

Press release

7 July 2017

New members of the Akademie der Künste

13 new members were elected to the Akademie der Künste at this year's Spring General Assembly. All of them have accepted the engagement in the meantime. The Music Section welcomes: **Chaya Czernowin, Hanna Hartman** and **Maja Solveig Kjelstrup Ratkje**. Elected to the Literature Section were: **Ann Cotten, A.L. Kennedy, Ursula Krechel** and **Emine Sevgi Özdamar**. New members of the Performing Arts Section are: **Karin Beier, Sandra Hüller, Wolfram Koch, Hans-Thies Lehmann, Joachim Meyerhoff** and **Sophie Rois**. The Visual Arts, Architecture and Film and Media Arts Sections did not nominate new members this year. The Akademie der Künste currently has a total of 423 members in its six Sections.

Short biographies of the new members:

Karin Beier, theatre director

born in Cologne in 1965, lives in Hamburg. Completed studies there in English and Theatre, Film and Television. Formed the international theatre group Countercheck Quarrelsome (together with Elmar Goerden) in 1986, with which she staged Shakespearean pieces in areas with no proximity to a theatre. From 1992 onwards, directorial work at the Düsseldorfer Schauspielhaus, Deutsches Schauspielhaus Hamburg, Schauspiel Köln, Schauspielhaus Bochum, as well as at the Burgtheater, Vienna, of which several pieces were invited to the Berliner Theatertreffen festival. She received the Austrian Nestroy Prize in 2006 for her production of *Die Kleinbürger (The Philistines)* by Maxim Gorki in the Akademietheater, Vienna, as well as the German Theatre Prize, Der Faust, in 2009 for *Das Goldene Vließ (The Golden Fleece)* by Franz Grillparzer at the Schauspiel Köln. Since 1997, she has also directed musical theatre. Between 2007 and 2013, she was general director of the Schauspiel Köln, and has been director at the Deutsches Schauspielhaus Hamburg since 2013.

Ann Cotten, writer

born in 1982 in Iowa (USA); brought up in Vienna, where she did a degree in German Language and Literature. She concluded her studies with a dissertation on the lists in concrete poetry. She has worked as a freelance writer in Berlin and Vienna since 2006. Publications (selected): *Fremdwörterbuchsonette* (2007), *Glossarattrappen* (2008), *Das Pferd* (2009), *Florida-Räume* (2010), *Pflock in der Landschaft* (2011), *Helm aus Phlox. Zur Theorie des schlechtesten Werkzeugs* (with Daniel Falb, Hendrik Jackson, Steffen Popp and Monika Rinck) (2011),

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Hauptwerk. Softsoftporn (2013), *Der schauernde Fächer*. Short stories (2013), *Verbannt!* Epic poem (2016). Awards (selected): 2008 Clemens Brentano Prize, 2014 Adelbert-von-Chamisso Prize, 2014 Wilhelm-Lehmann Prize, 2015 Ernst-Bloch Prize, 2015 Klopstock Prize for New Literature, 2017 Hugo-Ball Prize.

Chaya Czernowin, composer

born 1957 in Haifa (Israel), lives in Newton (USA). Completed studies in composition in Israel, Germany, and in the United States. Doctorate from the University of California San Diego (USA). Fellowships in Tokyo (Japan, Asahi Shimbun fellowship, NEA fellowship 1993–1996) and Germany (DAAD fellowship 1983–1985; Akademie Schloß Solitude 1996). “Composer in Residence” 2006/2007 at the Salzburg Festival and in 2013 at the Luzern Festival. 1997–2006 Professor of Composition at the University of California San Diego (USA) and 2006–2009 at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna (Austria). Since 2009, Professor of Music at Harvard University (USA). Awards (selected): Kranichsteiner Music prize 1992; IRCAM Reading Panel 1998; Composers' Prize of the Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation 2003; Guggenheim Fellowship 2011, Heidelberger Composers' Prize 2016.

Hanna Hartman, sound artist, composer and performer

born 1961 in Uppsala (Sweden), lives in Berlin. Completed studies in literature and theatre history in Uppsala and Stockholm; in Stockholm also studied Radio and Interactive Media Art at the “Dramatiska Institutet” as well as electro-acoustic music at the EMS (Elektronmusikstudion). In 2007/2008 she was “Composer in Residence” at Swedish Radio, and in 2010 fellow at the Villa Aurora in Los Angeles (USA). Her music has been performed at several festivals, among them Wittener Tage für neue Kammermusik (2006), Darmstadt Courses of New Music (2012, 2014), Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival (2013, 2016) and ECLAT in Stuttgart (2017). Awards (selected): Prix Europa 1998; Karl-Sczuka Prize 2005; Rosenbergpriset 2011; Prix Phonurgia Nova 2006/2016.

