

# Press Release

## Berlin, April 20, 2021

### KW Institute for Contemporary Art announces its 30th anniversary program

KUNST-WERKE BERLIN e. V., the support association of the **KW Institute for Contemporary Art** and the **Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art**, celebrates its 30-year anniversary in 2021.

To mark its anniversary, KW Institute for Contemporary Art will present a range of exhibitions featuring artists **Renée Green**, **Leonilson**, **Michael Stevenson**, and **Amelie von Wulffen**, group exhibitions co-curated by artists **Iman Issa** and **Ghislaine Leung**, and a new performance piece by **Michele Rizzo** as well as a program of commissions, an art auction, and a celebratory weekend in its courtyard and neighborhood.



Courtyard of Kunst-Werke Berlin, 1991; Photo: Uwe Walter

### The anniversary program

From January 15 onwards, KW unveils a series of new commissions, featuring **Susan Philipsz's** sound installation in KW's courtyard in homage of political activist Rosa Luxemburg on the anniversary of her execution, which was created during Philipsz's residency at KW in 2002. The re-installation of **Katharina Sieverding's** monumental print *Deutschland wird deutscher* (1993) is to be displayed in the entranceway of KW as well as on billboards across Berlin in from April 27 until May 6, 2021. Furthermore, artist **Sissel Tolaas** will create a limited edition of soap carefully composed from particles she collected at the KW building, a former margarine factory.

Complementing this anniversary program, KW Friends e.V., the sponsoring association of KW and the Berlin Biennale, will organize a major two-part **art auction**, in collaboration with renowned Berlin-based fine art auction house **Grisebach**. Taking place on June 11 and December 3, 2021, works of over 60 artists will be featured who have significantly shaped the history of KW and the Berlin Biennale. The annual program's key event will be a **weekend-long celebration** on September 17 – 19, 2021, featuring an extensive program of events, performances, and the launch of the first **publication** retracing the history of KUNST-WERKE BERLIN e.V..

The full 30-year anniversary program can be found [here](#).

### **The history of the KUNST-WERKE BERLIN e. V.**

Founded on July 1, 1991 by Klaus Biesenbach, Alexandra Binswanger, Philipp von Doering, Clemens Homburger, and Alfonso Rutigliano, KUNST-WERKE BERLIN e. V. put down roots in a derelict former margarine factory located on Auguststraße 69 in the Berlin-Mitte district. Through pivotal exhibitions, starting with the project *37 Räume* (1992), artistic director **Klaus Biesenbach** positioned the KW Institute of Contemporary Art internationally. In 1996 a group around him founded the now internationally renowned Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art, which first took place in 1998. In 2002, **Gabriele Horn** took over the directorship of the Berlin Biennale and from 2004 acted as the director of KW and the Berlin Biennale, which since have a joint support association. While Gabriele Horn remained director of the Berlin Biennale, **Krist Gruijthuijsen** succeeded her as new director of KW Institute for Contemporary Art in July 2016.

In its thirty years, KUNST-WERKE BERLIN e. V. has considerably shaped the development of contemporary art by critically examining current tendencies and discourses within society. Exhibitions, commissions, and multidisciplinary events, which feature distinctive collaborations with artists and institutions continue to underline and refine current focal points as part of a national and international discourse in arts and culture.

KW's national and international significance continuously grows, cemented by thematic shows as *tekkno turns to sound of poetry* (1995); *Stand der Dinge* (2000); *Territories* (2003); *Zur Vorstellung des Terrors: Die RAF-Ausstellung* (2005); *Into Me / Out of Me* (2006); *One on One* (2012/13); *Fire and Forget. On Violence* (2015); and *The Making of Husbands: Christina Ramberg in Dialogue* (2019/2020).

Many outstanding artists have presented significant solo exhibitions at KW, amongst which Absalon, Kader Attia, Kate Cooper, Keren Cytter, Anna Daučíková, Ceal Floyer, Cyprien Gaillard, Beatriz González, Douglas Gordon, Judith Hopf, Channa Horwitz, Carsten Höller, Lynn Hershman Leeson, Hanne Lippard, Renata Lucas, Hiwa K, Annette Kelm, Adam Pendleton, Mika Rottenberg, Christoph Schlingensief, Hassan Sharif, Anri Sala, Wael Shawky, Santiago Sierra, Ryan Trecartin and Lizzie Fitch, and Ian Wilson.

Over the years, the program of KW has been developed together with decisive curatorial voices, amongst others Anselm Franke, Susanne Pfeffer, Ellen Blumenstein, and Anna Gritz.

You can also visit the anniversary's dedicated website [here](#) and learn more about the history of KW and the Berlin Biennale.

#### **Press Contact**

Natanja v. Stosch  
Tel. +49 30 243459 41  
press@kw-berlin.de

#### **KW Institute for Contemporary Art**

Auguststraße 69  
10117 Berlin  
www.kw-berlin.de

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The 30 Years of KW art auction takes place in cooperation with Grisebach GmbH. *KW, A History* will be published by DISTANZ and is generously supported by Volkswagen AG and KW Freunde. KW's celebratory weekend is generously supported by Olafur Eliasson and Julia Stoschek.

The exhibitions and projects in the 2021 program take place in collaboration with and/or are supported by:



Titles and exhibition dates are subject to change.

In the interest of everyone's safety, we kindly ask you to inform yourselves about the current COVID-19 hygiene measures and precautions when visiting our exhibitions and events.

As of: April 20, 2021