

# DIVERSITY UNITED

Contemporary European Art.  
Moscow. Berlin. Paris.

**81 artists from 35 countries presenting the diverse artistic face of Europe:**  
*Diversity United presents established and emerging artists exploring pro-European dialogues. The exhibition - with venues in Moscow, Berlin and Paris – considers subjects including freedom, dignity, respect, conflicts and dialogue, landscapes and power and political and personal identity.*

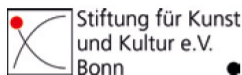
**11 November 2020 – 21 February 2021**



Slavs and Tatars, *Mystical Protest*, 2011, luminous paint, Muharram fabric, fluorescent lights, colour sleeves, cotton, 240 × 620 × 15 cm. Installation view at Ujazdowski Castle Centre for Contemporary Art, Warsaw, 2016. Photo Bartosz Górka

The Foundation for Art and Culture, Bonn and the Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow are delighted to announce the travelling group show *Diversity United. Contemporary European Art. Moscow. Berlin. Paris*. The first venue - the Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow (11 November 2020 – 21 February 2021) - is followed by venues in Berlin and Paris (2021), presenting a survey of work from across the continent. *Diversity United* is under the patronage of the State Presidents of Germany, Russia and France, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Vladimir Putin and Emmanuel Macron.

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The exhibition showcases the strength and diversity of Europe's cultural output and highlights the importance of a united Europe during times of political uncertainty. The exhibition looks at contemporary European art after the fall of the Iron Curtain, underlining the importance of intercultural dialogue today.

It raises questions about freedom, dignity, democracy and respect whilst highlighting the continent's artistic production in the context of historically relevant and current themes, such as political and personal identity, migration, (mental) landscape, gender and equality, nationality, territory and geopolitics and social conflicts.

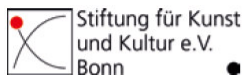
*Diversity United* is made up of approximately 200 works by 81 key European artists active today and spanning generations, genders and European regions. These include Eija-Liisa Ahtila, Monica Bonvicini, Olafur Eliasson, Aslan Gaisumov, Mona Hatoum, Ilya Kabakov, Zhanna Kadyrova, Alicja Kwade, Roman Ondak, Wolfgang Tillmans, Erwin Wurm, Nil Yalter and Slavs and Tatars (**full artist list available below**).

The chairman of the Foundation for Art and Culture, Walter Smerling, and the general director of the Tretyakov Gallery, Zelfira Tregulova, head up the **curatorial committee** consisting of internationally curators, including Simon Baker (Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris), Faina Balakhovskaya (Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow), Kay Heymer (Stiftung Museum Kunsthpalast, Düsseldorf), Pontus Kyander (writer and curator, Helsinki), Camille Morineau (AWARE, curator, Paris), Johanna Neuschäffer & Anne Schwanz (Office Impart, Berlin), Hilke Wagner (Albertinum, Dresden), Peter Weibel (ZKM Karlsruhe).

*“Europe consists of many amazing landscapes, not just geographically, but socially, politically and culturally. Artists are able to unite and form those worlds”, Walter Smerling, the chairman of the Foundation for Art and Culture, says.*

*“This multitude of artistic voices from all over Europe create an insightful image of our cultural sphere. As the exhibition is limited to 81 artists it does not claim to proportionally represent the entirety of Europe, it is instead conceived ‘essayistically’ as a portrayal of this sphere. This view of the ‘artistic face of Europe’ champions freedom, respect, dignity and tolerance, for the preservation of diversity - the right to be individual. However, the artists also demonstrate how fragile these values are and how much we must support them. With Diversity United we will create a social dialogue, to prove that communication is essential in the search for peace and understanding.”*

