

## B-Sides Festival 2017 creates space for potential

In a co-operation with Südpol Luzern the B-Sides Festival 2017 is accompanying the project «*The Art of a Culture of Hope*». In doing so the organizers are taking a stand and set a positive example in geopolitically difficult times – and therefore want to create a space for potential.

2017 the B-Sides is dedicating itself to a bigger overarching theme. In a collaboration with Südpol Luzern, B-Sides is accompanying «*The Art of a Culture of Hope*», a project by Jessica Huber and James Leadbitter. Starting at the beginning of January with different events at Südpol Luzern and finishing in June at the festival.

The core-team of the long-term process based project «*The Art of a Culture of Hope*» is based on Zürich based performance artist Jessica Huber and the British performer James Leadbitter aka J&J – in close collaboration with the architects.

On 20 January 2017, the first public event in Lucerne will take place at Südpol with «*Tender Provocations of Hope and Fear*». It is an evening in which performances, lectures and project presentations are gathered to experience fear and hope. The format is constantly being further developed in cooperation with different thinkers, artists and activists and shown in different (personal) constellations at different venues.

In addition, so-called «*Space for Hope*» workshops will take place in the first half of the year. A dialogue on fear and hope will be held with artists and different groups of the population. In Lucerne, J&J will discuss the issue with various groups such as local associations, civil society forums and school classes. Up until the festival in June, further actions of the grouping are planned.

The resulting material is collected in an «*Archive of Hope & Fear*». From this the artists want to formulate an article to establish and secure a "culture of hope" for Switzerland. This article could be included in the Swiss constitution by means of an initiative.

«*The Art of a Culture of Hope*» will also be present at the B-Sides Festival 2017. The team aims to generate an atmosphere that motivates the visitors to participate within the discourse. Under the artistic direction of Gabriela Rutz and in collaboration with the b-sides decoration team the compound will be visually and contextually “covered/bathed” in // or tuned on Hope & Fear. The music programme and the kitchen of the festival are also adapting to/tuning into the theme. A live-performance on stage will represent the project at Sonnenberg.