

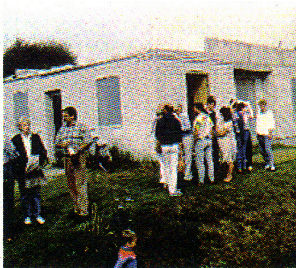
20 Years Josiaskoog



2007

The name *Josiaskoog* sounds somewhat unusual, doesn't it? *Josiaskoog* is the name of a small side street, a cul-de-sac, located on the edge of the village of Nieblum on the island of Föhr. It is a small alley, which is fairly quiet for most of the year, except in summer, when Uta Göhring-Zumpe, a painter from Föhr, who lives and works mainly in Berlin, exhibits her paintings there for 2 months. Her annual exhibition has opened with a large festival for 20 years now. A unique opening event accompanies her exhibition each year. This time around, it will be held on Saturday, July 26th in Josiaskoog – as always – on the island of Föhr.

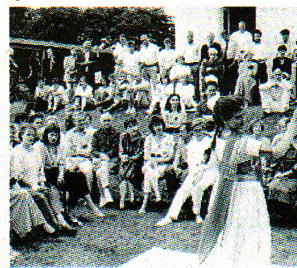
July 17th, 1987 was the opening day of the first exhibition of paintings there by the Nieblum painter Uta Göhring-Zumpe. The opening was held amidst what, at the time, was still a building site. Plastic sheeting serving as windows, crudely carpentered doors, electric cables hanging from the ceiling. The paintings decorated bare walls. This first exhibition was visited by friends from Berlin, neighbours and guests of the island. By the following year, the windows and doors had been installed, and the roof was being thatched. One visitor to that second exhibition wrote in the guest book, "The floor is still sticky, but the exhibition is wonderful.", while U. Zacchi wrote in the *Inselbote* newspaper, "Paintings, belly dancing, beer and a brass band." The residents had a surprise in store for their 'island girl' that year. Jenny H. had asked the guests intending to leave to stay a little longer, "bliev man noch" in low German. The Osterlandföhrer Musikfreunde band led by Jan Ketels appeared; the musicians had been unable to come any earlier, because milking the cows had priority. What a surprise to hear their music and see them marching along in their red jackets. What a treat for the artist!



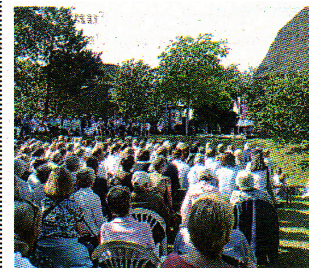
1987



1988



1989



Herzlich willkommen

Happy hours in Josiaskoog. Everybody danced or laughed at those who were dancing until the night grew too cold. Some courageous men of Nieblum, Erwin R., Harald C. and Manne B., dared a wild belly dancing performance. Uta Göhring-Zumpe herself was no longer the painter but rather the 'Buktänzer' (low German, meaning a belly-dancer).

In 1989, the gallery was finally completed. In gratitude to the builders, the helpful residents of Föhr and all her friends, Uta Göhring-Zumpe organised an opening party, complete with classical music, an Indian Kathak dance and swing with her son's band. This was the first time Antje Rietz appeared with her brilliant performance on the trumpet. The event was meant to celebrate the opening of the gallery and as a big thank-you to all those involved. No further festivities of

the kind were planned.

But there was strong opposition to this, and so since 1987 an annual opening event has been held in Josiaskoog on the 3rd Saturday of each July.

Artists from Berlin, Iceland, Romania, Egypt, France, Uzbekistan, and Spain have enjoyed performing in Josiaskoog. Antje Rietz has remained a true and faithful star, appearing each successive year. She even found the time to be away from the theatre in Karlsruhe (where she performed the Eliza in *My Fair Lady*) to be on Föhr for a single day. The audiences love her, and follow her life and career closely. They knew Antje as a school girl, a student of musical at Berlin's UdK, as a bride-to-be and now know her as a married woman and the mother of two lovely children. And she has followed what has been going on in their lives. Twenty years is a long time. Parents have become grandparents, children have grown up, and many of the faces once captured by photographs at the event have since become cherished memories.

The exhibition opening in Josiaskoog has become a traditional cultural event and has the character of a family gathering. Many guests and friends make an extra weekend trip to the island, and a number of holiday plans are arranged to coincide with the date of the show.

This year, on July 26th, the Piarango Duo, comprised of the Argentinian José Cibils and the Irish native Patricio Zeoli, will be performing (this time a less classical programme), as well as Antje Rietz and her brother Henning Rietz. All those who are interested are cordially invited. Let us hope that the sun will be shining!

The author: Inge Härdtl, published in 2008 in 'Inselmagazin'