

Press Release

9 July 2018

New members of the Akademie der Künste 2018

At this year's spring General Assembly (4/5 May), 14 new members were elected to the Akademie der Künste. All have now accepted the election. The new members of the **Visual Arts Section** are Douglas Gordon, Bjørn Melhus, Gregor Schneider and Luc Tuymans. In the **Architecture Section**, Thomas Auer, Peter Haimerl and HG Merz were elected. The newest additions to the **Music Section** are: Annesley Black, Peter Michael Hamel and Steffen Schleiermacher. Johannes Schütz and Valery Tscheplanowa are new members of the **Performing Arts Section**. The **Film and Media Arts Section** has been joined by Valeska Grisebach and Martin Steyer. There **Literature Section** has no new members this year. The Akademie der Künste currently has a total of 418 members in its six sections.

Short Biographies of the New Members

Thomas Auer, Engineer

Born in 1965, lives in Stuttgart. Studied process engineering at the University of Stuttgart and received his degree in 1994. Worked as an engineer at TRANSSOLAR Energietechnik GmbH from 1994 to 1999, became a partner in the company in 2000 and has been its managing director since 2007. He has taught at Yale University in New Haven, USA, at the University of Kassel, at the École Spéciale d'Architecture (ESA) in Paris, at the Università degli Studi di Sassari in Sardinia and Ryerson University in Toronto, among others. Since 2014, he has been a Professor of Building Technology and Climate Responsive Design at the Technical University of Munich. Based on the findings of climate engineering for buildings, he has developed concepts for buildings all over the world that are characterised by innovative design and energy efficiency, including the Western Arcade of KfW Bank in Frankfurt/Main, the Manitoba Hydro in Winnipeg and the Lycée Charles de Gaulle in Damascus.

Annesley Black, Composer

Born in Ottawa in 1979, lives in Frankfurt/Main. She studied jazz, electronic music and composition in Montreal, Cologne and Freiburg. From 2008 to 2011, sound direction assistant at SRW's Experimentalstudio. Since 2012, member of the executive board of the German Society for Electroacoustic Music (DEGEM). Since 2013, lecturer in composition and electronic media at Dr. Hoch's Conservatory and in composition and technology at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Frankfurt/Main. Her music has been performed at numerous festivals such as the

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Donaueschingen Festival, the Warsaw Autumn, the ECLAT Festival in Stuttgart and the Ottawa Chamber Music Festival.

Awards (selection): 2004 scholarship and 2006 award winner at the Darmstädter Ferienkurse; 2008, Busoni Sponsorship Award of the Akademie der Künste, Berlin; 2009, Fellow of the Akademie der Künste, Berlin; 2009, Stuttgart Composition Prize.

Douglas Gordon, Media Artist

Born in Glasgow in 1966, lives in Berlin and Paris. His work includes video works, sculptural and film installations, as well as conceptual text works and photographs. Douglas Gordon had solo exhibitions, among others at the Museum of Modern Art in Frankfurt/Main, the MoMA and the Guggenheim Museum in New York, Tate Britain in London, the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam as well as the ZKM I Karlsruhe and participated in exhibitions such as documenta 14 (2017) in Athens. His cinematic work has been shown at numerous international festivals, including the Cannes International Film Festival and the Toronto International Film Festival. In 1996, he was awarded the Turner Prize; in 2008, the Roswitha Haftmann Prize; in 2012, the Käthe Kollwitz Prize of the Akademie der Künste.

Valeska Grisebach, Filmmaker

Born in Bremen in 1968, lives and works in Berlin. Studied philosophy and German studies in Berlin, Munich and Vienna. From 1993, studied directing at the Vienna Film Academy under Peter Patzak, Wolfgang Glück and Michael Haneke. Her graduation film, *Mein Stern*, was nominated for the 2002 Adolf Grimme Award and won the critics' award at the Toronto International Film Festival as well as the main award at the Torino Film Festival. Her second feature film, *Sehnsucht*, premiered in the Berlinale competition in 2006 and won numerous accolades at international festivals, including the Special Jury Award in Buenos Aires and the Grand Prix Asturias at the Gijón International Film Festival. In 2017, this was followed by *Western*, which premiered as part of the Un Certain Regard series at the Cannes International Film Festival and, in addition to other awards, also received the Deutscher Filmpreis in bronze in 2018.

Peter Haimerl, Architect

Born in Eben bei Viechta (Bavarian Forest) in 1961, lives in Munich. Studied at the University of Applied Sciences in Munich and received his degree in 1987. He has had his own office since 1991. In 2006, he founded gyroscope - algorithms for architecture. 2009/10 Lectureship in Urban Planning and Digital Design at the University of Munich. As a realising architect, he focuses on projects that go beyond the limits of conventional architecture. He is currently focusing on the

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theme of "building within existing building stock" and is working in the Bavarian Forest within the context of the "Haus.Paten" (House.Patrons) initiative launched by him in 2010. Selected works: 2004, "Castle of Air" mirror pavilion in Cincinnati, USA; 2006, Conversion of the Salvator Garage, Munich; 2006, Das Schwarze Haus (The Black House), Krailling; 2009, "Birg mich, Cilli!" – Conversion of a farmhouse, Bernried; 2014, Concert Hall, Blaibach; 2017, Haus Schedlberg, conversion of a farmhouse.

