

K21 Global Art Award

Announcement and Exhibition opening: 6.30 pm, April 20, 2023

The Friends of K20 K21 announce the K21 Global Art Award: a new annual art award donated to K21

The annual **K21 Global Art Award** celebrates the vision and courage of emerging and mid career artists. It will be offered to internationally recognized artists, aged 45 and under. The award highlights the museum's **acquisition policy** to further enrich the K21 collection with significant international voices.

The **K21 Global Art Award** has a jury of five renowned museum directors and curators from across the world. The 2022/23 jury consists of **Doryun Chong** (M+, Hong Kong); **Koyo Kouoh** (Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa, Capetown); **Omar Kholeif** (Sharjah Art Foundation, Government of Sharjah, UAE); **Oluremi C. Onabanjo**, The Museum of Modern Art, New York) and Jochen Volz (Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo).

K21

Each Jury Member has been invited to nominate two artists working in all media ranging from painting, serial works on paper, video works to fully immersive installations. This list of ten artists will then be submitted to the **Friends of K20 K21 Selection Committee**, who in turn selects the winning artist.

The Friends of K20 K21 will acquire works of art by the selected artist for a high five-digit amount. This year, works worth 70,000 euros were acquired. This work of art will then be given on permanent loan to the collection of K20 K21. The Award 2023 will be presented at K21 from April 21, 2023 for the period of one year.

Prof. Dr. Susanne Gaensheimer, Director of K20 K21: "Our K21 Global Art Award marks a vital step forwards to a more inclusive approach to our collection policy, and in turn also a more inclusive, open and all-embracing idea of what cultural heritage is within Düsseldorf, Germany and further afield. I feel that with this new award we at K21 are leading the way in making our museum more inviting to people and communities who in previous years may have felt less welcome. For this I wish to thank the Friends of K20 K21 and our magnificent international Jury: without them, this new direction for the museum would never have been possible."

Leopold Freiherr von Diergardt, member of the board of the Friends of K20 K21: "For decades our mission has been to support the Kunstsammlung (K20 K21) by bringing the world's most relevant and interesting artworks from across the world to Düsseldorf. With the installation of our K21 Global Art Award, we are in line with the museum's strategy of

“Rethinking the Museum”, developing the collection with the criteria of dialogue, equality and globality. Integrating curators worldwide we are able to identify positions of artists under 45 within the scope of world changes, including non-Western positions and pioneering women artists.

The importance of our role has only increased in recent years and we welcome the interest of people and companies who wish to find mutual joy and satisfaction in joining the friends of K20 K21 and showing their friendship and support for our museum.”

The inaugural recipient of the K21 Global Art Award will be announced on April 20 2023.

Editors' Notes

The Freunde der Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen e.V. (Friends of K20 K21)

Established in 1969, the mission of the Friends of K20 K21 is to provide support to the Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen (K20 K21) and in particular to facilitate the expansion of the permanent collection. Following the advice of the director of the museum, the Friends finance the acquisition of selected artworks on behalf of the museum. While artworks by the Friends remain in their collection they are on permanent loan to the museum without restrictions. Thanks to the community of Friends, significant works by for example Park Seo-Bo, Max Ernst, Isa Genzken, Candida Höfer, Ellsworth Kelly, Alice Neel, Cy Twombly, Ai Weiwei and many more have entered the state collection in recent decades and will continue likewise in the future.

The 2022/23 Selection Committee Members for the K21 Global Art Award are Prof. Dr. Susanne Gaensheimer, Director K20 K21; Robert Rademacher, chairman of the Friends of K20 K21; Leopold Freiherr von Diergardt, board member of the friends, Anna-Alexandra Pfau, advisory board member and Gabriel Sulkowski, board member of the Friends. Important support is given to the Committee Members by Dr. Vivien Trommer, Head of Collections of the Kunstsammlung. Particular financial support for the K21 Global Art Award has come from Reydan Weiss of the Reydan + Roger Weiss Stiftung.

The establishment of the K21 Global Art Award is but one example of the creative and sustained approach of the Friends of the Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen in supporting the endeavours of the Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen.