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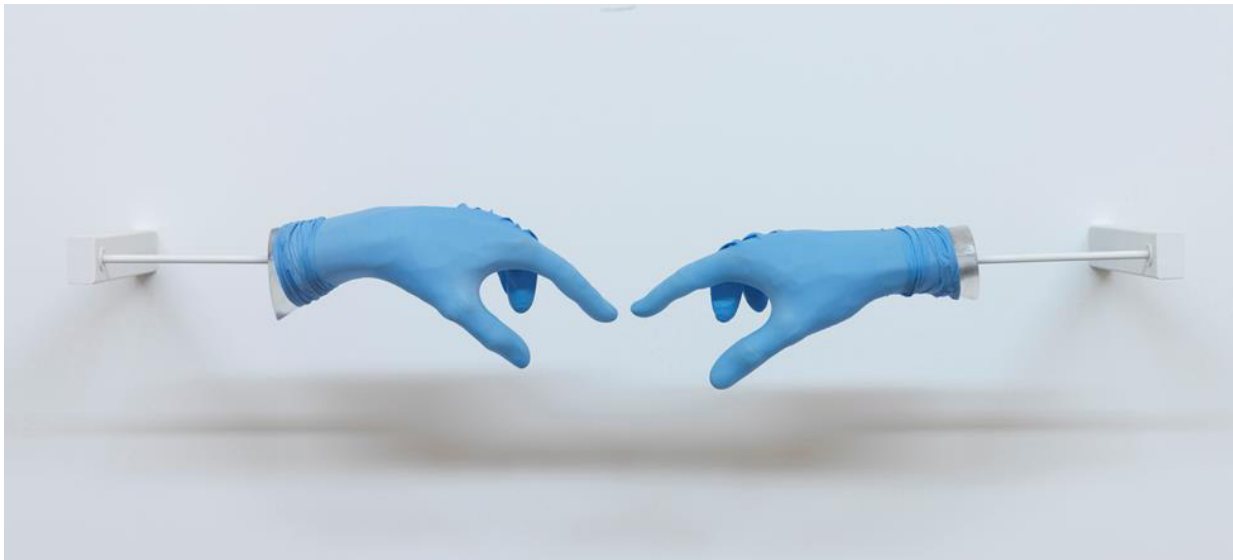


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“What can contemporary art do today, when the world looks so complex, so conflicting and divided? What is the artistic identity of Europe and what does national identity mean today?” asks **Zelfira Tregulova**, general director of the Tretyakov Gallery.

“The central question is should art develop its own way of talking about the questions which are most important nowadays? Diversity United raises these important issues, to present a broad panorama of different artistic approaches, a chorus of voices which encourages visitors to think, to analyze, to discuss, to feel compassion or experience deep emotions - thus rendering human in a world which sometimes appears hostile to humanistic values.”



Anri Sala, *Suspended (Sky Blue)*, 2008, © Anri Sala. Courtesy Hauser & Wirth and Marian Goodman Gallery

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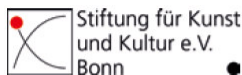
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## Participating artists

Eija-Liisa Ahtila	Sanja Iveković	Anders Petersen
Andreas Angelidakis	Isaac Julien	Agnieszka Polska
Yael Bartana	Ilya and Emilia Kabakov	Tal R
Rugilė Barzdžiukaitė, Vaiva	Zhanna Kadyrova	Paula Rego
Grainytė, Lina Lapelytė	Patricia Kaersenhout	Gerhard Richter
Georg Baselitz	Šejla Kamerić	Ugo Rondinone
Blue Soup	Erik Kessels &	Zbigniew Rybczyński
Christian Boltanski	Thomas Mailaender	Adam Saks
Monica Bonvicini	Anselm Kiefer	Anri Sala
Pavel Bräila	Peter Kogler	Fernando Sánchez Castillo
Maurizio Cattelan	Alicja Kwade	Tristan Schulze
Olga Chernysheva	Kris Lemsalu	Katharina Sieverding
Tacita Dean	Cristina Lucas	Slavs and Tatars
Rineke Dijkstra	Goshka Macuga	Nedko Solakov
Aleksandra Domanović	Kris Martin	Jan Svenungsson
Constant Dullaart	Dóra Maurer	Wolfgang Tillmans
Olafur Eliasson	Annette Messager	Rosemarie Trockel
Kristaps Epners	Marzia Migliora	Tatiana Trouvé
Valérie Favre	Boris Mikhailov	Luc Tuymans
Aslan Gaisumov	Richard Mosse	Martina Vacheva
Adrian Ghenie	Henrike Naumann	Ulla von Brandenburg
Gilbert & George	Mariele Neudecker	Marko Vuokola
Antony Gormley	Katja Novitskova	Rachel Whiteread
Manuel Graf	Ahmet Öğüt	Per Wizén
Ane Graff	Roman Ondak	Erwin Wurm
Petrit Halilaj	Lucy Orta	Nil Yalter
Mona Hatoum	Dan Perjovschi	Yan Pei-Ming
Sheila Hicks	Grayson Perry	

