



Press Release

Frankfurt am Main, September 10, 2024

Barbara Clausen Appointed Rector of Städtelschule and Director of Portikus

The Hessian Ministry of Higher Education, Research, Science and the Arts (HMWK) and the Board of the Hochschule für Bildende Künste—Städtelschule in Frankfurt am Main are proud to announce the appointment of Prof. Dr. Barbara Clausen to the position of Rector of the Städtelschule and Director of Portikus for a five-year term, beginning October 1, 2024.

Clausen succeeds Yasmil Raymond who held the office from 2020 to 2024. On behalf of the Konvent of Städtelschule, Prof. Gerard Byrne would like to thank Yasmil Raymond for her tenure as rector of the school: “Raymond provided fearless leadership amidst the unprecedented challenges of the pandemic and has since rejuvenated affiliations with our fellow art schools across Europe through the ambitious project Gasthof in 2022, as well as initiating a new professorship in Cohabitation and a series of wonderful guest professorships. Raymond leaves Städtelschule in a healthy space.”

Clausen (b. 1970, Austria) brings with her over two decades of experience as a curator, educator, and art historian. Her academic leadership and research projects are deeply dedicated to relationship building, fostering intergenerational knowledge, dialogue, and experimentation. Byrne continues, “We would like to express our collective excitement that Barbara Clausen will take up the tenure of Rector this autumn. Clausen has an internationally recognized profile as an art historian of the highest caliber, as well as an exciting body of curatorial work engaging contemporary art practices through the prism of previous artistic legacies. Clausen has a track record of working closely with students and with institution building. Her professional interests and her wide international experience make her an ideal candidate to lead the Städtelschule into the future.”

Clausen, who has come to know Frankfurt during her time as the Chillida Chair Visiting Professor at the Institute of Art History at Goethe-University Frankfurt in 2023, is excited to shape the future of the school with the students, faculty, and team, stating “Städtelschule—with its long and rich history, far reaching international network, independent status, and commitment to experimentation and research—is unique in its dedication to art as an expanded field of practices. I believe art education is a collective and collaborative process that has the power to create inclusive spaces and ways of thinking that critically reflect and shape the present—as well as the past and the future.”

Dr. Ina Hartwig, Deputy Mayor in charge of Culture and Science of the city of Frankfurt, states: “I am delighted that we can welcome Barbara Clausen to Frankfurt. She will greatly contribute to assuring the artistic support and well-being of students, faculty, and employees and forge alliances with respective communities on a local, regional, national, and international level and expand the field of art education and curatorial studies.”

Barbara Clausen

CV Barbara Clausen

From 2020 to 2024 Barbara Clausen was Vice Dean for Research and Creation at the Faculty of Arts at the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM), Canada, where she has been a professor of contemporary art and performance in the art history department since 2011. Over the last two decades, Clausen (PhD 2010 University of Vienna) has lectured and written extensively on the historiography and institutionalization of performance-based art practices and the discourses surrounding the politics of the body, the exhibition, and the archive.

Clausen's focus and close collaborations with artists are informed by her formative years at Dia Art Foundation (1996-2000), CTP De Appel in Amsterdam (2000-2001) and documenta11 (2002), as well as the many projects, institutions, and artists she worked with thereafter. Since 2000 she has curated numerous exhibitions and performance series in Europe as well as North America, including *After the Act* (2005), *Again and Against* (2006) and *Push and Pull I & 2* (2010-2011) which she developed with mumok (Museum of Modern Art Stiftung Ludwig Wien), Tanzquartier Vienna and Tate Modern, London. After moving to Montreal, Canada, in 2011, she curated the first retrospective of Babette Mangolte at VOX centre de l'image contemporaine in 2013, followed by *Stage Set Stage. On Identity and Institutionalism* (SBC Gallery, 2014) and in 2016 *Joan Jonas: From Away and Affinities*, both at the PHI Foundation, featuring the work of Rosa Barba, Simone Forti, Andrea Geyer, Joan Jonas, Jason Moran, Tanya Lukin Linklater, taisha paggett, and Lawrence Weiner.

Some of these projects were closely interwoven with her academic research and dedicated to archival and curatorial forms of community building, notably *An Annotated Bibliography in Real Time: Performance Art in Quebec and Canada* (Artexte Montreal, 2014-2019). From 2017-2021 she was the Curatorial Research Director of *The Joan Jonas Knowledge Base* (JKB), an open access digital archive she developed with the Artist Archives Initiative at New York University, collaborating with more than a dozen artists and curators in major museums in Europe, North America, and Asia. Most recently, she is the author of *Babette Mangolte. Performance zwischen Aktion und Betrachtung* (Edition Metzler, Munich) and co-editor of the monograph *Joan Jonas: next move in a mirror world* (Dia Art Foundation & DAI New York) both published in 2023.

Hochschule für Bildende Künste–Städelschule

The Hochschule für Bildende Künste–Städelschule is an art school in Frankfurt am Main. Since its establishment in 1817 it has been committed to providing equal, international, experimental, and independent artistic education. The school's international community is remarkably diverse, making it unique in Germany. Students can pursue a Fine Arts program or, in cooperation with Goethe-University Frankfurt, an MA in Curatorial Studies. Städelschule stands out as the only art school in Germany with an exhibition hall integrated into the institution: Portikus, founded in 1987 by former rector Kasper König, is dedicated to exhibiting, publishing, and discussing young, emerging, and established artists.

staedelschule

Städelschule's distinguished faculty—including artists, architects, and cultural theorists such as Monika Baer, Daniel Birnbaum, Gerard Byrne, Benjamin Foerster-Baldenius, Isabelle Graw, Judith Hopf, Hassan Khan, Philippe Pirotte, Tobias Rehberger, Willem de Rooij, and Haegue Yang—supports open spaces for art and encourages critical thinking through a variety of formats and discourses.

For further inquiries and interview requests, please write to: presse@staedelschule.de