

Press Release

12 July 2019

New members of the Akademie der Künste 2019

This year, the Akademie der Künste elected 17 new members, ten of which are women, to its society of artists. The elections took place at the 53th Members' Assembly of the Akademie der Künste (10 - 11/05) in Berlin. All newly elected members have in the meantime accepted their election. Candice Breitz, Katharina Fritsch, Nanne Meyer and Adrian Piper were elected in the **Visual Arts Section**. The new members of the **Music Section** are Annette Schmucki and Jennifer Walshe. Ulrike Draesner, Thomas Hettche, Robert Menasse, Lothar Trolle and Cécile Wajsbrot are new members of the **Literature Section**. Herbert Fritsch and Thomas Ostermeier are to represent the **Performing Arts Section** in the future. The **Film and Media Arts Section** has added Claudia von Alemann, Sławomir Idziak, Paul Plamper and Gundula Schulze Eldowy to its membership. The **Architecture Section** did not propose any new members this year. In total, the Akademie now has 428 members.

Short biographies of the new members

Claudia von Alemann, author, producer, director of documentary and feature films

Studied art history and sociology at FU Berlin and film at Ulm School of Design. Lived and worked in Paris from 1968 to 1969 and 1974 to 1980. In 1973, she and Helke Sander organized the "First International Women's Film Festival" at the Arsenal cinema in Berlin. 1982 German Film Critics' Prize for her feature film *Die Reise nach Lyon*. Co-editor of the book *Das nächste Jahrhundert wird uns gehören, Frauen und Utopie in Frankreich 1830 – 1840*. From 1982 to 2006, professor of film at FH Dortmund, visiting professorships in Cuba, Canada, the US and others. She has received numerous prizes and awards at international film festivals; her video feature film *Das Frauenzimmer* has been included in numerous video art collections, including the MoMA, New York. She is a member of the European Film Academy, EFA.

She has one daughter and lives with her husband, Cuban film director Fernando Pérez, in Cologne and Havana. Her documentary film essay *Die Frau mit der Kamera – Porträt der Fotografin Abisag Tüllmann* was nominated for the Hessian Film Award in 2016.

Candice Breitz, video artist

Born in 1972 in Johannesburg (South Africa), lives in Berlin. Studied art and art history in South Africa and the US and participated in the Whitney Independent

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Studio programme (NYC). Since 2007, professor at Braunschweig University of Art. Her moving image installations have been shown internationally. Breitz explores the dynamics by which an individual becomes himself, in relation to a larger group, whether it be the immediate community he encounters within the family, or the real and imaginary communities that are not only defined by questions of national belonging, race, gender and religion, but also by the ever more undeniable influence of mainstream media such as TV, cinema and other popular culture. More recently, her work has focused on the conditions under which empathy is generated, and reflects a media-saturated global culture in which strong identification with fictional characters and celebrities occurs in parallel to widespread indifference to the plight of those facing real problems.

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Ulrike Draesner, novelist, poet, essayist and translator

Born in Munich in 1962, lives in Berlin. Studied law, English, German and philosophy in Munich, Salamanca and Oxford. Translations from English and French, visiting and poetics lectureships in Germany, Switzerland, England and the US. Since April 2018, Professor of German literature and literary writing at the German Institute for Literature in Leipzig. Publications (selection): *gedächtnisschleifen*. Poems (1995), *Lichtpause*. Novel (1998), *Hot Dogs*. Stories (2004), *Spiele*. Novel (2005), *Vorliebe*. Novel (2010), *Sieben Sprünge vom Rand der Welt*. Novel (2014), *subsong*. Poems (2014), *Grammatik der Gespenster*. *Frankfurter Poetikvorlesungen* (2018), *Eine Frau wird älter*. *Ein Aufbruch* (2018). Awards (selection): 2010 the Solothurner Literaturpreis, 2013 the Roswitha Prize, 2016 the orphil-Preis für Lyrik and the Nicolas Born Prize.