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Peter Michael Hamel, Composer

Born in Munich in 1947, lives in Aschau/Chiemgau. He studied composition and musicology in Munich and Berlin. From 1969 to 1974, collaboration, among others, with John Cage, Morton Feldman, and Terry Riley. In the 1970s, foundation of and performances with the improvisation group "Between". In 1976, his book *Durch Musik zum Selbst* was published. From 1997 to 2012, Professor of Composition and Music Theory at Hamburg University of Music and Theatre. Since 2007, member of the Bavarian Academy of Fine Arts. His works have been performed at the Salzburg Festival, the Donaueschingen Festival and the Berliner Festwochen, among others. Awards (selection): 1974, Beethoven Prize of the city of Bonn; 1979, scholarship from Villa Massimo, Rome; 1988, composer in residence, Schleswig Holstein Music Festival; 2007, Gerhard Maasz Prize; 2008, Gerda-and-Günter Bialas Prize.

Bjørn Melhus, Media Artist

Born in Kirchheim/Teck in 1966, lives in Berlin. From 1985 to 1987, Vocational College for Photography and AV Media in Stuttgart; from 1990 to 1997, studied free art (film and video class) at the Braunschweig University of Art (HBK); since 2003, Professor of Fine Arts | Virtual Realities at the Kassel School of Art and Design. Solo exhibitions (selection): 2002, Kunsthalle Bremen; 2011, Haus am Waldsee, Berlin; 2004, FACT, Liverpool; 2015, Kunsthal Rotterdam. Group exhibitions (selection): 1991, Kölnischer Kunstverein (Cologne Art Association); Eighth International Istanbul Biennial, 2003; 2014, Akademie der Künste, Berlin. Awards (selection): 1997/98, DAAD scholarship at the California Institute of the Arts, Los Angeles; 1999-2001, Hannover Art Association Prize (residence scholarship), 2001/02, New York Scholarship of the State of Lower Saxony for the International Studio and Curatorial Program.

HG Merz, Architect and Exhibition Designer

Born in Talfingen in 1947, lives in Stuttgart. Studied architecture at the local university, received his degree in 1975. In 1981, he founded the architectural firm hg merz architekten museumsgestalter in Stuttgart, second branch office in Berlin

since 1993. From 1993 to 2007, Professor of Exhibition Design for the Visual Communication course at the University of Pforzheim; since 2008, Professor of Design and Experimental Design at the Department of Architecture, Technical University of Darmstadt. His office specialises in the restoration, conversions and expansion of listed buildings as well as in exhibition and museum design. Selected works: 2005, Sachsenhausen memorial, "Station Z"; 2009, Porsche Museum, Stuttgart; 2010, Ruhr Museum/Zeche Zollverein, Essen; 2012, State Library, Unter den Linden, Berlin; 2017, Umlauftank II (Circulating Tank 2) by Ludwig Leo, the former research institute for hydraulic engineering and shipbuilding at the Technical University of Berlin; 2017, State Opera, Unter den Linden, Berlin.

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Steffen Schleiermacher, Pianist, Composer, Conductor

Born in Halle in 1960, lives in Leipzig. He studied piano, composition and conducting in Leipzig. 1986/87 master student of composition at the Akademie der Künste, Berlin under Friedrich Goldmann. 1989/90 further studies in piano with Aloys Kontarsky in Cologne. From 1989 he has been in concert with several renowned orchestras, including the Gewandhaus Orchestra, the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin and the Munich Philharmonic.

Concert tours throughout Europe, America and the Far East. Numerous CD recordings, including the first recording of the entire piano works of John Cage. Since 1988, director of the "musica nova" series at Gewandhaus Leipzig. Awards (selection): 1986, Kranichsteiner Music Prize; 1989, Hanns Eisler Prize; 1992, scholarship at Villa Massimo, Rome; 1999, scholarship of the Cité Internationale des Arts Paris; 2010, Chevalier des Arts et Lettres.

Gregor Schneider, Concept Artist

Born in Rheydt in 1969, lives in Rheydt. From 1989 to 1992, Schneider studied at the Art Academies in Münster, Düsseldorf and Hamburg. 2000 to 2002, visiting professor in Hamburg; 2009 to 2012, professor at the University of Arts, Berlin; 2012 to 2016, professor at the Academy of Fine Arts, Munich; since 2016, Professor of Sculpture at Düsseldorf Art Academy. Since 1985, work on "Haus u r", Rheydt. Schneider's work has been shown all over the world in more than 400 exhibitions, including more than 80 solo exhibitions.