Participating artists live and work in Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom and Ukraine.

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## Notes to Editors

### About Foundation for Art and Culture, Bonn

Stiftung für Kunst und Kultur Bonn (Foundation for Art and Culture, Bonn) is a nonprofit organisation and was founded in 1986 as a private initiative designed to foster the arts and culture as an essential, stimulating and integral part of our civic society. The Foundation aims to “help shape society”, as the great Joseph Beuys once said. The Foundation is headed by Chairman Walter Smerling, who is responsible for numerous art and cultural projects including the establishment of MKM Museum Küppersmühle for Modern Art in Duisburg.

The Foundation focuses on the **conception and realisation of exhibitions**, the **supervision of the MKM Museum Küppersmühle**, the organisation of **discussions at the interface of culture, politics and economics** and the presentation of **art in public spaces**. Since its conception, around 300 exhibitions and other cultural projects have been realised at different national and international sites, including the “Walk of Modern Art” in Salzburg and major exhibitions

[www.stiftungkunst.de](http://www.stiftungkunst.de)

Instagram @stiftungkunstbonn #diversityunitedart #europeanartnow

Facebook @stiftungkunst

### About Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow

Established in 1856, the Tretyakov Gallery has become one of the largest and the most visited museums in Russia. Currently the museum collection comprises of more than 190,000 objects which date between the 11<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> centuries.

The space houses a unique collection of modern Russian art as it is the only permanent exhibition space for 20<sup>th</sup> century local art in Russia. The masterworks are the artifacts of the epoch which has provided the world with the Russian avant-garde. Alongside the large-scale retrospectives of great Russian artists, the Tretyakov Gallery exhibits contemporary masters that are held in The New Tretyakov collection.

[www.tretykovgallery.ru](http://www.tretykovgallery.ru)

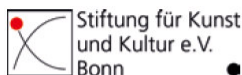
Instagram @tretyakov\_gallery #diversityunitedart #europeanartnow

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### Patronage

*Diversity United* is under the patronage of the State Presidents of Germany, Russia and France, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Vladimir Putin and Emmanuel Macron.

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## Curatorial Committee

Walter Smerling (Chairman of the Foundation for Art and Culture, Bonn) - Speaker  
Zelfira Tregulova (General Director of the Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow) - Speaker  
Simon Baker (Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris)  
Faina Balakhovskaya (Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow)  
Kay Heymer (Stiftung Museum Kunstpalast, Düsseldorf)  
Pontus Kyander (writer and curator, Helsinki)  
Camille Morineau (AWARE, curator, Paris)  
Johanna Neuschäffer & Anne Schwanz (Office Impart, Berlin)  
Hilke Wagner (Albertinum, Dresden)  
Peter Weibel (ZKM Karlsruhe)

## Cooperation Partners

The exhibition is in cooperation with Petersburg Dialogue (Petersburger Dialog e.V.) and supported by the German Federal Foreign Office.

## Sponsors

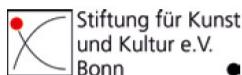
Lars Windhorst Foundation  
Daimler AG  
New Yorker Marketing und Media International GmbH  
Meridian Capital Ltd.