Sandra Hüller, actress

born in 1978 in Suhl/Thüringen, lives in Leipzig. 1996–2000 training at the “Ernst Busch” Academy of Dramatic Art in Berlin. Engagements at the Theaterhaus Jena (1999–2001), Schauspiel Leipzig (2001–2002), Theater Basel (2002–2006) and at the Münchner Kammerspiele (2012–2015). She also performed at the Ruhrtriennale, at the Schauspiel Hannover and at the Volksbühne am Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz. Collaboration with the directors Claudia Bauer, Barbara Frey, Stephan Kimmig, Sebastian Nübling, René Pollesch, Rafael Sanchez, Johan Simons and others. In film, she became internationally known through *Requiem* (2006) by Hans-Christian Schmid and has also performed with Maren Ade, Nicolette Krebitz, Jan Schomburg and Ina Weisse. Maren Ade's film *Toni*

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Erdmann, in which Sandra Hüller performed with Peter Simonischek, received numerous German and international rewards, including an Oscar nomination.

A.L. Kennedy, writer

born in 1965 in Dundee (Scotland), studied Theatre Studies and Drama at the University of Warwick, where she presently teaches Creative Writing. Became internationally renowned with her debut novel, *Waiting for the Possible Dance*, and is today considered to be one of Great Britain's most important authors. Having lived for a long time in Glasgow, she has been residing in London since 2012. Publications (selected): *Original Bliss*. Short story collection (1997), *Waiting for the Possible Dance*. Novel (1993), *Everything You Need*. Novel (1995), *So I Am Glad*. Novel (1999), *Paradise*. Novel (2004), *Day*. Novel (2007), *What Becomes*. Short story collection (2009), *The Blue Book*. Novel (2011), *All The Rage*. Short story collection (2014). Awards (selected): 1994 Somerset Maugham Award, 1999 Scottish Arts Council Book Award, 2007 Costa Book Award, 2007 Austrian State Prize for International Literature, 2016 Heinrich-Heine Prize of the city of Düsseldorf.

Wolfram Koch, actor

born in 1962 in Paris, lives in Frankfurt/Main. Studied acting at the Frankfurt University of Music and Performing Arts. Theatre roles at the Freie Volksbühne Berlin and Schauspiel Frankfurt, as well as engagements at the Schiller Theater Berlin (1988–1990) and the Schauspielhaus Bochum (1995–2000). Thereafter freelance at the Deutsches Theater, Berlin, the Volksbühne am Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz, the Schauspielhaus Zürich and the Burgtheater, Vienna. Collaboration with the directors Sebastian Baumgarten, Jan Bosse, Herbert Fritsch, Dimiter Gotscheff, Karin Henkel, Frank Hoffmann, Armin Petras and Stefan Pucher. He also appears regularly in film and has played the police investigator in the Frankfurt *Tatort* crime series since 2015. In 2010 he was awarded the Berlin Theatre Prize together with Dimiter Gotscheff, the actress Almut Zilcher and the actor Samuel Finzi, and in 2014, also with Samuel Finzi, the Gertrud-Eysoldt-Ring award.

Ursula Krechel, writer

born in 1947 in Trier, lives in Berlin. Studied German Language and Literature, Theatre Studies and Art History; awarded a doctorate in 1971 for her thesis on the theatre critic Herbert Ihering. She was a dramatic advisor in the theatre, has worked with juvenile remand prisoners on theatre projects and has been a freelance writer since 1972. Since then, she has published numerous volumes of poetry and prose as well as plays and audio dramas. Publications (selected): *Selbsterfahrung und Fremdbestimmung*. Essay (1975), *Nach Mainz!* Poetry (1977), *Mit dem Körper des Vaters spielen*. Essays (1992), *Stimmen aus dem harten Kern*. Verse (2005), *Shanghai fern von wo*. Novel (2008), *Jäh erhellte*

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Dunkelheit. Poetry (2010), *Landgericht*. Novel (2012), *Die da*. Selected poetry (2013), *Stark und leise*. *Pionierinnen*. Essays (2015). Awards (selected): 2008 Rheingau Literature Prize, 2009 German Critic's Prize, 2009 Rheinland-Pfalz Arts Prize, 2009 Joseph-Breitbach Prize, 2012 Orphil Poetry Prize, 2012 German Book Prize, 2015 Gerty-Spies Literature Prize.

