

Søren Grammel appointed new director at Heidelberger Kunstverein

The publicly advertised search for a new director of the Heidelberger Kunstverein attracted a large number of qualified candidates from Germany and beyond. In an intensive selection and interview process, the newly elected board of the Heidelberger Kunstverein has found a renowned new director in Søren Grammel, former Head of the Department of Art Since 1960 / Contemporary Art at Kunstmuseum Basel. Grammel will be the new director of the Heidelberger Kunstverein from March 2022 onwards, with his artistic program commencing in June.

The jury and the board of the Heidelberger Kunstverein are delighted with Grammel's appointment:

›We are convinced that Søren Grammel will expand the high standard and the great appeal of the Heidelberger Kunstverein in the coming years. With him, we can look forward to many relevant and compelling artistic positions and engaging and well-conceived exhibitions. Among other things, Søren Grammel's visionary character, distinct curatorial approach, and close relationship with artists have convinced us. Likewise, his vision of the Kunstverein as an open meeting place and a discursive platform corresponds with our ambitions regarding the further development of the association as a catalyst for new ideas and an important cultural institution in Heidelberg.‹

For Søren Grammel, the position in Heidelberg unlocks innovative possibilities for working curatorially:

›In my previous work, I have been able to engage with very different types of art institutions. Now, I'm looking forward to working in a context within which the interaction between artists, audiences, and curators can take place in ways that are probably less defined or configured through institutional filters.‹

For the past 20 years, Søren Grammel has worked as a curator at the intersection of visual arts, film, and cultural studies. In the past year, he realized, among other things, the exhibition Isa Genzken - Works from 1973 to 1983 at K21 in Düsseldorf (before at Kunstmuseum Basel).

He is also a lecturer in the Fine Art Master's program at the Zurich University of the Arts. Previously, he directed the Department of Art Since 1960 / Contemporary Art at Kunstmuseum Basel (2013 - 2020) and the Grazer Kunstverein (2005 - 2011). Former positions include Curator-in-Residence at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna (2009 - 2010) and Curator at Kunstverein Munich (2002 - 2004). Søren Grammel is known for a series of high-profile exhibitions that negotiate social issues, such as the exhibition War Games (2018 - 2019), initiating a dialogue between artists Martha Rosler and Hito Steyerl. Another significant interdisciplinary project is Circular Flow - On the Global

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Economy of Inequality (2020), which brought together artists from different centuries with sociologists and activists.

Grammel will succeed Ursula Schöndeling, who is leaving the Heidelberger Kunstverein after five years of successful directorship. Her directorship is credited with a wide variety of exhibitions, innovative accompanying and educational programs and the introduction of new digital formats, which were of considerable importance, especially during the closure of the Kunstverein due to Corona.

Further Information:

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