## Curatorial Advisory Board

The Curatorial Committee is assisted in an advisory capacity by well-connected representatives of the international exhibition establishment:

Bernard Blistène (Director Centre Pompidou, Paris)  
Manuel Borja-Villel (Director Reina Sofia, Madrid)  
Candida Gertler OBE (Co-Founder and Director Outset, London)  
Christiane Lange (Director Staatsgalerie Stuttgart)  
Hermann Parzinger (President Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation, Berlin)  
Mikhail Piotrovsky (Director State Hermitage St. Petersburg)  
Peter Weibel (Director ZKM Karlsruhe)

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## Project Advisory Board

The Project Advisory Board comprises representatives from business, politics and civil society institutions, chaired by the entrepreneur Jürgen Großmann:

Kai Diekmann (member of the board, Foundation for Art and Culture, Bonn)

Andreas Fritzenkötter (Head of Communications & Public Affairs, Sapinda Germany)

Sigmar Gabriel (former Foreign Minister and Vice-Chancellor of Germany)

Martin Hoffmann (Member of the Board, German-Russian Forum/NPO and General Manager Petersburg Dialogue/NPO)

Jörg Howe (Head of Global Communications, Daimler AG)

Friedrich-Georg Knapp (CEO, New Yorker)

Stephan Kohler (General Manager, energy Eurasia)

Thomas A. Lange (Chairman, National-Bank AG)

Mikhail Shvydkoy (Ambassador-at-large / Special representative of the President of the Russian Federation for International Cooperation in Culture)

Michael Süß (Chairman, OC Oerlikon Corporation AG)

Christoph Walther (Founding Partner, CNC - Communications & Network Consulting AG)

Lars Windhorst (Lars Windhorst Foundation / Sapinda International Services B.V. (UK))

## Exhibition Details

**Title:** *Diversity United. Contemporary European Art. Moscow. Berlin. Paris.*

**Press Conference:** 22 November 2019, 12.00, TASS, 2 Tverskoi Boulevard, Moscow

**Address:** New Tretyakov, Moscow, Krymsky Val, 10

**Websites:** [www.stiftungkunst.de](http://www.stiftungkunst.de), [www.tretyakovgallery.ru/en/](http://www.tretyakovgallery.ru/en/)

**Dates:** 11 November 2020 – 21 February 2021

**Opening Hours:** Mon: Closed

Tue, Wed, Sun: 10:00 — 18:00

Thu, Fri, Sat: 10:00 — 21:00

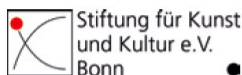
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**Spokespeople for announcement of *Diversity United. Contemporary European Art. Moscow. Berlin. Paris* - an exhibition organised jointly by the Foundation for Art and Culture, Bonn and the Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow**

**Press Conference: 22 November 2019, 12.00, TASS, 2 Tverskoi Boulevard, Moscow**

## **Walter Smerling, chairman of the Foundation for Art and Culture, Bonn**

Walter Smerling is chairman of the Foundation for Art and Culture in Bonn which is the overall organizer of the upcoming exhibition *Diversity United* for all three venues. Together with the general director of the Tretyakov Gallery, Zelfira Tregulova, he heads up the curatorial committee for *Diversity United*.

Following an education in both Business Administration and Art History, Smerling joined Broadcaster SWR TV where he became an author, director and moderator of television films, with a focus on cultural reportage and artist profiles. Smerling is responsible for numerous art and cultural projects in his role as Chairman of the Foundation. He has curated major exhibitions such as *60 Years. 60 Works. Art from the Federal Republic of Germany from 1949 to 2009*, Martin-Gropius Bau, Germany (2009), *CHINA 8* held simultaneously in nine museums along the Rhine and Ruhr region (2015) and *Deutschland 8 – German Art in China* held at eight exhibition venues in Beijing (2017). As well his role at the Foundation, Smerling is also director of the MKM Küppersmühle Museum of Modern Art in Duisburg, which he helped establish in 1999, and artistic director of the Salzburg Foundation. Since 2010, Smerling has been an Honorary Professor for Culture and Economy at the University of Witten/Herdecke.

