

## Susanne Gaensheimer to remain Director of the Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen

**The State of North Rhine-Westphalia and the Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen announce that the contract of Susanne Gaensheimer has been extended for a further seven years until August 31, 2031. The Board of Trustees of the Kunstsammlung and the State Cabinet have approved the extension.**

“Susanne Gaensheimer is one of the outstanding museum directors in Germany and enjoys an international reputation. Under her direction, the two venues K20 and K21 have become open to pioneering international voices. Her exhibition projects on, among others, Carmen Herrera, Ai Weiwei, Pablo Picasso, Hito Steyerl, Lynette Yiadom-Boakye, and Gerhard Richter, as well as the exhibition on Edvard Munch curated by Karl Ove Knausgård, have all met with great public acclaim. With the newly conceived collection presentations in both K20 and K21, which also include targeted acquisitions of both non-Western modernist positions and important women artists of the twentieth century, she has enabled new perspectives on the collection. I am very pleased that we have succeeded in convincing Susanne Gaensheimer to continue her work in Düsseldorf,” states NRW Minister of Culture Isabel Pfeiffer-Poensgen.

K21

“My goal is to think the Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen forward in terms of polyphony, digitalization, and sustainability, and ultimately to reflect on the changes in the public and the associated role of the museum as an institution and to open it up even further,” explains Susanne Gaensheimer, who was appointed director of the Kunstsammlung NRW in 2017, about her future as head of the state art collection.

**Susanne Gaensheimer** is an art historian, curator, and museum director. She has been Director of the Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen in Düsseldorf since September 1, 2017. For K20 and K21, she has thus far realized exhibitions dedicated to Carmen Herrera, Maria Hassabi, the Raqs Media Collective, Ai Weiwei, Banu Cennetoğlu, Edvard Munch, Pablo Picasso, Thomas Ruff, Hito Steyerl, Isa Genzken, Lynette Yiadom-Boakye, Gerhard Richter, Lygia Pape, and The Walther Collection.

She was previously Director of the Westfälischer Kunstverein, Münster (1999–2001) and Curator and Head of the Collection of Modern and Contemporary Art at the Lenbachhaus,

Munich (2002–2008). From 2009 to 2017, she was Director of the MMK – Museum für Moderne Kunst in Frankfurt am Main, where she curated exhibitions on the work of Franz West, Hélio Oiticica (2013), Isa Genzken (2014), and Kader Attia (2016), among others.

In 2014, she was responsible for the founding of MMK 2, a branch of the MMK. In 2011 and 2013, she curated the German Pavilion at the 54<sup>th</sup> and 55<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale, where she presented Christoph Schlingensief (2011, Golden Lion) and Ai Weiwei, Romuald Karmakar, Santu Mofokeng, and Dayanita Singh (2013). Susanne Gaensheimer teaches at the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University in Frankfurt am Main, where she has been an honorary professor since 2016. She is the editor and author of numerous publications and exhibition catalogues.

**The Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen**—the art collection of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia in Düsseldorf—is an internationally renowned museum for modern, postwar, and contemporary art. At its two venues, K20 and K21, it presents a diverse, critical, and thought-provoking exhibition program that engages urban society in a sustained dialog. K20 on Grabbeplatz features key works from the modernist and postwar collection in dialog with recently acquired works by Etel Adnan, Hassan El-Telmisani, Carmen Herrera, and Lygia Pape. K21 in the Ständehaus is dedicated to current developments in the field of contemporary art and presents installations, video works, and multidisciplinary approaches by, among others, Ei Arakawa, Cao Fei, Hito Steyerl, Tomás Saraceno, and Ai Weiwei.