

Susanne Gaensheimer

Commissioner for the German Pavilion at the 54th Venice Biennale in 2011

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Susanne Gaensheimer is an art historian. She studied in Munich and Hamburg before completing the Independent Study Program at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York and going on to be awarded a doctorate from Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich for a thesis on Bruce Nauman. Since 2009 she has been Director of Museum für Moderne Kunst (MMK) in Frankfurt/Main. From 2002 until 2008 she was manager of the Collection of International Contemporary Art and curator in Städtische Galerie im Lenbachhaus in Munich, prior to which she headed the Westfälischer Kunstverein in Münster (1999 – 2001).

In late 2009 she was appointed Commissioner for the German Pavilion at the 54th Venice Biennale in 2011.

Among other things Dr. Susanne Gaensheimer has organized numerous solo exhibitions of works by internationally renowned contemporary artists, for example in Münster exhibitions featuring Liam Gillick, Elizabeth Peyton, Olaf Nicolai, Tobias Rehberger, Rodney Graham, Lucy Gunning and Harun Farocki. In the Lenbachhaus she curated one-man exhibitions by James Coleman, Thomas Demand, Maria Eichhorn, Olafur Eliasson, David Goldblatt, David Claerbout, Andreas Hofer and Cerith Wyn Evans. She also staged projects in public spaces with Jeppe Hein, Hinter/Hörbelt, Isa Genzken, Michael Sailstorfer and Erik van Lieshout.

In Munich as at MMK in Frankfurt/Main a major focus of her work has been the exploration, presentation, and expansion of the museums' collection and the conceptual investigation of the tasks of and opportunities open to a museum of contemporary art. In Frankfurt she has established a program with themed presentations of works from the collection and a series of exhibitions featuring artists in the collection such as Jack Goldstein, Barbara Klemm, Sarah Morris and Peter Roehr.

Dr. Susanne Gaensheimer has edited numerous publications and work catalogs on the relevant artists and objects in the exhibitions and collections, e.g., the first comprehensive catalogs of works by Liam Gillick and Andreas Hofer, the collected texts of Harun Farocki or themed publications on group exhibitions such as "Geschichten des Augenblicks. Über Narration und Langsamkeit" (Tales of the Moment. On Narration and Slowness) and "Bühne des Lebens – Rhetorik des Gefühls" (The Stage of Life – The Rhetoric of Feeling). A part of her investigation into the importance of museums of contemporary art she organized the Symposiums "Museum der Kunst des 21. Jahrhunderts. Perspektiven I" (21st Century Museum of Art. Perspectives I) and "Ist Kunst käuflich? Sammeln für ein Museum des 21. Jahrhunderts" (Can Art be bought? Collecting for a 21st Century Museum). This year she is launching the "MMK talks. Museum Productions I-IV" series of events at MMK, which will look into museums of contemporary art as a venue for the inter-disciplinary production of art, knowledge, and culture.