To see all acquisitions by the Friends of the Kunstsammlung NRW please see [here](#).

K20 K21 Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen Düsseldorf

The K20 K21 Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen – 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 multifaceted and dynamic program of large scale exhibitions that engages the urban community in a sustained dialogue. As a nonprofit institution founded in 1961 and supported by the state, it aims to preserve, research and promote works from the collection while continuously expanding the museum's collection

through new acquisitions. Located on Grabbeplatz, K20 showcases key works from its outstanding modern and postwar collection in dialogue with recently acquired artworks by Western and non-Western artists, among others Etel Adnan, Hassan El-Telmisani, Carmen Herrera and Lygia Pape.

K21 is dedicated to current developments in contemporary art and features paintings, drawings, immersive installations, video works and multi-disciplinary approaches by renowned contemporary artists from all regions, including Ed Atkins, Lutz Bacher, Cao Fei, Hito Steyerl, Raqs Media Collective and Ai Weiwei. Beyond presenting its collection and staging groundbreaking international exhibitions, the museum engages in critical debates with diverse communities and is eager to broaden the understanding of art and culture.

For several years now, K20 K21 has been undergoing a process of opening up. A central aim of the museum is not only to honour the heritage of its existing collection but also to continue to think about the museum (and collection) within the scope of world changes, further developing the K21 collection with the criteria of polyphony, globality and digitalisation.

Through targeted acquisitions, the collection has expanded since 2017 to include positions of the 20th and 21st centuries as well as pioneering women artists of the modern and contemporary periods. Between 2017 and 2022, 78 works and groups of works by women artists were acquired (including Etel Adnan, Simone Fattal, Cao Fei, Isa Genzken, Carmen Herrera, Zanele Muholi, Henrike Naumann, Lygia Pape, Anne Truitt). During the same period, 54 works by non-Western artists (including Kader Attia, Noa Eshkol, Raqs Media Collective, Dayanita Singh, Ai Weiwei, Akram Zaatari) entered the public collection. The exhibition and education program has programmatically opened up to significant international voices from different regions of the world and expanded the canon of art history.

K21 Global Art Award Jury biographies

Doryun Chong

Doryun Chong is Deputy Director and Curatorial and Chief Curator of M+, a new museum of visual culture that opened its Herzog & de Meuron–designed building in 2021 in Hong Kong's West Kowloon Cultural District. Appointed as the inaugural Chief Curator in 2013, Chong oversees all curatorial activities and programs, including acquisitions, exhibitions, learning and public programs, and digital initiatives encompassing the museum's three main disciplinary areas of design and architecture, moving image, and visual art. Some of the exhibitions he has curated or co-curated at M+ include Mobile M+: Live Art (2015), Tsang Kin-Wah: The Infinite Nothing, Hong Kong in Venice (2015), Samson Young: Songs for Disaster Relief World Tour (2018), Noguchi for Danh Vo: Counterpoint (2018), and Yayoi Kusama: 1945 to Now (2022). Prior to joining M+, Chong worked in various curatorial capacities at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis (2003–2009) and The Museum of Modern Art, New York (2009–2013).

Koyo Kouoh

Appointed the executive director and chief curator at Zeitz MOCAA in Cape Town in March 2019, the Cameroonian-born Koyo Kouoh has already made a significant impression,

launching an ambitious program of symposia, and summits and special commissions as well as programming *When We See Us: A Century of Black Figuration in Painting*, an exhibition, publication, and discursive programming that explores Black self-representation and celebrates global Black subjectivities and Black consciousness from pan-African and pan-diasporic perspectives, overseeing a first survey by Nigerian-born Otobong Nkanga in South Africa, and working on the first retrospective of Tracey Rose. Previously, Kouoh was the artistic director of RAW Material Company, an exhibition space, artists' residency, and center for critical education in Dakar that was founded by her in 2008. As an independent curator, Kouoh has organized exhibitions internationally, including *Body Talk: Feminism, Sexuality and the Body in the Work of Six African Women Artists*, a touring group show, including Tracey Rose, which debuted at Wiels, Brussels in 2015; the 37th edition of *EVA International* in Limerick in 2016; and *Dig Where You Stand*, an exploration of colonial histories as represented through objects from the collections of the Carnegie museums in Pittsburgh in 2018. Kouoh also served on the curatorial teams for the 8th Triennial of Photography Hamburg (2022), *documenta 12* and *13* (2007/12) and has written and published critical works, including the upcoming *Breathing Out of School: The RAW Académie* and *Condition Report on Art History in Africa*, co-edited with Ugochukwu-Smooth C. Nzewi et al.

