

GESAMT - DISASTER 501: WHAT HAPPENED TO MAN? (2012)

Director: **Jenle Hallund**

Concept: **Lars von Trier**

Producer: **Copenhagen Art Festival**

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GESAMT

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Gesamt - Disaster 501: What Happened to Man? is a crowd-sourced film created by people from all continents of the world. The Danish director Lars von Trier asked people from all over the world to be inspired by six pieces of art. Their challenge was to create five minutes sound or film and submit it to Gesamt. Director Jenle Hallund thereafter selected the best submissions and created a film installation, which is screened simultaneously on four screens in a black room. The result is a powerful work that challenges the viewer and deals with gender roles, anger and anxiety but also with love and hope.

FURTHER INTRODUCTION

Lars von Trier's Challenge to the People

In August 2012 the Danish film director Lars von Trier presented some of the thoughts in his trier-universe by laying down the rules for a crowdsourced art film initiated by Copenhagen Art Festival. People from around the world were asked to reinterpret one or several of the following six art works: James Joyce's novel *Ulysses*, August Strindberg's play *The Father*, Albert Speer's monument *Zeppelinfield* in Nuremberg, the painting *Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going?* by the French painter Paul Gauguin, the French composer César Franck's *Sonate in A major* and Sammy Davis Jr's step dance performance *Choreography*. Participants were asked to create up to five minutes of material within one month and submit either a film, a video, stills, music or a sound piece to Gesamt. Director Jenle Hallund had the great task of going through all the material and putting it together for the final work.

Lars von Trier also set the rules for the presentation of the work. It will be displayed on four screens and four audio systems in a black box. Each screen, organised in a square, will be running simultaneously together thereby creating Gesamt; a cacophonous tale created by people from around the world.

More than 400 people from 52 countries have submitted a total of 501 contributions of highly original and very personal material. The result is a film installation with the title *Disaster 501: What Happened to Man?*

Copenhagen Art Festival is about communities and Gesamt is exploring what happens when we interact with one another. While the master establishes the framework for the film, it is people from all over the world who are going to create the content. While the work is to explore the community, it is also to challenge it. For what really happens when the masses – the people – meet the genius? What is the result when anybody at all sets out to reinterpret the great controversial works of our time? Does what is unique disappear from the work – or is it revitalised? Can all and sundry create filmic art? What is art, anyway? And does art in reality stand out most from the crowd when we create it together?

The final work is a reflection on our age and the people who live in it: a *co-work*.

Gesamt seeks to create something unique by ranging widely. The concept *gesamtkunst* can be translated as *the ideal work of art* or *synthesis of the arts*. *Gesamtkunst* – an expression often used by the German composer Richard Wagner - refers to an artwork that makes use of many different artistic forms of expression whether it be lyric poetry, music, pictorial art, architecture, dance, drama and much more. The idea of *gesamtkunst* and the ultimate combination of the art forms is taken a step further in a user-generated film project: the universal work of art is not just created by the many art forms, but also created by many – and different – people. Just as different, and just as similar in many ways, as Trier, Gauguin, Franck, Strindberg, Joyce, Sammy Davis Jr., Speer, you, me and everyone else. Gesamt has the potential to reach out to the people who do not normally see themselves as a part of art – neither as observers nor creators. And maybe the film will show us that we have much more in common than we believe.

