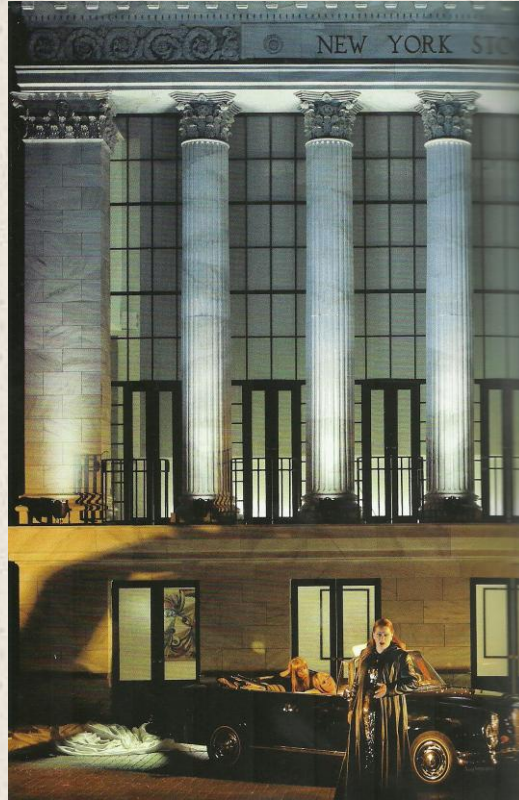


“PLAYING POSTMODERN IDENTITY”

Frank Castorf’s *Ring* in Bayreuth and the Idea of Cultural Identity

Dr ELISABETH BÖHM

(Weserburg | Museum for contemporary art)



Venue Bldg. 37 | Wednesday December 7, 2016 (5:30 pm)

This lecture focusses on the reflection of cultural identity in Frank Castorf's production of "*Der Ring des Nibelungen*" for *Bayreuther Wagner Festspiele*, while supporting the conceptual and performative analytics with demonstrations from the performances. Even though Castorf is one of the established postmodern directors his *Bayreuth* production caused uproar amongst Wagnerians, and is still being harshly booed after its fourth year running at the festival. The lecture examines the reasons behind this and shows how Castorf's performative aesthetics challenges traditional ideas of (German) cultural identity by connecting an old Nordic myth and its 19th century adaptation with the history of oil and contemporary ideas of art and living.