Hans-Thies Lehmann, theatre scholar

born in 1944 in Ehringshausen, Wetzlar, lives in Berlin. Went on to study Philosophy and Comparative Science in Berlin following a degree in German Literature and Language. Assistant lecturer at the Institute for Applied Theatre Studies at the University of Giessen; collaboration in the development of the course together with Prof. Andrzej Wirth. Following a post-doctorate in 1988, became Professor for Theatre Studies at the Goethe University in Frankfurt/Main, where he established the "Dramaturgy" postgraduate programme in 2002. Various guest lectureships abroad for theatre studies as well as dramaturgy for Jossi Wieler, Peter Palitzsch, Christof Nel and Theodoros Terzopoulos, for example. Numerous publications, with a focus on Bertolt Brecht and Heiner Müller. In 1999 he published an authoritative analysis of the aesthetics of the time under the title *Postdramatic Theatre*. Most recently he published a volume of dissertations: *Ich mache ja nicht das, was Menschen sind oder tun, zu meinem Thema...: Postdramatische Poetiken bei Jelinek und anderen* (Vienna, 2017).

Joachim Meyerhoff, actor

born in 1967 in Homburg, lives in Vienna. Trained as an actor at the Otto-Falckenberg-Schule in Munich. Engagements at the Staatstheater Kassel, Theater Bielefeld, Theater Dortmund and at the Schauspiel Köln. At the Maxim Gorki Theatre, Berlin, from 2001. In 2002, moved to the Deutsches Schauspielhaus Hamburg, and in 2005 to the Burgtheater, Vienna, where he has remained a member of the company until today. Since the 2013/14 season, he has also appeared again at the Hamburger Schauspielhaus. Collaboration with, for example, the directors Karin Beier, Luc Bondy, Jan Bosse, Barbara Frey, Herbert Fritsch, Jürgen Gosch, Nicolas Stemann. At the Maxim Gorki Theatre (*Wann wird es endlich wieder so wie es nie war*, 2005) and the Burgtheater (*Alle Toten fliegen hoch*, 2007–2009), he developed a series of strongly autobiographical evenings, which were also published between 2011 and 2015 in the form of three novels and which won several awards.

Maja Solveig Kjelstrup Ratkje, composer and performer

Born 1973 in Trondheim (Norway), resides in Svartskog (Norway). Completed studies in composition in Oslo. She works as a singer, voice artist and performer of electronic music, solo or with experimental music groups such as SPUNK and BRAK RUG and Jazzkammer, as well as with contemporary music ensembles such as Ensemble Intercontemporain, Oslo Sinfonietta, Cikada or POING. Awards

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(selected): Edvardprisen 1999/2004; Arne Nordheims komponistpris 2001, Prix Musique Mixte XXIII Concorso Internazionale Luigi Rossolo di Musica Elettroacustica 2001, Prix Ars Electronica 2003, International Rostrum of Composers 1999 and 2005.

Sophie Rois, actress

born in 1961 in Ottensheim, Austria, lives in Berlin. Trained as an actor at the Max-Reinhardt-Seminar in Vienna. From 1987, roles in Berlin at the Renaissance Theater, at the Theater der Freien Volksbühne and at the Schillertheater. In 1993 she moved to the Volksbühne am Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz and was central there to numerous productions by Frank Castorf, Christoph Marthaler, René Pollesch and Christoph Schlingensief. In particular in productions by René Pollesch, she also appears regularly in other theatres such as the Deutsches Schauspielhaus Hamburg, the Burgtheater, Vienna, or the Schauspielhaus Zürich. In addition, she performs in films by Detlef Buck, Helke Misselwitz, Tom Tykwer or Ina Weisse, and also appears from time to time as a singer. In addition to many other prizes for her performances in film, theatre and for her audio book recordings, she was awarded the 2012 Berlin Theatre Prize and appointed Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres by the French state in 2014.

Emine Sevgi Özdamar, writer, theatre director and actress

born in 1946 in Turkey. First theatre roles at 12 years of age at the Bursa National theatre. Moved to Berlin in 1965 and worked in a factory. 1967–1970 attended acting school in Istanbul. 1976 collaboration with Benno Besson and Matthias Langhoff at the Volksbühne in East Berlin, then in Paris and Avignon. 1979–1984 company member at the Schauspielhaus Bochum under Claus Peymann, on whose behalf her first theatre play, *Karagöz in Alemania*, was produced in 1982. Has worked since 1982 as a freelance writer, writing in the German language. She has appeared in several films. Publications (selected): *Mutterzunge*. Short stories (1990), *Das Leben ist eine Karawanserei hat zwei Türen aus einer kam ich rein aus der anderen ging ich raus*. Novel (1992), *Die Brücke vom Goldenen Horn*. Novel (1998), *Der Hof im Spiegel*. Short stories (2001), *Seltsame Sterne starren zur Erde*. Novel (2003). Awards (selected): 1991 Ingeborg-Bachmann Prize, 1993 Walter-Hasenclever Prize of the city of Aachen, 1999 Adelbert-von-Chamisso Prize, 2004 Kleist Prize, 2009 Berlin Arts Prize / Fontane Prize, 2010 Carl-Zuckmayer Medal, 2012 Alice Salomon Poetry Prize.

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