Gundula Schulze Eldowy, photographer

Born in 1954 in Erfurt, lives in Berlin and Peru. After attending the Fachschule für Werbung und Gestaltung in Berlin-Schöneweide, she studied photography at the Hochschule für Grafik und Buchkunst Leipzig under Horst Thorau from 1979 to 1984. She is a member of the Association of Visual Artists and holds a permit for freelance work. From 1977 to 1990, she produced black-and-white cycles such as *Berlin. In einer Hundenacht*, *Tamerlan* and *Der Wind füllt sich mit Wasser*. 1990 fellowship from the Kunstring Folkwang, Essen. This was followed by trips to Italy, Egypt, Japan and – at the invitation of Robert Frank – to the US. Exhibitions (among others): 1991 Neue Nationalgalerie, 1992 Museum of Modern Art, 1992 Kunst-Werke Berlin, together with Nan Goldin. Awards and fellowships: 1996 The 12th Prize for Overseas Photographers of Higashikawa Photo Fiesta, 2000 Art Fellowship from the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Bonn, as well as the New Zealand Photo Prize M.I. L.K. In 2001 she travelled to Bolivia and Peru; the latter has become her second home. She is a co-founder of the Casa de Arte there. In addition to photography, Schulze Eldowy is also a writer and poet. She creates sound collages and videos.

Herbert Fritsch, actor, director, stage designer and media artist

Born in 1951 in Augsburg, lives in Berlin. Studied acting at the Otto Falckenberg School in Munich. This was followed by engagements at the Residenztheater in Munich, Düsseldorfer Schauspielhaus, Theater Basel, the Staatstheater Stuttgart, Schauspielhaus Hamburg and Schauspielhaus Bochum, among others, working with directors such as David Mouchtar-Samorai, Werner Schroeter and Robert Wilson. From 1993 to 2007, he was a defining protagonist as a member of the ensemble at the Volksbühne at Rosa-Luxemburg Platz, especially in collaboration with Frank Castorf; further works included those with Dimitter Gotscheff and Christoph Schlingensiefel, and also as a director since 2012. Since 2007, freelance director and stage designer, stagings and development of his own pieces including at the Schaubühne in Berlin, Schauspielhaus Bochum, Schauspielhaus and Opernhaus Zürich and the Burgtheater in Vienna. Multiple invitations to the Theatertreffen festival, numerous awards, 2017 Theaterpreis Berlin. Continuous artistic film and media work since the 1980s, including the inter-media film, internet and theatre project *Hamlet_X* (2000-2008). In 2009, the International Short Film Festival Oberhausen showed a retrospective of his cinematic oeuvre.

Katharina Fritsch, artist

Born in 1956 Essen; lives and works in Düsseldorf and Wuppertal. From 1979 to 1984, studied at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf. Professor of sculpture at the Academy of Fine Arts Münster from 2001 to 2010, at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf from 2010 to 2019. Solo exhibitions and major presentations including 2016 Folkwang Museum, Essen; 2011 to 2013 MoMA, New York; 2012 Art Institute of Chicago; 2011 *ILLUMInations*, 54th Biennale di Venezia; 2009/10 Kunsthaus Zürich and Deichtorhallen Hamburg; 2002, Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen K21, Düsseldorf; 2001 Tate Modern, London; 1999 *dAPERTutto* 48th Biennale di Venezia; 1997 Museum of Contemporary Art Basel; 1996 MoMA, San Francisco; 1993 DIA Center for the Arts, New York; 1989 Portikus, Frankfurt/Main; 1988 ICA, London and Kunsthalle Basel; 1987 Kaiser Wilhelm Museum, Krefeld. From 2013 to 2015, a work by the artist was displayed on the Fourth Plinth in London's Trafalgar Square, 1995 the German Pavilion at the 46th Biennale di Venezia (with Martin Honert and Thomas Ruff).