Solo exhibitions (selection): 1996; Kunsthalle Bern; 1998, Städtisches Museum Abteiberg, Mönchengladbach; 1998, Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris; 2000, Vienna Secession; 2016, Kunst- und Ausstellungshalle der Bundesrepublik Deutschland GmbH, Bonn. Awards (selection): 1995, North Rhine-Westphalia Art Prize; 2001, Golden Lion, Venice Biennale; 2014 Wilhelm Loth Prize, Darmstadt; since 2015, member of the North Rhine-Westphalian Academy of Sciences and the Arts.

Johannes Schütz, Stage Designer, Director

Born in Frankfurt/Main in 1950, lives in Berlin. Studied stage design in Hamburg under Wilfried Minks, first appointments at the Schillertheater in Berlin and the Munich Kammerspiele. From 1978 to 1981, Head of Stage Design at the Bremen Theatre, initial invitations to theatre meetings for, among others, *Antigone* (directed by Ernst Wendt) and dance theatre pieces by Reinhild Hoffmann; beginning of their collaboration. From 1986 to 1992, Head of Stage Design of the Bochum Theatre under the direction of Frank-Patrick Steckel, beginning of the artistic partnership with Jürgen Gosch, which included more than forty joint works up until he passed away in 2009. Continuous work as a stage designer with Luc Bondy, Peter Mussbach, Benedict Andrews, Matthias Hartmann and Karin Beier, among others. Numerous awards, including the 2009 Berlin Theatre Prize (with Jürgen Gosch), the 2010 Nestroy Award, the 2011 Deutscher Theaterpreis Der Faust. Schütz has also been active as an opera and theatre director since 1990, including in 2013, *Ariodante* by Georg Friedrich Händel, Landestheater Salzburg; in 2014, *Die Frau von früher* by Roland Schimmelpfennig, Staatstheater Kassel. 1992 to 1998, Professor of Scenography at the State Academy of Design Karlsruhe; since 2010, Professor of Stage Design at Düsseldorf Art Academy.

Martin Steyer, Sound Engineer, Musician

Born in Meißen in 1949, lives in Berlin. Studied piano and sound engineering at the Hanns Eisler Academy of Music in Berlin, where he collaborated with Paul-Heinz Dittrich, among others. As a sound mixing engineer, he has been responsible for the sound design of over 250 films, such as Werner Schroeter's *Liebeskonzil*, Rainer Werner Fassbinder's *Querelle*, István Szabó's *Mephisto*, Christian Petzold's *Barbara* and Detlev Buck's *Bibi & Tina* series. Internationally, he mixed Kevin MacDonald's *The Last King of Scotland* and Ron Howard's *Rush* (nominated for Best Sound at the BAFTAs), among others. From 1985 to 2005, he was a lecturer at the German Film and Television Academy Berlin (DFFB); from 2005 to 2018, he taught as a Professor of Sound Design and Mixing for the sound course at Film University Babelsberg. There, he also later took the office of Vice-President for Artistic Projects and International Relations. Awards (selection): The Deutscher Filmpreis in gold for best sound design, among others, in 2017 for Nicolette Krebitz' film *Wild* (together with Rainer Hersch, Christoph Schiling and Lars Ginzler) and, in 2018, for Robert Schwentke's Film *Der Hauptmann* (together with Eric Devulder and André Bendocchi-Alves).

Valery Tschepjanowa, Actress

Born in Kazan, Russia in 1980; moved to Germany in 1988, lives in Berlin. From 1997 to 1999, studied at the Palucca School of Dance in Dresden. 1999 to 2005, studied at the Ernst Busch Academy of Dramatic Art in Berlin – first puppetry, then

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changing to acting. Engagements at the Deutsches Theater Berlin (2006-2009), Schauspiel Frankfurt (2009-2013) and the Residenztheater Munich (2013-2016). Freelance since 2017. Directors of importance to her were and are Dimiter Gotscheff and Frank Castorf, in whose *Faust* she was to be seen at the Theatertreffen 2018. She has been in films by Andreas Dresen, Dominik Graf and Christian Schwochow, among others. She also appeared as a singer in 2016, performing chansons by Rainer Werner Fassbinder. In addition to other awards, she received the Bavarian Art Prize in 2015, the Berlin Art Prize of the Akademie der Künste in the Performing Arts Section in 2017 and the Ulrich Wildgruber Prize in 2018. In addition to other awards, she received the Bavarian Art Prize in 2015, the Berlin Art Prize of the Akademie der Künste in the Performing Arts Section in 2017 and the Ulrich Wildgruber Prize in 2018.

Luc Tuymans, Painter

Born in Mortsel, Belgium in 1958, lives in Antwerp. Luc Tuymans' areas of work include painting, print graphics and film works. His figurative style is marked by subtle aesthetics and subdued colours. In 1992, he took part in documenta IX in Kassel; since then, his works have been exhibited worldwide, including at the BOZAR in Brussels, NAMOC in Beijing; Bruges Museum, Bruges, K21 in Düsseldorf, the Tate Modern Gallery of Modern Art in London, the Múcsarnok Hall of Art in Budapest, Haus der Kunst in Munich and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago. His works have also been shown in the context of prestigious international exhibitions such as the Belgian Pavilion at the Venice Biennale in 2001 and as part of documenta 11 (2002).

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