

Press Release

2-5 September 2021

STERNENHIMMEL DER MENSCHHEIT

– Festival under the Dome of Nantesbuch

In Nantesbuch in Upper Bavaria, author Raoul Schrott and the Stiftung Kunst und Natur (Foundation for Art and Nature) welcome guests such as Sibylle Anderl, Heino Falcke, Michael Köhlmeier, Corinna Harfouch, Blixa Bargeld and Ulrich Noethen for a four-day festival celebrating the poetry and science of the night skies. In addition, there is Tuareg music, Inuit throat singing and international DJ sets. This marks the opening of a cultural program over the coming years to accompany the creation of an Atlas of the Night Skies.

Under the title STERNENHIMMEL DER MENSCHHEIT (The Night Skies of Humankind), the Foundation for Art and Nature invites you from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th September to Nantesbuch in Upper Bavaria to gaze at the night sky. Every culture sees different figures and images in the countless points of light scattered across the heavens and draws its myths and legends from them. They tell stories of the creation of the world and human beings, their hunts and harvests, their wars and passions. In words and pictures, the writer Raoul Schrott is compiling these most ancient stories in the world into a great Atlas of the Night Skies. The Stiftung Kunst und Natur is accompanying the creation of this extraordinary narrative project.

The festival opening sees international guests from the worlds of science and culture come together with Raoul Schrott to open up the fascinating cosmos of the oldest "picture books" in the world, for the first time. After the opening by Raoul Schrott, Sibylle Anderl is in conversation with the astrophysicist Heino Falcke. Natural scientists and humanities scholars such as Bruno Leibundgut (ESA), cultural astronomers Wayne Horowitz (Jerusalem) and Nicholas Campion (Wales), science blogger Florian Freistetter and story-teller Michael Köhlmeier will share their perspectives. In an event staged by Michael Farin, Corinna Harfouch, Blixa Bargeld, Ulrich Noethen and Melika Foroukan, among others, read from texts on the night skies of the Inuit and the Tuareg. The Amanar group is performing with the Tuareg musician Ahmed Ag Kaedy, and the Canadian Katajjac duo is performing the traditional throat singing of the Inuit. Sets by international DJs frame the program.

The Stiftung Kunst und Natur has set itself the task of creating spaces that make the connection between art and nature tangible as elementary poles in the core of human existence. By projecting our myths, stories, and environments into the stars of night sky, humankind seeks to embody the infinite aspects of nature in culture. No other topic is more appropriate for grasping the connecting space between nature and art than the preoccupation with the night skies of humankind. Over a period of several years, Raoul Schrott has been creating an atlas of 17 cultural cosmologies, which, in a global first, uncovers the constellations and the associated narratives and myths of the cultures of human history and illustrates them with cosmological maps by the illustrator Heidi Sorg. In this way, a piece of human history that is in danger of being lost is being made accessible once more. The Stiftung Kunst und Natur is supporting this work with a cultural program of events, exhibitions, and

projects over the course of the next years with the aim of enabling as many people as possible to gaze at the stars – and thus also at their own identity.

For more information, see www.sternenhimmel-der-menschheit.de

The Foundation was founded in 2012 by the entrepreneur Susanne Klatten as the Stiftung Nantesbuch – Kunst und Natur. Since 2021, it has borne its current name. In addition to Nantesbuch in the foothills of the Bavarian Alps, which serves as a venue for nature and cultural events, the Museum Sinclair-Haus in Bad Homburg is another cultural institution belonging to the Stiftung. For further information about the foundation, please see www.kunst-und-natur.de

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<https://media.stiftung-nantesbuch.de/index.php/s/XTLt8bp3xQ4Ynij>