Thomas Hettche, novelist and essayist

Born in 1964 in Tries on the edge of the Vogelsberg Mountains, lives in Berlin and in Switzerland as a freelance writer. Studied German language and literature, philosophy and film studies in Frankfurt/Main. Since 2018, Thomas Hettche has been an honorary professor at the Institute of Philosophy, Literature, History of Science and Technology at the Technical University Berlin. Publications (selection): *Ludwig muß sterben*. Novel (1989), *Inkubationen*. Stories (1992), *NOX*. Novel (1995), *Der Fall Arbogast*. Detective novel (2001), *Woraus wir gemacht sind*. Novel (2006), *Die Liebe der Väter*. Novel (2010), *Totenberg*. Essay (2012),

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Pfaueninsel. Novel (2014), *Unsere leeren Herzen. Über Literatur* (2017). Awards (selection): 1990 Rauriser Literature Prize, 2014 Wilhelm Raabe Literature Prize and the Bavarian Book Award, 2016 Wolfgang Koeppen Prize, 2018 Hermann Hesse Literature Prize.

Slawomir Idziak, cinematographer

Born in 1945 in Katowice, Poland. In the 1960s, he studied cinematography at Łódź Film School. He then began to work in television. From the mid-1970s, he worked with directors Andrzej Wajda, Krzysztof Zanussi and Krzysztof Kieślowski and contributed to the international reputation of Polish cinema. His image composition is considered experimental and expressive, such as in *Three Colours: Blue* (1993) and *A Short Film About Killing* (1988). Since 1988, he has regularly worked in Germany with Hark Bohm (*Der Fall Bachmeier*, 1984; *Yasemin*, 1988) and Detlev Buck (*Männerpension*, 1995; *Die Vermessung der Welt*, 2012), among others. In the US, he was cinematographer for Andrew Niccols (*Gattaca*, 1997), Ridley Scott (*Black Hawk Down*, 2001) and David Yates (*Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, 2007). Idziak taught at the Academy of Media Arts Cologne and the Film University Babelsberg KONRAD WOLF, among others.

Robert Menasse, novelist and essayist

Born in Vienna in 1954. Studied German language and literature, philosophy and political science in Vienna, Salzburg and Messina, received his PhD in 1980 with a thesis on the "Typus des Außenseiters im Literaturbetrieb" (The type of the outsider in the literature industry). Taught at the University of São Paulo and has lived in Vienna since his return. Publications (selection): *Sinnliche Gewißheit*. Novel (1988), *Die Vertreibung aus der Hölle*. Novel (2001), *Die Zerstörung der Welt als Wille und Vorstellung – Frankfurter Poetikvorlesungen* (2006), *Ich kann jeder sagen: Erzählungen vom Ende der Nachkriegsordnung* (2009), *Der Europäische Landbote*, *Die Wut der Bürger und der Friede Europas* (2012), *Heimat ist die schönste Utopie. Reden (wir) über Europa* (2014), *Die Hauptstadt*, Novel (2017). Awards (selection): 1999 Grimmelshausen-Preis, 2002 Joseph Breitbach Prize and Lion Feuchtwanger Prize, 2013 Heinrich Mann Prize, 2014 Max Frisch Prize, 2017 German Book Prize, 2019 Carl Zuckmayer Medal.

Nanne Meyer, illustrator

Born in Hamburg in 1953, lives in Berlin. Studied at HFBK University of Fine Arts Hamburg. At the centre of her work is drawing, understood as a means of getting to the bottom of one's own perception and setting a process of associative thought in motion. Here, the focus is on the relationships between verbal and visual language, processes of growth and decay and exploring the medium itself. Her work includes drawings, collages and artist's books. Nanne Meyer has had solo exhibitions at the Städtische Galerie in the Lenbachhaus in Munich, Kunsthalle Bremen, Hamburger Kunsthalle, Museum Goch, the Kupferstichkabinett, the

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Staatliche Museen zu Berlin and the Max Liebermann House in Berlin, among others. A DAAD fellowship took her to Saint Martin's School of Art in London (1982/83). In addition to a fellowship at Villa Massimo in Rome (1986/87), in 2013 she received the Künstlerinnenpreis NRW for drawing (main prize) and in 2014 the Hannah Höch Prize of the State of Berlin. From 1994 to 2016, she taught as a professor of drawing and illustration at Weißensee Academy of Art Berlin.

