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Diedrich Diederichsen: Über Pop-Musik

Goethe-Institut in Prague
Masarykovo nábřeží 32, Prague 1
Wednesday 4 Nov 2015 at 7 pm
in English, admission free

The eminent German writer, music journalist and culture critic Diedrich Diederichsen presents to the Czech public his new book *Über Pop-Musik* (2014) in the company of the moderator Pavel Klusák, a Czech music journalist.

Diedrich Diederichsen (born 1957, Hamburg) is one of the most important authors in the German-speaking world in the fields of pop music and theory. He is a writer who reflects in his texts movements in various social areas from music, fine art, theatre and politics to popular culture. He began writing for German music magazines in the late 1970s in the era of Punk and New Wave. In the 80s he was the editor-in-chief of the subculture magazine Spex. He taught for several years at the Merz Academy in Stuttgart and later at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna, where he still works. Diederichsen is a prolific writer, most of whose texts are available only in German. His articles and texts are printed in a variety of periodicals and publications, for example *Texte zur Kunst*, *Die Zeit*, *die tageszeitung*, *Der Tagesspiegel*, *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, *Theater heute*, *Artscribe*, *Artforum* and *Frieze*.

Diedrich Diederichsen's writings show traces of Post-structuralism, Marxism, Cultural studies, New Journalism, Beat literature, Psychoanalysis and Situationism. A main topic of his writing is the tension between subjectivity, identity politics and culture industry in Post-Fordist society. In his writings he frequently refers to personal experiences and the links between zeitgeist, biography and history. His most comprehensive theoretical work is the book *Über Pop-Musik*

(2014), in which he examines the breadth of the field of Adorno's critical theory and Foucault's discursive analysis, seeking in them a new fundamental definition of "pop", not only as a musical genre, but also as "another type of object" that surpasses the scope of music. He is known to the art public primarily for his collaboration with Anselm Franke on exhibitions and publications concerning the themes of animism, anthropocentrism and the Californian counter-culture of the 1960s.

Music journalist Pavel Klusák (born 1969, Prague) focuses on contemporary indie rock and non-artificial music. His articles are supported by an in-depth knowledge of modern European and American music and are distinguished by a fresh linguistic style. Klusák has interviewed a whole range of important figures from the music scene, including Peter Gabriel, John Cale, Laurie Anderson, Mike Patton and Matthew Herbert. For several years he was editor of the magazine *Týden* and later worked for the weekly *Respekt*. Since the autumn of 2009 he has written the music pages for the *Orientace* Saturday supplement of the newspaper *Lidové noviny* and also writes for the daily *Hospodářské noviny*, the cultural weekly *A2*, *HIS Voice* and other publications. He collaborates with Czech Radio, participates in the selection of music clips for the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, arranges listening series and is involved in many other activities, such as documentary film and his music label *Klíče*.

The lecture is organized by Are | are-events.org in collaboration with Goethe-Institut in Prague. Special thanks: Emblem Hotel and BiggBoss.