



## Heiner Goebbels: 862 – An Oracle Machine

Coal stamping machine, Völklinger Hütte World Heritage Site

**Nine performances on three weekends**

**from 1 to 17 September 2023**

**Every Friday, Saturday, Sunday at 8.15 pm**

Once coal was stamped into packets here and later processed into coke, today the coal stamping machine transforms into an art and oracle machine that invites you to see and hear in a new way. In September, the Völklinger Hütte World Heritage Site presents the world première of a performative installation that Heiner Goebbels has developed genuinely and specially for the Völklingen Ironworks and the site of the coal stamping machine in Paradise. The in-situ work of the renowned music and theatre artist from Frankfurt uses sound, light, video, text and voices to evoke hidden layers of time and experience in the former ironworks and present-day Anthropocene site. For this extraordinary work of art, a huge open-air grandstand will be erected on the former track of the coal stamping machine.

It is where visitors will gather after a unique 'promenade architecturale' in the presence of a machine whose original purpose was to provide answers to the enormous energy needs of a society driven by exploitation and a belief in progress. In its monstrous immobility, it seems today like a memorial to human creative and destructive power and the deep rift between man and nature. Under these auspices, the composer and dramaturg Heiner Goebbels sets the coal stamping machine in motion again in his new production.

"862 – An Oracle Machine" invites us on a journey of seeing and hearing. In music and soundscapes that appear at once strange and familiar, we encounter early historic recordings from Greece, Ukraine, Lithuania, and Croatia, as well as animal voices, both native and from other parts of the world. Certainty is replaced by the vague awareness of a hidden connection between all living things and by the question of how we can recall this together without having to find new answers: Now that it has been decommissioned, perhaps the coal stamping machine will become a valuable place of imagination and reflection – at best, it will open up the space with unseen images and unheard sounds and poetically change our understanding of 'man, machine, nature' or – because there is no one 'on stage' to tell the audience what they should think – it will become an oracle machine that speaks to us in a delicate balance of words, sounds and images.

Völklinger Hütte World Heritage Site — European Centre for Art and Industrial Culture  
Rathausstraße 75 – 79, 66333 Völklingen, Germany

Contact persons: Jocelyne Pallu, Dr. Armin Leidinger, Karl Heinrich Veith

Tel. 00496898/9100-100 | Fax 00496898 /9100-111 | [mail@voelklinger-huette.org](mailto:mail@voelklinger-huette.org) |

[www.voelklinger-huette.org](http://www.voelklinger-huette.org)

# Weltkulturerbe Völklinger Hütte



Alongside his work as a composer, musician, director and radio playwright, as a professor in Giessen and his highly successful directorship of the Ruhrtriennale, Heiner Goebbels regularly appears as a creative and interdisciplinary exhibiting artist. Heiner Goebbels has appeared at documenta Kassel alone no less than three times with concerts, installations and scenic works. From New York to Bogota to Sydney, he works as a successful exponent of transdisciplinary contemporary music theatre art. This year, Heiner Goebbels is realising installations in St Mary's Church in Vilnius and the Museo Reina Sofia in Madrid, as well as stage concerts in Porto, Stockholm, London, Edinburgh, Perth and Glasgow.

The première of the performance installation "862 – An Oracle Machine" is also the highlight this year of the new in-situ format 1200° – MUSIC THEATRE ART at the Völklinger Hütte World Heritage Site.

The coking plant was one of the toughest places to work at the Völklingen Ironworks. Heat, dust and fire filled the air. Hard coal was converted into coke here, as only this form of pure carbon developed the required effect in the blast furnace process to be turned into liquid pig iron with ore and other aggregates at 1200°C. Coal was loaded into the coal stamping machine from the coal tower and rammed into a solid packet. The machine then pushed the coal into one of the coking chambers, where the coking process began. The rhythmic clanking of the coal stamping machine could be heard all the way into town.

1200° – MUSIC THEATRE ART is realised with the generous support of the Saarland Ministry of Education and Culture and Saartoto.



## **Heiner Goebbels**

### **862 – An Oracle Machine**

**Coal stamping machine in Paradise (former coking plant)  
Völklinger Hütte World Heritage Site**

#### **Dates**

Friday, 1 September, first performance / world première

Further performances on Saturday, 2 September | Sunday, 3 September  
Friday, 8 September | Saturday, 9 September | Sunday, 10 September  
Friday, 15 September | Saturday, 16 September | Sunday, 17 September

**Time** 8.15 pm

**Tickets** priced at 30 euros are available online at  
[www.voelklinger-huette.org](http://www.voelklinger-huette.org)

Heiner Goebbels ticket and day ticket Völklinger Hütte including all  
exhibitions: Special price 45 Euro

Ticket Heiner Goebbels and two-day ticket Völklinger Hütte including all  
exhibitions: Special price 50 Euro

Heiner Goebbels – Concept, Direction, Music  
Willi Bopp – Sound Design  
René Liebert – Video Design  
Marc Thein – Light Design  
Matthias Mohr – Dramaturgy  
Friederike Blum – Assistance