## **Zelfira Tregulova, general director of the Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow**

Zelfira Tregulova, general director of the Tretyakov Gallery, one of the largest and the most visited museums in Russia, is an art historian and curator of international exhibitions of Russian art. Under the leadership of Tregulova, the Tretyakov Gallery has developed significantly and in 2016 was named best museum of the year by The Art Newspaper Russia. She previously worked as director of the Rosizo State Museum and Exhibition Center in Moscow, through which she organized projects in Moscow and Russia, as well as a number of exhibitions abroad. She also served as Deputy Director General for Exhibitions and International Relations at the Moscow Kremlin Museum. Together with Walter Smerling, she heads up the Curatorial Committee for *Diversity / United*.

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## **Ronald Pofalla, co-chair of the Petersburg Dialogue**

Ronald Pofalla has been co-chair of the Petersburg dialogue since 2015. After earning a degree in social pedagogy at Düsseldorf University of Applied Sciences, he studied law at the University of Cologne. Pofalla was a member of the German Bundestag (the national parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany) from 1990 to 2014 and was appointed Chief of Staff of the German Chancellery and Federal Minister for Special Affairs in 2009, a position he held until 2013.

Pofalla joined Deutsche Bahn in 2015 and was appointed DB Board Member for Infrastructure on 1 January 2017. Previously, he served as Chief Representative for Political and International Relations from January through July 2015 and Board Member for Economic, Legal and Regulatory Affairs from August 2015 until December 2016.

## **Mikhail Shvydkoy, Special Representative of the President of the Russian Federation for International Cooperation in Culture**

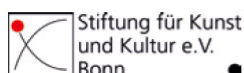
Mikhail Yefimovich Shvydkoy is a Soviet and Russian theatre critic and a social and political activist. A former Minister of Culture of the Russian Federation, he is also a Laureate of the State Prize of Russia. He is the artistic director of the Moscow theatre as well as the supervisor of the Faculty of the Graduate School of cultural policy and management in the humanitarian sphere at Moscow State University.

Shvydkoy has received several awards and honours, including the Order of the Badge of Honor (1987), the State Literature and Arts award of the Russian Federation (1999), the Order "For Services to the Fatherland" IV degree (2008), the Order of Friendship (2013) and the Order of Alexander Nevsky (2018).

## **Beate Grzeski, Chargée d'Affaires a.i., German Embassy Moscow**

1989-1991 Desk Officer Political Directorate General Federal Foreign Office. 1991-1994 First Secretary Transport and Environment German Embassy The Hague. 1994-1996 Desk Officer Global Economic Affairs Federal Foreign Office. 1996-1999 Private Secretary to President of German Bundestag. 1999-2002 Private Secretary to Special Coordinator of Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, Brussels. 2002 Director Economic Working Table Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, Brussels. 2002-2003 Special Advisor to Head of EPP Group European Convention, Brussels. 2003-2006 Advisor on Strategic Planning, Directorate General Cultural Affairs, Federal Foreign Office. 2006-2011 Head of Division EU Justice and Home Affairs, Advisor on EU Law Federal Foreign Office. 2011-2014 Minister, Head of Economic Department German Embassy Beijing. 2014-2015 Director for

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International Academic Relations and Public Diplomacy, Dialogue among Civilizations,  
Federal Foreign Office. 2015-2017 Ambassador Commissioner for Refugees and Migration  
Federal Foreign Office. As of October 2017 Deputy Head of Mission German Embassy  
Moscow.

## **Pontus Kyander, member of the curatorial committee**

Pontus Kyander is a Finnish born writer and curator. Formerly the director of Trondheim kunstmuseum and Sørlandets Kunstmuseum, both Norway, Kyander has also held the positions of Public Art Manager, responsible for programming and implementation of art in public spaces in Auckland, New Zealand, and a professor at Ewha University in Seoul, South Korea. Starting his career as an art critic in the mid-1990s, he subsequently transitioned into making documentary features on artists and developments in the global contemporary art scene for the national Swedish broadcasting corporation SVT. His past curatorial projects include: *Nature of Man*, Lunds konsthall, Sweden (1996); *Ernesto Neto*, Kunsthall Aarhus, Denmark (2002), *Seoul: Until Now*, Copenhagen (2005), Kukje Gallery, South Korea (2008), *Super Structures*, public spaces in Vietnam (2009), and *Act or Perish!:* *Gustav Metzger - A Retrospective*, travelling exhibition, Norway, Poland and Spain (2014-2016).

