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## **Virginia Genta is the new improviser in residence**

### **moers festival presents their town artist for 2024 and their new apartment**

Moers. "Volare oh, oh; cantare oh, oh" - Moers festival proudly presents Virginia Genta to be their new improviser in residence. The Italian woman shows that she has arrived at Neustraße in the city of Moers, where the international free jazz scene annually celebrates their famous festival. By playing this well-known song by Domenico Modugno, Genta, born 1984, she proves that she truly is a musical all-rounder. She also shows her sense of humour as she plays the hit song perfectly and confidently in the city's pedestrian zone, however her true passion is, typically of Moers, of course the free improvisation. With her saxophone and several other instruments such as flutes, clarinet, percussions and keyboard she has dedicated herself to spontaneity, always in search of new ways to express herself and to become one with the universe. Besides her musical profession, Virginia is also a drawer and illustrator.

Tim Isfort, Artistic Director at moers festival, is looking very much forward to Genta's work in the new year: "We managed to sign a very intelligent artist for Moers, who is not only outstanding with her music but has a captivating manner and a lot of creative power. She will definitely leave her mark on the cultural scene of 2024. Our improviser in residence programme is a unique selling point for our city and offers non-mainstream artists unique opportunities for over 17 years, and even now in times of tight budgets." Isfort thanked Kunststiftung NRW and the City of Moers who make the project financially possible.

Chairman of Moers Kultur GmbH, Mark Rosendahl, welcomes Virginia Genta at the new residence and emphasizes the importance of the improviser in residence project for the city of Moers. "The town artist is an important aspect of the moers festival that helps to create enthusiasm during the whole year. As the improviser, one has the unique possibility to lead the big wide world to Moers, for instance to our schools. For me this international dimension of the moers festival is of big significance as it helps us to discover new ways." Rosendahl explicitly invites everyone to the Handover Gig and stresses that it is not about taste or favour when it comes to music, it is about getting involved and transporting tolerance and variety.

For one year Virginia Genta will live and work as an improviser in the new residence-apartment in the city of Moers. Her aim is to quickly introduce herself to the people and she already organizes her first gig on Sunday, January 7th at 6 p.m. at enni.eventhalle in Moers. There she will play a concert together with the improvisers from 2023, the group Recursion, as an official handover. Admission is free but the

artists have expressed their wish that many people in the audience show up in purple trousers....

There is a lot on her list to realize as improviser in residence for Virginia Genta: She wants to work on several smaller and bigger projects, wants to play gigs and especially meet the people of the region and create new things with them. And she wants to bring her art closer to them and also her talent to try out new things, leaving stereotypes behind. Stereotypes which were played with during the press talk, such as playing "volare, cantare" or Pizza Hawaii (German Pizza with ham and pineapple), both first time experiences for Virginia.

On Friday and Saturday, January 19th and 20th, she has organized a gig at the new residence, together with the musicians of sinergia elettronica, an experimental project Genta has worked on and did research for for more than ten years. Obviously she will also be on stage at the 53rd moers festival which will be on May 17th-20th. In the upcoming days she has the intention to meet as many people and get to know as many places in the city of Moers as possible, to network and to plan her schedules.

Her first impression of Moers is perfectly positive, she says, and she is very impressed by the apartment serving as her residence. "Being the improviser in residence of Moers is a dream becoming reality. Since I played at the festival, I am literally "moersified", I love the festival, the city and their people, this unique atmosphere – it's a perfect condition to work in as an artist and to have a lot of exchange." Learning some German during her stay is on her list too.

Committed friends of the festival have helped in the past weeks to transform the spacious apartment in the city centre into a residence apartment to feel at home, to rehearse and to have a lot of space for creative work. Jeanne-Marie Varain, who is the CEO of Moers Kultur GmbH (the entity behind the festival) stresses: "We cannot thank all those supporters enough. Mentioning only a few, there are the donations-in-kind by the Dammers store but also the hands-on work from our supporters group in the city and the friends from all over the place that came a long way just to help installing the kitchen. All have contributed to come up with something impressive with very limited resources. I am convinced that we have space for a lot of creativity here and for unforgettable events and I know for sure Virginia will make the best of use of the place." Part of the modification of the apartment was the creation of a rehearsal room, a sound booth within one of the rooms that will ensure that the neighbours will not feel disturbed by the music, and maybe maybe it also ensures Virginia to not get distracted, for instant if someone in the pedestrian zones plays "volare, cantrare" or attempts to deliver a Pizza Hawaii....

**Media contact moers festival:**

Hanna Lohmann: [presse@moers-festival.de](mailto:presse@moers-festival.de)

Festival office: Ostring 9, 47441 Moers, Tel: 02841 367 367 5

**People present at press talk**

Virginia Genta - Improviser in Residence 2024

Jeanne-Marie Varain – CEO of Moers Kultur GmbH

Tim Isfort – Artistic Director of moers festival

Hans Isfort – Host, translator, father

Mark Rosendahl – Chairman of Moers Kultur GmbH