

BERLIN BIENNALE

PRESS INFORMATION

Gabi Ngcobo appointed as curator of the 10th Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art

Berlin, November 24, 2016

The Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art, which has been funded since its fourth edition by the Kulturstiftung des Bundes (German Federal Cultural Foundation) as an “outstanding cultural event,” is delighted to announce Gabi Ngcobo as the curator of the upcoming 10th Berlin Biennale.

Since the early 2000s Gabi Ngcobo has been engaged in collaborative artistic, curatorial, and educational projects in South Africa and on an international scope. She is a founding member of the Johannesburg based collaborative platforms NGO – Nothing Gets Organised and Center for Historical Reenactments (CHR, 2010–14). NGO focusses on processes of self-organization that take place outside of predetermined structures, definitions, contexts, or forms. The CHR responded to the demands of the moment through an exploration of how historical legacies impact and resonate within contemporary art.

Recently Ngcobo co-curated the 32nd Bienal de São Paulo, currently taking place at the Ciccillo Matarazzo Pavilion in São Paulo, BR, and *A Labour of Love*, 2015, at Weltkulturen Museum, Frankfurt am Main, DE. She has worked at the Iziko South African National Gallery in Cape Town, ZA, and at the Cape Africa Platform where she co-curated the Cape07 Biennale, 2007, Cape Town, ZA. In the past she has collaborated with various institutions including Centro Atlantico de Arte Moderno (CAAM), Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, ES; Durban Art Gallery, ZA; Joburg Art Fair, Johannesburg, ZA; Johannesburg Workshop in Theory and Criticism (JWTC), Johannesburg, ZA; LUMA/Westbau, *Pool*, Zurich, CH; New Museum, *Museum as Hub*, New York, US; and Raw Material Company, Dakar, SN, amongst others. She has been teaching at the Wits School of Arts, University of Witwatersrand, ZA since 2011. Her writings have been published in various catalogues, books, and journals. She currently lives and works in Johannesburg, ZA, and São Paulo, BR, and will move to Berlin for the preparations of the 10th Berlin Biennale.

Gabi Ngcobo already shares connections with the Berlin Biennale: In 2008 she participated in the second edition of the Young Curators Workshop *Eyes Wide Open* on occasion of the 5th Berlin Biennale, and in 2014 the Center for Historical Reenactments presented its project *Digging Our Own Graves 101* as part of the 8th Berlin Biennale.

With the selection of Gabi Ngcobo, the Berlin Biennale continues its mission of serving as an experimental platform for exploring and expanding the format of the exhibition and a curatorial agenda as well as for examining current global discourses and developments in relation to Berlin as a local point of reference.

Past Berlin Biennale curators:

- 1st Berlin Biennale (1998): Klaus Biesenbach with Nancy Spector and Hans Ulrich Obrist
- 2nd Berlin Biennale (2001): Saskia Bos
- 3rd Berlin Biennale (2004): Ute Meta Bauer
- 4th Berlin Biennale (2006): Maurizio Cattelan, Massimiliano Gioni, and Ali Subotnick
- 5th Berlin Biennale (2008): Adam Szymczyk and Elena Filipovic
- 6th Berlin Biennale (2010): Kathrin Rhomberg

7th Berlin Biennale (2012): Artur Żmijewski together with associate curators Voina and Joanna Warsza
8th Berlin Biennale (2014): Juan A. Gaitán
9th Berlin Biennale (2016): DIS (Lauren Boyle, Solomon Chase, Marco Roso, David Toro)

The selection committee for the curatorship of the 10th Berlin Biennale consisted of Krist Gruijthuisen, KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin, DE; Vasif Kortun, SALT, Istanbul/Ankara, TR; Victoria Noorthoorn, Museo de Arte Moderno de Buenos Aires, AR; Willem de Rooij, Frankfurt/Berlin, DE; Polly Staple, Chisenhale Gallery, London, GB; and Philip Tinari, Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, CN.

In order to respond appropriately to its continuous growth and professionalization, the Berlin Biennale has been restructured in parallel with its 20-year anniversary. Up until this point Gabriele Horn was both the director of the Berlin Biennale and KW Institute for Contemporary Art. As of July this year the two institutions are now operating as separate business units under the umbrella of the KUNST-WERKE BERLIN e. V. This enables Gabriele Horn—now director solely of the Berlin Biennale—and her team to further strengthen the institution and make it sustainable and ready for the future while focusing on preparations for the upcoming edition and its accompanying events.

The 10th Berlin Biennale will take place in summer 2018.

The Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art is organized by KUNST-WERKE BERLIN e. V. and funded by the Kulturstiftung des Bundes (German Federal Cultural Foundation).

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