Thomas Ostermeier, director, theatre director

Born in 1968 in Soltau, grew up in Landshut. From 1992 to 1996, studied directing at the Ernst Busch Academy of Dramatic Arts and held assistantships under Manfred Karge. From 1996 to 1999, artistic director of the Baracke at the Deutsches Theater Berlin; his premières of Mark Ravenhill and David Harrower were invited to the Theatertreffen festival. 1998, the Baracke was named "Theatre of the Year". Since 1999, a member of the artistic direction of the Schaubühne, 40 productions there since then, including guest productions at the Munich Kammerspiele, the Edinburgh Festival, Comédie Française among others; 2004 he was appointed the Artiste Associé of the Festival d'Avignon. His productions have been invited to the Theatertreffen festival numerous times, most recently in 2018 with *Rückkehr nach Reims* by Didier Eribon, and have won German and international awards, including the Friedrich Luft Prize, the Nestroy Award, the Grand Prix de la Critique, the Prix Molière, the Premio della Critica Teatrale, Rome and the Prize of the FAJR Festival, Tehran. From 2010 to 2018, Thomas Ostermeier was president of the Franco-German Cultural Council and in 2016 was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Kent for his contribution to European theatre. Further honours include the 2011 Venice Biennale Golden Lion for his life's work and being appointed Commandeur des Arts et des Lettres in 2015.

Adrian Piper Conceptual artist and analytical philosopher

Born in 1948 in New York, living and working in Berlin since 2005, where she founded the Adrian Piper Research Archive Foundation Berlin. Her artistic oeuvre, including works on paper, videos, multimedia installations, paintings, sound works, photographic and text-based graphics, are to be found at the Museum of Modern Art and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles, the Centre Pompidou in Paris and the Generali Foundation in Vienna, among others. She has received fellowships from the Getty Research Institute in Los Angeles and the Institute for Advanced Study in Berlin, the Skowheagan Medal for Sculptural Installation and the New York Dance & Performance Award. In 2015, she was awarded the Golden Lion for *The Probable Trust Registry: The Rules of the Game #1–3* at the Venice Biennale. After studying art, Adrian Piper studied philosophy. Research on Kant and Hegel at the University of Heidelberg brought her to Germany. In 1981, she received her PhD from Harvard University under John Rawls with a thesis on rationality. Piper has taught

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at several American universities and in her numerous philosophical publications deals in particular with meta-ethics, Immanuel Kant and the history of ethics.

Paul Plamper, author and director of radio plays and theatre

Born in 1972 in Ulm, from 1993 to 1995, studied theatre science and German language and literature at the Humboldt University in Berlin. At the same time, he began as a director's assistant at the Berliner Ensemble and the Volksbühne. In 1998, he staged the play *Der Auftrag* by Heiner Müller in Istanbul. Since 1999, he has been working regularly as a radio play writer and director. Many of his works have won prizes, including *TOP HIT leicht gemacht* (2002) which won the Prix Europa, *Ruhe 1* (2009), which won the Hörspielpreis der Kriegsblinden (Blind War Veterans' Radio Drama Prize) and *Der Kauf* (2013), which won the ARD German Radio Drama Prize. He continuously seeks out opportunities to stage radio plays in the public space, which is why *Der Kauf* was presented as an obstacle course on brownfield sites in Cologne and Munich, and the two acts of *Dienstbare Geister*, were presented in parallel in different rooms at the Ruhrtriennale in 2017. Paul Plamper is the initiator and artistic director of the platform *Hörspielpark.de*, which serves to promote radio plays.

