in the international arena.

"The Venice Biennale has for many years provided a platform on which to present contemporary art from Germany to a global audience," explains **DSGV** President Georg Fahrenschon. "As its main sponsor, the Savings Banks Finance Group is very pleased to be able to make a contribution to the German Pavilion 2013. Promoting Germany's cultural diversity and supporting its contribution to international art are for us a matter of course; after all, arts and culture are an important part of what holds society together. It is my wish that visitors to the German Pavilion will learn more about the Savings Banks Finance Group's commitment to corporate social responsibility and that our involvement will raise awareness of Germany's Savings Banks as credit institutions dedicated to the common welfare."

The Savings Banks Finance Group is Germany's largest non-public promoter and sponsor of arts and culture, funding a variety of projects to the tune of some 150 million euros every year. It regards itself as a partner that providers can count on, as its long-term cooperation with the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin and the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden bears out. If its sponsorship of projects in the social sphere, sports, the environment, education,

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and other public welfare areas is factored in, the Savings Banks Finance Group spends more than 500 million euros annually on corporate social responsibility.

Elke aus dem Moore, who as head of the art department at the ifa is responsible for the German Pavilion, is well aware of its importance: “We would like to thank the Sparkassen-Kulturfonds of the German Savings Banks Association for its generous support, which is a clear commitment to contemporary art. Its readiness to promote the innovative concept informing this year’s pavilion attests to a responsible attitude towards culture.”

The German contribution was commissioned by the Foreign Ministry of the Federal Republic of Germany and is being realized in collaboration with the ifa. The society of friends, *ifa Freunde des Deutschen Pavillon / Biennale Venedig e.V.* is likewise supporting the German Pavilion. The Sparkassen-Kulturfonds of the German Savings Banks Association is to be the main sponsor of the German Pavilion at the 55th Venice Biennale in 2013.

If you have any questions, I would be happy to assist you.

Best wishes

Markus Müller

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**Press photos:**

A selection of press photos is available for downloading at our website: [www.mmk-frankfurt.de](http://www.mmk-frankfurt.de)