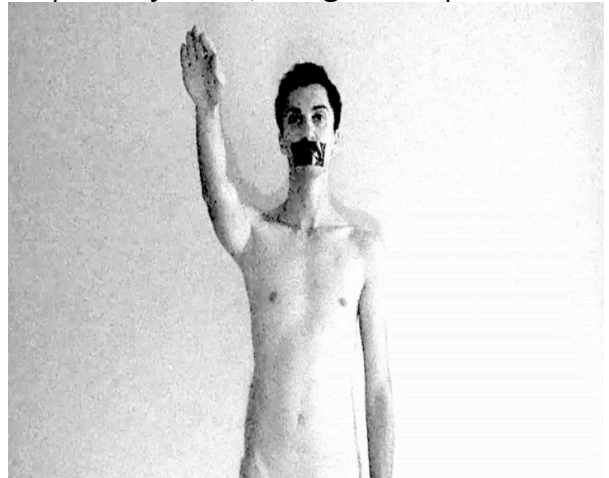
SCREENSHOTS

Inspired by Gauguin



By Amiran Dolidze, Georgia

Inspired by Davis, Gauguin & Speer



By Anton Evdokimov, Uzbekistan/Ireland

Inspired by Gauguin



By Carlos Sedeño, Riccardo Massari og Fran Saez, Spain

Inspired by Gauguin



By Paco Torres, Ireland

Inspired by Joyce



By Rafal Andrzej Glombowski, Poland

Inspired by Joyce



By Peter Rinaldi, USA

Inspired by Franck & Gauguin



By Marta Pérez & Marina Badía Magaña, Spain

Inspired by Strindberg & Gauguin



By Justin D. Hilliard, USA

Inspired by Speer



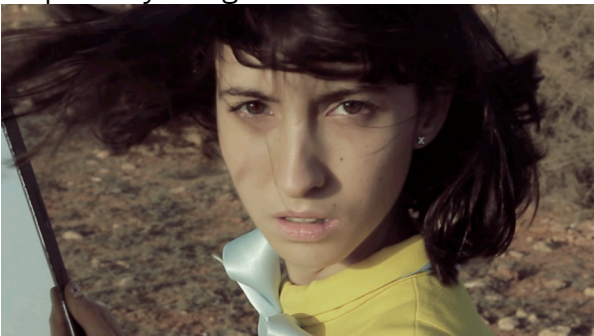
By Nanna Rebekka Jensen og Torben Kjelstrup, Denmark

Inspired by Gauguin



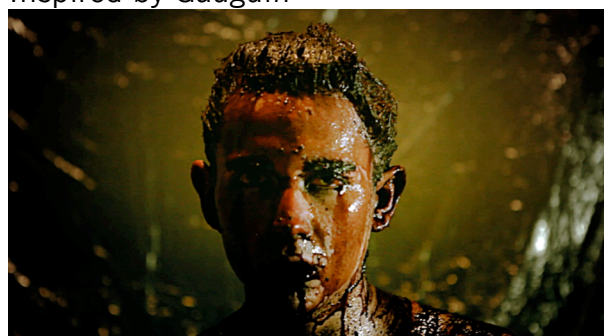
Mónica Garza & Nataly Pérez, Mexico. Inspired by Gauguin.

Inspired by Gauguin



By Jose Medina, Spain

Inspired by Gauguin



By Salvador Abarca & Ayrton Villalobos, Mexico

LARS VON TRIER'S SIX SELECTED ARTWORKS

- AUGUST STRINDBERG: THE FATHER
- JAMES JOYCE: ULYSSES
- CESAR FRANCK: SONATA IN A-DUR
- SAMMY DAVIS JR: CHOREOGRAPHY
- ALBERT SPEER: ZEPPELINFIELD
- PAUL GAUGUIN: WHERE DO WE COME FROM? WHAT ARE WE? WHERE ARE WE GOING?

August Strindberg: The Father

Excerpt from Act 3, Scene 6.

SCENE VI

THE CAPTAIN. BERTHA

(The captain sinks into a chair by the table.)

BERTHA (goes up to him): Are you ill, father?

CAPTAIN (looks up offended): I?

BERTHA: Do you know what you have done? Do you know that you threw the lamp at mother?

CAPTAIN: Did I?

BERTHA: Yes you did. Just think if she had been hurt.

CAPTAIN: What would that have mattered?

BERTHA: You are not my father if you can talk like that.

CAPTAIN: What do you say? Am I not your father?

How do you know that? Who told you that? And who is your father, then? Who?

BERTHA: Not you at any rate.

CAPTAIN: Still not I! Who, then? Who? You seem to be well informed! Who told you? That I should live to see my child come and tell me straight in the face that I am not her father! But do you not know that you disgrace your mother when you say that? Do you not know that it is her shame if it is so?

BERTHA: Say nothing bad about mother; do you hear?

CAPTAIN: No; you all hold together against me! And so you have done all the time.

BERTHA: Father!

CAPTAIN: Do not say that word again!

BERTHA: Father, father!

English translation: N. Erichsen.

Publisher: Duckworth and Company, London 1899.

James Joyce: Ulysses

Excerpt from chapter 18: Penelope. Final chapter of the book.
Also known as Molly Bloom's soliloquy

O that awful deepdown torrent O and the sea the sea crimson sometimes like fire and the glorious sunsets and the figtrees in the Alameda gardens yes and all the queer little streets and pink and blue and yellow houses and the rosegardens and the Jessamine and geraniums and cactuses and Gibraltar as a girl where I was a Flower of the mountain yes when I put the rose in my hair like the Andalusian girls used or shall I wear a red yes and how he kissed me under the Moorish wall and I thought well as well him as another and then I asked him with my eyes to ask again yes and then he asked me would I yes to say yes my mountain flower and first I put my arms around him yes and drew him down to me so he could feel my breasts all perfume yes and his heart was going like mad and yes I said yes I will Yes.

