German Stroke Foundation and Bertelsmann Organize Charity Art Auction

- Works by Horst Antes, Stephan Balkenhol, Christopher Lehmpfuhl, Heinz Mack, Otto Piene, Fabrizio Plessi, Peter Schubert and Günther Uecker to be sold at auction
- Proceeds to go to aid stroke patients

Gütersloh/Berlin, March 19, 2014 – Bertelsmann and the German Stroke Foundation are jointly organizing an art auction to benefit stroke patients. On the initiative of the international media group, the renowned artists Horst Antes, Stephan Balkenhol, Christopher Lehmpfuhl, Heinz Mack, Otto Piene, Fabrizio Plessis, Peter Schubert and Günther Uecker were each given a one-meter-high wooden star to paint and modify as they chose. The resulting eight unique works of art will be auctioned to interested friends of the arts on 28 March, with all proceeds of the auction going to the German Stroke Foundation.

Liz Mohn, President of the German Stroke Foundation, says: “For people who suffer a stroke, the basics of daily life such as speaking, walking, or just taking someone’s hand become exhausting challenges. For more than 20 years, the German Stroke Foundation has been committed to helping people affected by stroke. I am therefore absolutely delighted that so many internationally renowned artists have committed to supporting our work.”

The art auction will take place at Bertelsmann Unter den Linden 1 in Berlin, and will be presented by Villa Grisebach auctioneers. The premium brand Sieger also provided support with the project conception and with contacts in the art world. This is by no means the first collaboration between Bertelsmann and the German Stroke Foundation: this year on 31 May, the eleventh Rosenball (Ball of Roses) will be held, a big charity gala that the media group has hosted for years to benefit the German Stroke Foundation.

A special publication (in German) featuring all the works of art was produced to accompany the auction. It can be downloaded from the German Stroke Foundation homepage (www.schlaganfall-hilfe.de).
About the German Stroke Foundation
Since being founded by Liz Mohn in 1993, the German Stroke Foundation has worked to prevent strokes and counter the often-severe consequences of the disease. Apart from promoting prevention, the Foundation provides information and consultation to stroke patients and their relatives. All across Germany, there are more than 250 stroke specialty stations (stroke units) that have been certified by the Foundation and the German Stroke Society. To date, more than 470 self-help groups have been formed under the umbrella of the German Stroke Foundation. Its work is supported by over 190 regional representatives and currently 28 regional partner offices throughout Germany.

About Bertelsmann
Bertelsmann is an international media company whose core divisions encompass television (RTL Group), book publishing (Penguin Random House), magazine publishing (Gruner + Jahr), services (Arvato), and printing (Be Printers) in some 50 countries. In 2012, the company’s businesses, with their more than 100,000 employees, generated revenues of €16.1 billion. Bertelsmann stands for a combination of creativity and entrepreneurship that empowers the creation of first-rate media, communications, and service offerings to inspire people around the world and to provide innovative solutions for customers.

For further questions, please contact:

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