

BMKÖS/Mayer: Fatima Hellberg new General Director of mumok, Cornelia Lamprechter re-appointed as the Managing Director

State Secretary for Arts and Culture Andrea Mayer: "outstanding concept with very clever approaches and a great deal of esprit"

Swedish curator Fatima Hellberg will become General Director of Vienna's mumok - Museum moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig as from 1 October 2025. This was announced today by Andrea Mayer, State Secretary for Arts and Culture. Managing director Cornelia Lamprechter will be reappointed for a further term of office.

"In Fatima Hellberg, we have gained an internationally well-connected, incredibly accomplished and creative leader for mumok. She has an open, lively, young and modern institution in mind, one that while located in Vienna, is also boasting a wealth of international perspectives," said State Secretary Mayer about Hellberg's appointment. "Ms Hellberg has presented an outstanding concept with very clever approaches and a lot of esprit. She represents a new departure, a new and different way of thinking about museums, cooperation and diversity, but also a keen sense of history and the strength of the mumok collection".

Regarding the reappointment of Cornelia Lamprechter Mayer went on: *"In our discussions about the future of mumok Cornelia Lamprechter convinced me with her great openness to new ideas and her flexibility concerning the concept of a new artistic management. She stands for continuity in administrative and economic matters and will enable make a seamless start for the new artistic-scientific management."*

„Mumok is exceptional – as an institution it not only houses one of the most important collections of modern and contemporary art, but continues to foster art’s ability to mirror and shift a given understanding of the present“, says designated Director General Fatima Hellberg. „It is thrilling, and a deep honour, to build on the rich legacy and history of this institution in a city that is so strongly committed to the arts, and thereby continue the remarkable work of Karola Kraus. I look forward to extending the rigorous and bold tradition of the institution, whilst considering novel ways of activating and bringing liveness to its collection and expanding its public. My work is built on a belief in the public museum as a civic space and in the potential of developing spaces of reflection, experience, and confrontation at that remarkable threshold where life meets art, and art meets life“.

"I see my reappointment as recognition of the commitment of all mumok employees and am very pleased to be able to help shape mumok’s further development with great dedication and motivation in the coming years! I would like to thank Secretary of State Mayer, the Arts and Culture Division and our Board of Trustees for their trust and the opportunity to continue realising exciting tasks and innovative projects together with Fatima Hellberg and the mumok team in the future," says Managing Director Cornelia Lamprechter.

During the press conference, State Secretary Mayer also thanked current General Director Karola Kraus: "*Dear Karola, by the time you will hand it over you will have given this museum 15 years of your life. During this time, you have created numerous unforgettable exhibition moments that have left their mark on this city*".

A total of 24 candidates applied for the position of mumok General Director, eight of whom from Austria and 16 from abroad, in all 17 women and seven men. Seven people were invited to hearings, two were recommended by the selection committee.

Twelve people applied for the position of Managing Director, ten of whom from Austria and two from abroad, in all seven women and five men. Two of them were recommended by the selection committee.

The selection committee consisted of Monika Faber (art historian with a research focus on the history of photography), Theresia Niedermüller (head of the Arts and Culture Division of the Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport), Paul Oberhammer (member of the mumok board of trustees), Felicitas Thun-Hohenstein (chairwoman of the mumok board of trustees) and Susanne Titz (director of Museum Abteiberg Mönchengladbach). The process was guided by the executive search and leadership consulting firm Alto Partners.

Photos for download will be available after the press conference at:
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/bmkoes/>

Short Biography Fatima Hellberg

Fatima Hellberg (b. 1986, Sweden) is a curator and director of Bonner Kunstverein. She has curated exhibitions and projects in institutions internationally, including: Tate Modern; Institute of Contemporary Arts, London; CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco; Malmö Konsthall and Museion, Bolzano. Her curatorial practice is formulated in close dialogue with artists, often with long-running collaborations and a marked attention to the experiential qualities of the viewer and exhibition-making as form. A key concern is a holistic approach to the institution, where programme, communication, outreach, and internal structures are approached in connection and synergy. The notion of a *Haltung*, which connects a practice of participation, inclusion and sustainability – understood in *how* one works together and the ethics of the institution – are key.

Prior to her current role, Hellberg was Artistic Director of Künstlerhaus Stuttgart (2015-19). In London, she served as curator at Cubitt, and Electra, a contemporary arts organisation with a longstanding dedication to gender and feminism.

Hellberg studied Visual Culture and History of Art at Oxford University and Curating Contemporary Art at Royal College of Art, London. She has taught and lectured at Sandberg Institute, Amsterdam; Städelschule, Frankfurt; Oxford University and the Art Academy of Düsseldorf, Akademie der bildenden Künste Wien, among others. Hellberg has edited and written for numerous catalogues and contributed to journals including

Texte zur Kunst, Frieze Magazine, Kunstkritikk, Afterall and Kunstforum. Selected edited publications include: Ellen Cantor: A history of the world as it has become known to me; Divine Drudgery and David Medalla: Parables of Friendship with the forthcoming title, Gregg Bordowitz: A Route, a Direction, an Inclination.

During Hellberg's directorship, the Bonner Kunstverein has received the following prizes: *David Medalla: Parables of Friendship*, lauded as 'Special Exhibition of the Year' by AICA (Association Internationale des Critiques d'Art) and Bonner Kunstverein, 'Kunstverein of the Year' by the ADKV-ART COLOGNE Award 2022. Forthcoming projects include exhibitions at Camden Art Centre, London and Haus Mödrath, Kerpen.