Credits: Wordsworth Editions

César Franck: Sonata in A-dur

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СОНАТА для скрипки и фортепиано

I

С. ФРАНК
(1822—1890)

Allegretto ben moderato

Скрипка *molto dolce*

Ф.п. *pp*

pp

sempre dolce

poco cresc.

poco cresc.

1

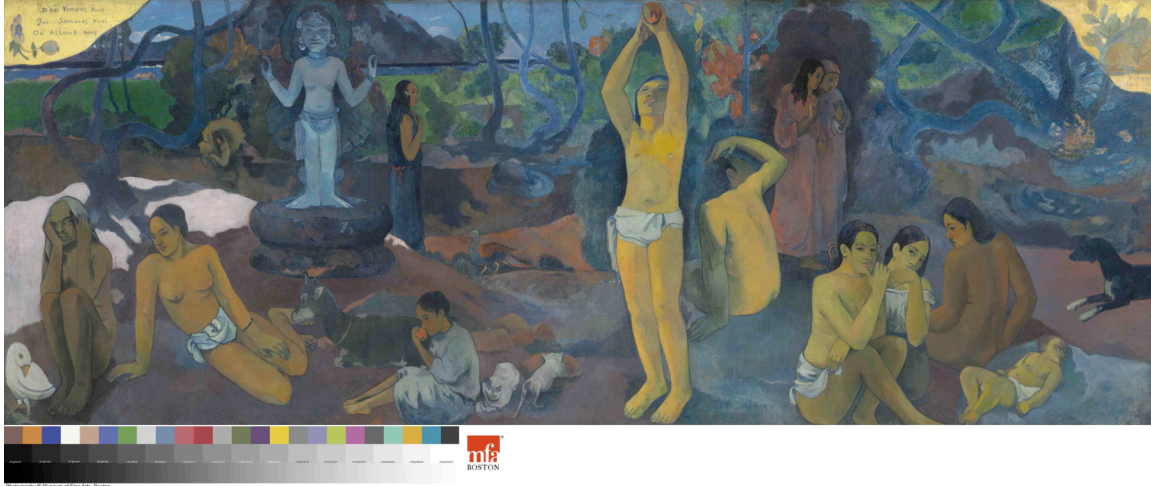
Sammy Davis Jr: Choreography



Albert Speer: Zeppelinfield



Paul Gauguin: Where Do We Come From? What Are We? Where Are We Going?



WHO, WHAT, WHERE - FIGURES OF GESAMT

- 501 unique contributions, sounds, movies, still images or animation, were sent in to Gesamt. Over 400 people took part in Gesamt.
- 52 countries are represented in Gesamt:
Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Switzerland, Serbia, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, Uruguay, USA and Uzbekistan.
- Gesamt received the most contributions from the United States: a total of 59. Next comes Brazil with 50 contributions and Spain with 46 contributions. From Denmark comes 26 contributions.
- Of the 501 entries 142 were selected for the final work. In the final work is represented the following countries:
Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Basque Country (Spain / France), Belgium, Russia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, England, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom, Ukraine, Cyprus, United States, Bulgaria and Uzbekistan.

For additional statistics, please contact: Nadia Claudi, nc@cph-artfestival.org. +45 6068 6271

CREDITS

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Concept: **Lars von Trier**
Curator: **Christian Skovbjerg Jensen**
Editor: **Nikolaj Feifer**
Editing Assistant: **Linda Man**
Sound: **Frank Moelgaard Knudsen**
Project Manager: **Nadia Claudi**
Producer: **Copenhagen Art Festival**

GESAMT received 501 submissions from 52 countries. A total of 142 contributions have been selected for the final work:

