

## Press release

20.07.2022

### New members of the Akademie der Künste

The Akademie der Künste has taken in 12 new members. The elections took place at the 58th General Assembly (20 – 21 May 2022) in Berlin. All newly elected members have since accepted their election. Nikolaus Brass, Clara Iannotta and Liza Lim have been elected to the **Music Section**. The **Film and Media Arts Section** has admitted Ruth Beckermann, Sergei Loznitsa, Heidi Specogna, Maria Speth and Dunja Arnaszus. New to the **Literature Section** are Aris Fioretos, Jon Fosse, Dagmara Kraus and Wolfram Lotz.

The **Architecture**, the **Visual Arts** and the **Performing Arts Sections** did not submit any nominations for election in the plenary session. The Akademie der Künste currently has 418 members in its six art sections.

### Brief biographies of the new members

#### **Dunja Arnaszus**, audio playwright

Born in Göttingen in 1970, she lives in Hamburg and began her career as a circus and performance artist and as a dramaturge at the Volksbühne in Berlin. There, as the director, she was also responsible for the monthly "Hörbühne" series. Her output ranges from ultra-short audio plays such as the *Wurfsendungen* to series, children's audio plays and satire. For her first audio plays *Nebeneinander Gehen* (2006), *Zeppelini* (2008) and *Die Nächsten Besten – ein familiäres Phantasma* (2009) she served as the author; since 2011 she has also regularly directed plays, e.g. *Wir fallen nicht* (2013) and *Tabula rasa* (2021). She has been nominated several times for the Hörspielpreis der Kriegsblinden (audio play prize of the blind).

#### **Ruth Beckermann**, director and author

Born in Vienna in 1952, she studied journalism, art history and photography. Her interest turned towards film in 1977 with a documentary on an area occupied by squatters in Vienna, followed by the founding of the distribution company "Filmladen". Beckermann teaches at several universities. Alongside this, she works as an editor for various magazines. In her documentaries *The Paper Bridge* (1987), *Towards Jerusalem* (1990) and *Zorro's Bar Mitzva* (2006), the director turns to the theme of Jewish identity, a recurring theme in her oeuvre. Some of her films have sparked heated discussions, such as *East of War* (1996) about soldiers of the Wehrmacht and *The Waldheim Waltz* (2018) about the former UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim and his cover-ups. The film *The Dreamed Ones* (2016), based on the correspondence between Ingeborg Bachmann and Paul

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Celan was her first film that combines documentary and fiction. She has received numerous international awards.

**Nikolaus Brass**, composer

Born in Lindau on Lake Constance in 1949, where he also lives. Studied medicine in Munich, Glasgow and Berlin while concurrently studying music composition in Munich, Berlin and Hanover. Many years of working as the editor at a publishing house specialising in medicine and science. He has published compositions and performed at national and international New Music festivals since the 1980s. In addition to compositional work, he has published numerous articles in journals and essays for the Bayerischer Rundfunk. He has been a member of the Bavarian Akademie der Schönen Künste since 2014, director of its music department since 2021 and a member of the Sudeten German Academy of Sciences and Arts since 2018. He has been a member of the Board of Trustees of the Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation since 2019. Works (selection): *Sommertag* (2014), *Die Vorübergehenden* (2018), *heliotrop – music for bass clarinet and six voices* (2022).

**Aris Fioretos**, author, translator

Born in Gothenburg in 1960, he grew up in Sweden and studied in Stockholm, Paris and at Yale University (USA). In 1991 he received his PhD in comparative literature, followed by his post-doctoral lecturing qualification in 2001. From 2004 to 2007 he was Counsellor for Cultural Affairs at the Swedish Embassy in Berlin. Since 2010 he has been professor of aesthetics at Södertörn University, Stockholm. Works translated into German (selection): *Die Seelensucherin* (2000), *Die Wahrheit über Sascha Knisch* (2003), *Das Mass eines Fusses* (2008), *Der letzte Grieche* (2011), *Die halbe Sonne* (2013), *Mary* (2016), *Nelly B.s Herz* (2020). Awards (selection): Kellgren Prize of the Swedish Academy (2011), Grand Prize of Samfundet De Nio (2013), Jeanette Schocken Prize (2017), German Federal Cross of Merit (2020).

**Jon Fosse**, author, dramatist

Born in 1959 in the Norwegian coastal town of Haugesund, he has been a freelance writer since the early 1990s. In addition to novels and volumes of poetry, Fosse devotes himself primarily to theatre. His plays are performed worldwide. Works translated into German (selection): *Traum im Herbst und andere Stücke* (1999), *Melancholie*, novel (2001), *Morgen und Abend*, novel (2001), *Trilogie* (2016), *Der andere Name. Heptalogie I-II*, novel (2019), *Ich ist ein Anderer. Heptalogie III-V*, novel (2022). Awards (selection): Aschehoug Prize (1997), Nestroy Theatre Prize (2000), International Ibsen Award (2010), European Prize for Literature (2014), Willy Brandt Prize (2016), Prize of the City of Münster for International Poetry (2017).

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**Clara Iannotta**, composer

Born in Rome in 1983, she lives in Berlin. Studied flute and composition in Rome. Her music is commissioned and performed by celebrated ensembles, soloists and orchestras, including the Arditti Quartet, Quatuor Diotima, Ensemble intercontemporain, JACK Quartet, Klangforum Wien, Neue Vocalsolisten, Munich Chamber Orchestra, Nickel and the orchestras of ORF, SWR and WDR. Since 2014 she has been artistic director of the Bludenzener Tage zeitgemäßer Musik, and since 2022 artistic co-director of the Klangspuren festival. Scholarships and prizes (selection): scholarship holder of the DAAD Artists-in-Berlin Program (2013), Villa Medici (Académie de France à Rome) (2018 – 2019), Ernst von Siemens Music Prize for Composers (2018). Her portrait albums *A Failed Entertainment*, *Earthing* and *Moult* were all awarded a place on the German Record Critics' Best List.