Annette Schmucki, composer

Born in 1968 in Zurich, studied composition under Cornelius Schwehr in Winterthur and then completed a postgraduate course in composition (master's degree) under Mathias Spahlinger in Freiburg im Breisgau. She has received numerous awards for her artistic work. Her works are commissioned and premiered by renowned ensembles and festivals such as Archipel, ascolta, Musikfestival Bern, Collegium Novum Zürich, Ensemble Contrechamps, Ensemble Lemniscate, Lucerne Festival, Luzerner Theater, Maulwerker, ensemble proton bern, ensemble recherche, Festival Rümlingen, Staatsoper Berlin, Tage für Neue Musik Zürich, usinesonore, Neue Vocalsolisten Stuttgart, WDR, Wien Modern and Wittener Tage für neue Kammermusik. In addition to solo works, she has been a member of the artist duo 'blablabor' with radio artist Reto Friedmann since 2000. Since 2010, she has been playing with musician Petra Ronner in the sampler combo 'band' and invented the life of the 'sieben schweinschwestern' with visual artist Maria Gasche.

Lothar Trolle, playwright, storyteller, poet, radio play author and translator

Born in 1944 in Brücken near Sangerhausen (Harz), lives in Berlin. After finishing high school and completing a commercial apprenticeship, he studied at the Humboldt University in Berlin. From 1983 to 1987, co-editor of the literary underground magazine MIKADO. In 1991, writer-in-residence at Schauspiel Frankfurt, from 1994 to 1999 at the Berliner Ensemble. Publications (selection): *Hermes in der Stadt. Stücke* (1991), *Das Klassenfenster. Dramolette, Prosa und anderes* (1991), *Die 81 Minuten des Fräulein A. (Annas zweite Erschaffung der Welt)* (1995), *Das Prinzenmärchen* (1996), *Die Baugrube* (1996), *Nach dem*

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Besuch eines Toten (1997), *Berlin fin du monde* (1998) and *Nach der Sintflut. Gesammelte Werke* (2007). Awards (selection): In 1978 and 1991, Radio Drama Award from Terre des Hommes, 1998 Radio Drama Award from the Akademie der Künste, 2007 Writer-in-Residence in Rheinsberg.

Jennifer Walshe, composer and performer

Born in 1974 in Dublin, Ireland, studied composition under John Maxwell Geddes at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music & Drama, Kevin Volans in Dublin and received her PhD in 2002 at Northwestern University, Chicago under Amnon Wolman and Michael Pisaro. Jennifer Walshe's work has been performed and broadcast all over the world. She has received fellowships and prizes from the Foundation for Contemporary Arts, New York, the DAAD Artists-in-Berlin Program, the Internationales Musikinstitut Darmstadt and Akademie Schloss Solitude, among others. Recent projects include *Aisteach*, a fictional history of avant-garde music in Ireland; *EVERYTHING IS IMPORTANT*, a work commissioned by the Arditti Quartet for vocals, string quartet and film; and *TIME, TIME, TIME*, an opera written in collaboration with philosopher Timothy Morton to great critical acclaim. Walshe is a professor of performance at the State University of Music and Performing Arts Stuttgart.

Cécile Wajsbrot, novelist, essayist, translator

Born in 1954 in Paris, lives in Paris and Berlin. After studying Romance languages and comparative literature at the Sorbonne in Paris, she initially worked as a French teacher and later as a literary editor as well. Since 1989, freelance writer and translator. Publications in German (selection): *Mann und Frau, den Mond betrachtend* (2003), *Im Schatten der Tage* (2004), *Der Verrat* (2006), *Aus der Nacht* (2008), *Nocturnes, Geschichten vom Meer, Erzählungen* (2009), *Die Köpfe der Hydra* (2012), *Für die Literatur. Essay* (2013), *Eclipse* (2016). Awards (selection): 2014 Eugen-Helmlé Translation Prize, 2016 Prix de l'Académie de Berlin.

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