Alberto Macasoli (Spain), **Alejandro Agusti** (Spain), **Alethea Miranda**, **Michel Dubret**, **Celso Vilalba & Ulysses de Santi** (Brazil), **Alexandra Holownia** (Germany), **Alexey Makukhin** (Ukraine), **Alexey Stepanov** (Ukraine), **Aliocha** (France), **Alvaro Casares & Josep Hernandez** (Spain), **Amiran Dolidze** (Georgia), **Ana Pissarra** (Portugal), **Ana Štruc** (Slovenia), **André D'Elia** (Brazil), **Andrew Wilkinson** (USA), **Anna & Gleb Soshnikovi** (Russia), **Anna Kravets** (Ukraine-Cyprus), **Anna Larrina** (Canada), **Anna Styra** (United Kingdom), **Anton Evdokimov** (Uzbekistan-Ireland), **Arash Akhgari & Arash Saleki** (Canada), **Azalea Ortega Flores** (Mexico), **Barbara Bertoldi** (Brazil), **Belen Blanco** (Argentina), **Camila Santo**, **Arthur Monteiro**, **Nicolas Yanco**, **Nicolás Farruggia**, **Daniel Caixão**, **Eber Freitas**, **Gabriel Improta & Anderson Sá** (Brazil), **Carlos Sedeño**, **Riccardo Massari og Fran Saez** (Spain), **Cemal Çelik** (Turkey), **Christian Godin** (Sweden), **Christian Sellmann** (Germany), **Cristiane Bastos & Marcos Carvalho** (Brazil), **Cristina Farias Ferreira** (Portugal), **Daniil Galkin** (Ukraine), **Dara Elerath** (USA), **David Hovan** (Canada), **David Ruiz** (Spain), **Diana Rudychenko** (Ukraine), **Diego Flores-Manzanedo & Héctor Miguel**, **Rox Anne Cortés**, **Eduardo Romero**, **Marcos Cabal & Juan Manuel Ahued** (Mexico), **Diego Garcia** (Brazil), **Dmitry Mazurov** (Russia), **Eduardo Soutullo** (Spain), **Elizeu Goncalves Mol** (Brasilien/Brazil), **Eric Wiley & Anthony Cudahy** (USA), **Fabiano de Souza Ramos** (Brazil), **Fernanda Vogas** (Brazil), **Filipe Völz** (Brazil), **Florentina Cristina Budar** (Romania), **Francis Martineau** (Canada), **Gabriel Miller** (Norway-USA), **Galo Tobías** (Spain), **Georgy Bagdasarov** (Armenia), **Gerardo Pantoja** (Mexico), **Gleb Drogin** (Estonia), **Grace Graupe-Pillard** (USA), **Greta Gamboa & Alejandro Perez Tamayo** (Mexico), **Halya Lavrinets & Yaroslav Radinov** (Ukraine), **Igor Betliy**, **Jenya Tolochniy & Kristina Rozova** (Ukraine), **Igor Bosnjak** (Bosnia & Herzegovina), **Ilian "Julian" Iliev** (USA-Bulgaria), **Ira Ustelentseva & Alisa Kravets** (Ukraine), **Irene Melis** (Mexico), **Janko Ilic** (Serbia), **Javier Rodriguez** (Spain), **Jessica Mitrani** (USA), **John Manceau** (Sweden), **John Sealey** (United Kingdom), **Jon Artola** (Basque Country (Spain-France)), **Jonathan Gonzalez** (Spain), **Jose Medina** (Spain), **Julia Juaniz** (Spain), **Julia Panchyzhna** (Canada), **Justin D. Hilliard** (USA), **Katalina Bakradze**, **Anna Sarukhanova** (Georgia), **Laura Focarazzo** (Argentina), **Laura Artioli de Moraes e Souza** (Brazil), **Lee Eubanks & Elisabeth James** (USA), **Leo Spauls** (Sweden), **Lilianne Milgrom** (USA), **Lubomyr Tymkiv** (Ukraine), **Lucas Ferraço Nassif** (Brazil), **Malthe Ivarsson** (Denmark), **Marco Lionetto** (Italy), **Mark Tholander** (Denmark), **Marta Pérez & Marina Badía Magaña** (Spain), **Marten van Holten** (Netherlands), **Martha Miklin & Philipp Papapostolu** (Austria), **Matthew Cassani & Sterling Cook** (USA), **Maxim Shalygin**

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DIRECTOR JENLE HALLUND (1977)

FILMOGRAPHY:

Nymphomania (2012): script consultant
Feature film (director: Lars von Trier)
Zentropa Productions

Gesamt. Disaster 501: What Happened to Man? (2012):
director
Film installation
Copenhagen Art Festival and Zentropa

You are Beautiful (2011): writer and director
Short film
Zentropa Productions

Melancholia (2011): script-consultant
Feature film (director: Lars von Trier)
Zentropa Productions

Limboland (2010): co-director (with Jeremy Weller)
Feature film
Zentropa Productions



Credits: Jan Astrup

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Gesamt is produced by Copenhagen Art Festival and curated by Christian Skovbjerg Jensen. The concept is created by Lars von Trier (producer for Lars von Trier: Louise Vesth, Zentropa) and Jenle Hallund is the director of Gesamt.

Copenhagen Art Festival is an international festival of contemporary art organized by Kunsthal Charlottenborg, Den Frie Centre of Contemporary Art, Gl. Strand Gallery of Modern and Contemporary Art, Nikolaj Copenhagen Contemporary Art Center, and Overgaden Institute of Contemporary Art. The festival opened 24th of August and continues throughout the fall.

Gesamt contributors

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GESAMT CONTRIBUTORS