**Dagmara Kraus**, poet, translator

Born in Wrocław (Poland) in 1981. Studied comparative literature and art history in Leipzig, Berlin and Paris and literary writing at the German Institute for Literature in Leipzig. In 2019 she obtained her PhD at the Friedrich Schlegel Graduate School of Literary Studies with a comparative thesis on the “poetics of the leap”. She has been junior professor at the Literaturinstitut Hildesheim since June 2021. She has been publishing poems in journals and anthologies since 2008. Publications (selection): *kummerang*, poems (2012), *Aby Ohrkranf's Hunch poem* (2018), *liedvoll, deutschyzno*, poems (2020). Awards (selection): Erlanger Literaturpreis für Poesie als Übersetzung (2017), Kassel Literary Prize for Comic Literature (2018), Basler Lyrikpreis (2020), Ehrengabe der Deutschen Schillerstiftung (2021), Lyrikpreis Meran (2021).

**Liza Lim**, composer

Born in Australia in 1966 and lives in Melbourne. Important composition teachers on her career path have been Richard David Hames, Riccardo Formosa and Brian Ferneyhough. She is a professor of composition at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. She has received commissions from some of the world's foremost orchestras and ensembles, including the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, Ensemble Musikfabrik, ELISION, Ensemble intercontemporain, Ensemble Modern, Klangforum Wien. Scholarships and prizes (selection): Composer-in-Residence with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra (2005 and 2006), Happy New Ears Prize of the Hans and Gertrud Zender Foundation (2021), Fellow at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin (2021 – 2022). Works (selection): *Machine for Contacting the Dead* (1999), *The Navigator* (2007 – 2008), *Atlas of the Sky* (2018), *Sex Magic* (2019 – 2020).

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**Wolfram Lotz**, dramatist, poet, audio playwright

Born in Hamburg in 1981, he grew up in the Black Forest. He studied literature, art and media studies in Konstanz and literary writing at the German Institute for Literature in Leipzig. Plays (selection): *Der grosse Marsch* (premiere 2011), *Einige Nachrichten an das All* (premiere 2011), *Die lächerliche Finsternis* (premiere 2014). Publications (selection): *Monologe* (2014), *Drei Stücke* (2016), *Die Politiker* (2019), *Heilige Schrift I* (2022). Awards (selection): Literaturpreis der Stadt Steyr (2005), Audience Prize of the Stückemarkt of the Berlin Theatertreffen (2010), Kleist Prize for Young Playwrights (2011), Literatur-Förderpreis der Stadt Konstanz (2011), Playwright Prize of the Kulturkreis der deutschen Wirtschaft im BDI e. V. (2012), Förderpreis Komische Literatur (2013), Nestroy Theatre Prize (2015).

**Sergei Loznitsa**, film director and author

Born in 1964 in the Belarusian SSR/Soviet Union. He has lived in Germany since 2001. Loznitsa grew up in Kiev, where he worked at the Institute of Cybernetics after studying mathematics. This was followed by studies in directing at the Moscow WGIK film academy. Initially, his documentaries focused on everyday life in the provinces and working conditions; an ironic tone still dominated. Eventually he turned to the major historical events of Russia and Ukraine. In films like *Blockade* (2005) and *Babi Yar. Context* (2021), he worked exclusively with archive material. In 2014, he documented the events on the Maidan in impressive image compositions. Since 2010 he has also turned to feature films (selection): *My Joy* (2010), *In the Fog* (2012) and *A Gentle Creature* (2017) deal critically with the moral state of Russian society. In his film *Donbass* (2018), he drew attention early on to the aggravated situation in this region.

**Heidi Specogna**, documentary film maker

Born in 1959 in Biel (Switzerland), she lives in Berlin. After training as a journalist, she worked for various media. In 1988 she completed her studies in directing at the German Film and Television Academy in Berlin, and since then she has been making documentaries that link political engagement with artistic narrative. She teaches at the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg in Ludwigsburg. Her work focuses mainly on the countries of Latin America. In *Tania la Guerrillera* (1991) she traces the fate of the revolutionary Tamara Bunke, and in *The Short Life of José Antonio Gutierrez* (2006) that of a Guatemalan emigrant who flees to the USA and is the first soldier to die in friendly fire during the Iraq war. *Pepe Mujica – Lessons from the Flowerbed* (2010-2015) is the long-term portrait of the former Uruguayan president. Her second focus is on the African continent. The films *The Goalgetter's Ship* (2010), *Carte Blanche* (2011) and *Cahier Africain* (2016) reveal the disastrous aftermath of colonialism as well as the tyrannies of the present. In 2019, she received the Konrad Wolf Prize of the Akademie der Künste.

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**Maria Speth**, film director and author

Born in Tittling in 1967. Before studying directing at the Babelsberg Academy of Film and Television, she worked as an assistant editor and director. She received numerous awards for her debut film *The Days Between* (2001). This was followed by the feature film *The Madonnas* (2007). The research for the documentary *9 Lives* (2010) about homeless youths also fed into the feature film *Daughters* (2011). In 2009 she founded the Madonnen Film production company. Most recently, she had great success with her over three-hour documentary *Mr Bachmann and his Class*, for which she received the Silver Bear at the Berlinale in 2021, among other awards. In most of her films, she is responsible for editing as well as the script. She cooperates with the cinematographer Reinhold Vorschneider in developing the exceptional visual strategies for all her films.

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