## **Camille Morineau, member of the curatorial committee**

Camille Morineau is a curator and the co-founder and chairwoman of AWARE (Archives of Women Artists, Research and Exhibitions), a French non-profit organisation dedicated to the creation, indexation and distribution of information on women artists of the 20th century.

Morineau has worked for twenty years in public cultural institutions in France, including 10 years as curator of the contemporary collections at the Centre Pompidou, Paris, curating numerous exhibitions there, including Yves Klein (2006), Gerhard Richter (2012), Roy Lichtenstein (2013), and the hanging *elles@centrepompidou* (2009-2011) dedicated solely to female artists from the collections of the Musée National d'Art Moderne. From 2016 to October 2019, she has been the director of exhibitions and collections at Monnaie de Paris.

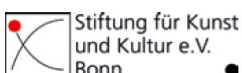
## **For press information and images please contact:**

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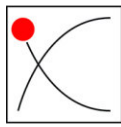
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## Stiftung für Kunst und Kultur e.V. Bonn (Foundation for Art and Culture Bonn) FAQs

**Press Conference:** 22 November 2019, 12.00, TASS, 2 Tverskoi Boulevard, Moscow

### 1. What is the Foundation and what do they do?

Stiftung für Kunst und Kultur e.V. Bonn (Foundation for Art and Culture Bonn) is a nonprofit organisation and was founded in 1986 as a private initiative designed to foster the arts and culture as an essential, stimulating and integral part of our civic society. The Foundation aims to “help shape society”, as the great Joseph Beuys once said. The Foundation is headed by Chairman Walter Smerling (see ‘**Who is Walter Smerling**’), who is responsible for numerous art and cultural projects including the establishment of MKM Museum Küppersmühle for Modern Art in Duisburg.

The Foundation focuses on the conception and realisation of exhibitions, the supervision of the MKM Museum Küppersmühle (exhibition programme and presentation of the Ströher Collection, see ‘**MKM Museum Küppersmühle**’), the organisation of discussions at the interface of culture, politics and economics and the presentation of art in public spaces. Since its conception, around 300 exhibitions and other cultural projects have been realised at different national and international sites, including the “Walk of Modern Art” in Salzburg and major exhibitions (see ‘**International Exhibition Programme**’).

### 2. What are some of the Foundation’s defining projects?

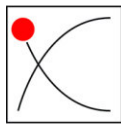
#### **International Exhibition Programme**

The Foundation has staged a variety of landmark exhibitions, among the most ambitious projects are: “*60 Years. 60 Works. Art from the Federal Republic of Germany from 1949 to 2009*” (2009), “*ARTandPRESS*” (2012) in Berlin’s Martin-Gropius-Bau, “*CHINA 8*” (2015), held simultaneously in nine museums along the Rhine and Ruhr region, “*Deutschland 8 – German Art in China*” held at eight exhibition venues in Beijing (2017), “*Art from the Holocaust*” at the Deutsches Historisches Museum Berlin (2016) and “*Luther and the Avant-garde*” (2017), presenting 70 artists from around the world who transformed the Old Prison in Wittenberg into a temporary museum on the occasion of the jubilee of the Reformation.

#### **MKM Museum Küppersmühle**

In 1999 the Foundation established the MKM Museum Küppersmühle for Modern Art in Duisburg, directed by Walter Smerling and managed by the Foundation. Situated in Duisburg’s lively inner harbor, the space is one of the largest private museums in Germany and is part of

the RuhrKunstMuseen cultural network. The leading Swiss architects Herzog & de Meuron transformed the former warehouse, with its listed brick façade, into a modern cultural center attracting visitors from all over the world. At present, the museum is realizing a 2,500 sqm. extension to its exhibition space. Completion is planned for 2020.



