

Kassel, June 9, 2021

Press Release: Victim or perpetrator? Theses on the National Socialist past of the curators of the first documenta exhibition

The digital conference on June 11, 2021 is dedicated to the history of the first documenta exhibition (1955) and the connection of its curators to National Socialism. The conference is a collaboration between the Kunsthochschule Kassel/Universität Kassel and the documenta archiv and can be followed via livestream on Youtube.

Digital conference

Friday, June 11, 2021, 10 am – 5 pm

Livestream via YouTube (in German):

www.youtube.com/watch?v=9eHMufRVVb8

Moderation: Dr. Birgitta Coers and Prof. Dr. Kai-Uwe Hemken

The Kunsthochschule Kassel (Kassel College of Art, Art Studies) and the documenta archiv are organizing a public digital conference on the connection of the first documenta with National Socialism on June 11, 2021. The event focuses on the exhibition's co-curators at the time, Werner Haftmann and Kurt Martin, who demonstrably held NSDAP membership (Haftmann) or were employed as curators (Martin) during the Nazi dictatorship. In addition, the question is explored with what motivation works from the “Degenerate Art” exhibition were shown at the first documenta.

Three panels will discuss the related questions. Speakers include:

Ingo Arend, Wolfgang Benz, Tabea Brinkmann, Heinz Bude, Nanne Buurman, Nikola Doll, Christian Fuhrmeister, Dorothee Gerkens, Eckhard Gillen, Walter Grasskamp, Stefan Greif, Ayşe Güleç, Katja Häckel, Pia Jansen, Alexis Joachimides, Justus Lange, Stefan Koldehoff, Gerhard Panzer, Alexia Pooth, Volker Rattemeyer, Tessa Rosebrock, Thomas Rudert, Anna Rühl, Sabine Schormann, Sylvia Stöbe, Julia Voss, Lena Voss, and Alexandra Winterhoff.

Program

10 – 11.30 am

NSDAP-Mitgliedschaft und Kuration/Kustodie während der NS-Herrschaft

Moderation: Dr. Birgitta Coers, Prof. Dr. Kai-Uwe Hemken, Dr. Harald Kimpel

Speakers: Ingo Arend, Wolfgang Benz, Heinz Bude, Christian Fuhrmeister, Ayşe Güleç, Katja Häckel, Alexia Pooth, Tessa Rosebrock, Thomas Rudert, Sylvia Stöbe

11.30 – 12.30 am

Break

12.30 am – 2 pm

Wie lässt sich das Verhältnis der betroffenen historischen Personen zur modernen Kunst und Ausstellungen zur modernen Kunst definieren? Welche Rolle spielte die Kunstkritik?

Moderation: Dr. Birgitta Coers, Prof. Dr. Kai-Uwe Hemken, Dr. Harald Kimpel

Speakers: Dorothee Gerkens, Eckhard Gillen, Stefan Greif, Pia Jansen, Alexis Joachimides, Gerhard Panzer, Julia Voss

2 – 3 pm

Break

3 – 4.30 pm

Kontinuitäten. Netzwerk im NS: Kunsthandel, Sammler, Kulturpolitik. Werke der modernen Kunst als Bestandteil des Konvoluts „Entartete Kunst“ und als Exponate der ersten documenta

Moderation: Dr. Birgitta Coers, Prof. Dr. Kai-Uwe Hemken, Dr. Harald Kimpel

Speakers: Tabea Brinkmann, Nanne Buurman, Nikola Doll, Walter Grasskamp, Stefan Koldehoff, Justus Lange, Tessa Rosebrock, Anna Rühl, Lena Voss, Alexandra Winterhoff

4.30 – 5 pm

Fragen! Antworten? Fragen!... Welche Schlussfolgerungen lassen sich ausgehend von den Diskussionen und dem bisherigen Kenntnisstand ziehen?

Moderation: Dr. Birgitta Coers, Prof. Dr. Kai-Uwe Hemken, Dr. Harald Kimpel

Speakers: Heinz Bude, Nikola Doll, Eckhard Gillen, Katja Häckel, Pia Jansen, Alexis Joachimides, Stefan Koldehoff, Volker Rattemeyer, Sabine Schormann, Julia Voss

A collaboration between the Kunsthochschule Kassel/Universität Kassel and the documenta archiv, Kassel.

The conference is funded by the Fritz Thyssen Stiftung.

Further information:

www.documenta-archiv.de

www.kunsthochschulekassel.de

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About documenta archiv

The documenta archiv was founded in 1961 by Arnold Bode and is dedicated to the archiving, documentation and research on modern and contemporary art and its sources. The focus is on the documenta exhibitions since 1955, curatorial practices and documentary strategies. In addition to the documenta materials, the archiv's resources include rich press collections, image and audiovisual media, a precious art library as well as numerous curator's and artist's estates. The documenta archiv is part of the documenta und Museum Fridericianum gGmbH, with the City of Kassel and the State of Hesse as shareholders. As a member of the association „Arbeitskreis selbstständiger Kultur-Institute e.V.“ (AsKI) the archive pursues academic projects along its own collections and cooperates with universities and scientific and cultural institutes. In cooperation with the curatorial and technical staff of the gGmbH the archive realizes exhibitions on artistic and archival positions and related didactic programs.

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