



15 Documenta Artists with Staying Power

ARTSY EDITORIAL
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In his keynote remarks to open documenta 14, curator of public programs Paul B. Preciado noted that those about to take on the 35-venue, over 160-artist show should “not be in search of something new.” That’s somewhat surprising given that most of the artists included have never before shown on an international scale. More accurate might be to say that documenta 14 offers little that’s novel other than, perhaps, in its curatorial framework—no new art form, no new technology, and, for the most part, no new blood for collectors at Art Basel in Basel next week.

MULTIPLE LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT KASSEL

Pope.L



Pope.L, *Whispering Campaign*, 2016–17, on view at documenta 14, 2017. Photo by Benjamin Westoby for Artsy.

Walk through Kassel for long enough (which you certainly will if you come to to this sprawling exhibition) and you'll find yourself spinning around at least once looking for the source of a disembodied voice. It's most likely not a monster from the Kassel-born Brothers Grimm haunting the city, but instead a work by Whitney Biennial and now documenta favorite Pope.L.

The artist has installed dozens of hidden speakers throughout Kassel and Athens, some of them attached to moving cars. They whisper thousands of narratives about the two cities—some of which are more directly connected to the political climate between the E.U. and Greece than others.

Pope.L's text-based works from the early 2000s are also shown in the documenta Halle, providing a fuller picture of the scope of this artist's practice. *Whispering Campaign* (2016–17) finds him exploring an ingenious method, putting paper aside and using the city as his medium.