The museum regularly hosts temporary exhibitions alongside the permanent Ströher Collection, one of the most comprehensive collections of German art after 1945. The collection includes pieces by internationally renowned German artists: leading exponents of the Informel movement including Karl Otto Götz, Bernard Schultze, Gerhard Hoehme or Fred Thieler, world-acclaimed artists such as Georg Baselitz, Anselm Kiefer and Gerhard Richter, together with the photographs of Candida Höfer or Hans-Christian Schink, among others. The collection is owned by Sylvia and Ulrich Ströher and currently comprises of over 2,000 pieces. Distributed across 15 rooms spanning over 2,500 sqm., the MKM presents key works from the collection. Works are also lent to international institutions such as the Centre Pompidou (Paris), Fondation Beyeler (Basel) and the Stedelijk Museum (Amsterdam).

### **Art in Public Space**

Over a period of 10 years, and in collaboration with the Salzburg Foundation, the Foundation created the *Walk of Modern Art*, a unique sculptural tour through Salzburg. A total of 12 works by highly acclaimed contemporary artists, ranging from Anselm Kiefer to Erwin Wurm, are now freely accessible to the public in the historical Old City of Salzburg.

The *Bonn Art Project*, established in 2014, promotes art in public spaces across the city, commissioning an array of international contemporary artists transforming the City of Bonn into an “urban museum”. Within the framework of the *Bonn Art Project*, the Foundation annually commissions an acclaimed artist (projected to run until 2030) to design a work for its public spaces. Previous commissioned artists included Markus Lüpertz, Tony Cragg, Bernar Venet and Stephan Balkenhol; the next addition will be by Austrian artist Erwin Wurm.

The works in public space are created and financed completely through commercial sponsorship, without state or municipal funding, demonstrating the Foundation’s commitment to supporting publicly accessible art.

### **3. What’s next for the Foundation?**

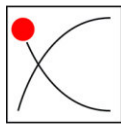
Through its many projects the Foundation continues to promote art and culture nationally and internationally. The next project, *Diversity United*, brings together contemporary European artists for a travelling show which will present the breadth and wealth of artistic production on the continent and highlight the importance of artistic exchange between cultures and countries.

### **4. Where does funding come from? Are the Foundation and its projects politically affiliated or government initiatives?**

The Foundation is a private, independent non-profit initiative. Projects are created and financed through commercial and/or private sponsorship, unless otherwise stated.

### **5. How can I hear updates on the Foundation’s activities and forthcoming exhibitions?**

Follow us on [Instagram](#) (@stiftungskunstbonn) or on [Facebook](#) (@stiftungskunst) for updates and opportunities or see <http://www.stiftungskunst.de/kultur/en/>.



## 6. Are there any restrictions on what the kinds of projects the Foundation put on?

No, our projects are as ever evolving as the art landscape itself; we aim to move with the times and continue to engage the visitors to our projects in as many ways as possible. Intercultural dialogue has always played an important role in our work and will continue to do so.

## 7. Who is Walter Smerling?

Walter Smerling is Chairman of the Foundation for Art and Culture in Bonn which is the overall organizer of upcoming exhibition *Diversity United*. Together with the Director of the Tretyakov Gallery, Zelfira Tregulova, he heads up the Curatorial Committee for *Diversity United*.

Following an education in both Business Administration and Art History, Smerling joined Broadcaster SWR Fernsehen where he became an author, director and moderator of television films, with a focus on cultural reportage and artist profiles. Smerling is responsible for numerous art and cultural projects in his role as Chairman of the Foundation. He curated major exhibitions such as *60 Years. 60 Works. Art from the Federal Republic of Germany from 1949 to 2009*, Gropius Bau, Germany (2009), *CHINA 8* held simultaneously in nine museums along the Rhine and Ruhr region (2015) and *Deutschland 8 – German Art in China* held at eight exhibition venues in Beijing (2017). As well his role at the Foundation, Smerling is also director of the MKM Küppersmühle Museum of Modern Art in Duisburg, which he helped establish in 1999, and artistic director of the Salzburg Foundation. Since 2010, Smerling has been an Honorary Professor for Culture and Economy at the University of Witten/Herdecke.

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