Omar Kholeif

CF FRSA aka the avatar of Dr. O (among others) is an author of prose and poetry, a historian of the academy and its peripheries and a curator of vanquished and suppressed archives. They have worked as a broadcaster, filmmaker, editor, publisher, and museum director. Over the last two decades, their work has concentrated on the evolving nature of networked image culture in relation to intersectional questions emerging in the field and study of ethnicity, race and gender. Their lines of inquiry have come to life in over 60 exhibitions, and in 40 authored, co-authored, and/or edited books, which have been translated into 12 languages. Dr. Kholeif was co-curator of *Sharjah-Biennial 14: Leaving the Echo Chamber* and currently serves as Director of Collections and Senior Curator, Sharjah Art Foundation, UAE. Their much-anticipated monograph, *Internet_Art: From the Birth of the Web to the Rise of NFTs* is published by Phaidon in early 2023 and available for pre-order at: www.phaidon.com/internetart. www.omarkholeif.com.

Oluremi C. Onabanjo

Oluremi C. Onabanjo is a curator and scholar of photography and the Arts of Africa. She works at The Museum of Modern Art, New York, as an Associate Curator in the Department of Photography, where she has curated the exhibition *Projects: Ming Smith*, serves as co-chair of the Early Modern Working Group, and is the 2022 Cisneros Institute Curatorial Research Fellow. The former Director of Exhibitions and Collections for The Walther Collection, Onabanjo has organized exhibitions across Africa, Europe, and North America. She was a member of the curatorial team for the 8th Triennial of Photography Hamburg (2022), and is editor of *Marilyn Nance: Last Day in Lagos*, shortlisted for the 2022 Paris Photo Aperture Photobook Award, and author of *Ming Smith: Invisible Man, Somewhere, Everywhere*. She lectures internationally on photography and curatorial practice, and her writing appears in *Aperture*, *The New Yorker*, *The PhotoBook Review*, *Tate Etc.*, as well as publications by The Art Institute of Chicago, The Museum of Modern Art, RISD Museum, and The Studio Museum in Harlem, amongst others.

Jochen Volz

Jochen Volz is the General Director of Pinacoteca de São Paulo. He was the curator of the Brazilian Pavilion at the 57th Biennale di Venezia (2017) and was the chief curator of the 32nd Bienal de São Paulo (2016). Between 2012 and 2015 he was Head of Programmes at the Serpentine Galleries in London. Prior, he was a curator at the Instituto Inhotim, Minas Gerais, since 2004, where he has served as General Director between 2005 and 2007 and Artistic Director between 2007 and 2012. In 2009, he organized Fare Mondi / Making Worlds, the international section of the 53rd International Venice Biennale together with Daniel Birnbaum. In 2006, he guest curated for the 27th São Paulo Biennial. Between 2001 and 2004, he was curator of Portikus Frankfurt am Main. As a critic he is writing for magazines and catalogues.

For further information please contact Rhiannon Pickles: rhiannon@picklespr.com or 0031 6158 21202

Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Susanne Fernandes-Silva, Head of Press:

fernandes-silva@kunstsammlung.de, +49 (0)211 8381-730

Grabbeplatz 5

40213 Düsseldorf

K21

Friends of K20 K21 Jutta Müller: jmueller@kunstsammlung.de; +49 (0)211 32 22 30

Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen

Ständehausstraße 1

40217 Düsseldorf