

conference

– Teaching Art in the Present:

Between Performance and Transmission

25.09.2026, 11:00-17:00, Abteigarten 6, Aachen-Kornelimünster

Short biographies of the speakers

Heike Ander, born in Stuttgart in 1969, studied cultural studies and aesthetic practice at the University of Hildesheim. In 1995, she was a research associate for cultural theory; from 1997 to 2000, a visiting lecturer in art and media studies and cultural theory at the Merz Academy, University of Applied Sciences for Design, Stuttgart; 1996–2001 research associate at the Kunstverein München; 2002 coordinating editor, Documenta 11, Kassel; since 2003 freelance exhibition organizer and editor, including curator at Kunstraum München; 2003–05 project manager for “Making Things Public,” ZKM|Center for Art and Media Technology, Karlsruhe; 2005–07 editor-in-chief of documenta 12 magazines, Vienna/Kassel; since April 2008 coordinator for exhibitions and artistic collaboration projects and artistic director of Glasmoog - Space for Art and Discourse at the KHM. Since 2009 member of the KHM Publishing House team.

Ayşe Erkmen, born 1949 in Istanbul, completed her studies in sculpture at the State Academy of Fine Arts Istanbul in 1977. Since the 1990s she has lived and worked in Berlin and Istanbul. Her installations gained international recognition in 1997 through her contribution to Skulptur Projekte Münster. In 1998 she became a guest lecturer at the University of Kassel, and in 2000 she took up a guest professorship at the Städelschule in Frankfurt am Main. From 2010 to 2015 she taught at the Kunstakademie Münster, from 2011 as professor of sculpture. Influenced by specific sites, narratives, and geographical conditions, her work responds to the contexts in which it is situated. In 2012 she was elected to the Akademie der Künste in Berlin.

Prof. Dr. Ursula Frohne, born 1958, has been Professor of Modern Art History at the University of Münster since 2015. From 1995-2001, she was chief curator at the ZKM Karlsruhe and taught at the Karlsruhe University of Arts and Design. From 2006, she held a professorship in art history at the University of Cologne. Her research focuses on media art and contemporary art, on cultures of the image, of knowledge and of memory, and on the political dimensions of art and visual practices in the field of tension between power and society. She is co-director of the Centre for Advanced Study “Access to Cultural Goods in Digital Change” and co-editor of the open-access journal 21: Inquiries into Art, History, and the Visual.

Hicham Khalidi, born 1972, has served as the director of the Jan van Eyck Academie in Maastricht, Netherlands, since 2018, where he oversees residencies for international artists and creative researchers. He curated the Dutch entry for the 60th International Art Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia in 2024. Previously, he was an associate curator at

Lafayette Anticipations in Paris, curated the group exhibition ACT II for the Sharjah Biennale in Beirut, acted as cultural attaché for the Sydney Biennale, and was the chief curator for the Marrakech Biennale. Khalidi's curatorial practice focuses on the contexts and conditions of contemporary art and art institutional practice, particularly the impacts of climate change, crises, and colonial histories, emphasizing collaboration and service to others.

Prof. Agata Madejska, born 1979 in Warsaw, completed her studies at the Folkwang University of the Arts, Essen, in 2007 and at the Royal College of Art London in 2010. Through post-photographic procedures, sculptural interventions, and installations she explores the manifold forms in which power can manifest itself. Madejska has worked at the Folkwang University of the Arts, Essen, and at the University of the Arts London. She has also given numerous guest lectures and workshops, at the Royal Academy of Arts, the Courtauld Institute of Art, and the Royal College of Art in London, among others. Since 2025 she has headed the Art and Time I Photography department at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna. Her research and teaching focus on the field of Expanded Photography.

Nathalie Muchamad, born 1976 in Nouméa, New Caledonia, is a visual artist and filmmaker. She completed her studies at the École supérieure d'art et de design de Grenoble (2013) and received a one-year scholarship to the Central St Martin's School of Art and Design in London. At the centre of her work stands the role of the European slave trade in the oceans of the Indian and Pacific regions as well as her own family history, marked by displacement, colonization, and indentured labor on coffee plantations. In 2026, she is a fellow of the Villa van Eyck program of the Institut français NL and thus a participant of the Jan van Eyck Academie in Maastricht. For the symposium "Kunstlehre der Gegenwart" (Teaching Art in the Present) she is preparing a vegan rendang. A dish whose recipe she has researched, pursued, and archived within her artistic practice, as part of an engagement with recipes as an orally-transmitted, collective memory.

Prof. Sandra Schäfer, born 1970, is an artist and professor. Since 2020 she has headed the Klasse für Bild- & Raumpolitiken (Class for the Politics of Image and Space) in the art education program at the Academy of Fine Arts Munich. Her artistic work interrogates the economic, ecological, political, social, and technological processes involved in the production of images and spaces. At the centre of the class stands the development of the students' own independent artistic position, through conceptual work that is not tied to any one medium and that focuses on project-based practice. Their own production is set in relation to other forms of the aesthetics of our everyday life - such as social networks, pop culture, science fiction, music, literature, activism, and urban and rural spaces. Schäfer previously taught at the University of Cologne, the Dutch Art Institute Arnhem, and Bard College Berlin.

Evamaria Schaller, born 1980 in Graz, lives and works in Brühl near Cologne. 2011 Diploma at the Academy of Media Arts Cologne under Julia Scher and Matthias Müller. Her works oscillate between performance, video, and installation and examine time as an image in space. Working site-specifically, she engages with liminal states, linking questions of identity, power, ritual, and memory with autobiographical and socio-political

references. She taught at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf (2021-2024), the University of Music and Performing Arts Graz (2024-2025), and TU Dortmund University (2023). Since 2025 Schaller has been teaching at Alanus University, and since 2026 at the Muthesius University of Fine Arts and Design, Kiel. She has given workshops at, among others, Justus Liebig University Giessen and the Academy of Fine Arts Munich. Her works and performances are shown internationally.

Silke Schönfeld, born 1988 in Idar-Oberstein, is a visual artist and filmmaker. She studied Fine Arts at the art academies of Münster and Düsseldorf under Prof. Aernout Mik and Prof. Marcel Odenbach, and before that philosophy, art, and German as a Foreign and Second Language (DaF/DaZ) at TU Dortmund University; semesters abroad took her to Jerusalem and Liverpool. Her film works have been presented in solo exhibitions at the HMKV, Dortmund (2024), and the Kunsthalle Bielefeld (2024), among others, as well as in international group exhibitions and at film festivals. From 2020-2022 she was a resident artist at the Rijksakademie Amsterdam. Alongside her artistic practice, Silke Schönfeld has held teaching appointments in the photography department at TU Dortmund University and has worked in art education at, among others, Museum Abteiberg, Museum Ostwall, and Kunstmuseum Bochum.

Dr. Marcel Schumacher, born 1976, has been the director of Kunsthaus NRW Kornelimünster since 2015. From 2012 to 2014, he was curator of contemporary art at Museum Folkwang, Essen. Before that he worked as a freelance curator, author, and lecturer. He studied art history, German literature, philosophy, and architecture in Aachen, Rome, and Berlin. Following his doctorate at the University of Basel he completed his curatorial traineeship (Volontariat) at the LWL-Landesmuseum Münster. Since his dissertation he has been engaged with the subject of cultural transfers. Alongside contemporary art, his further areas of focus are the art of the 1960s and the interferences between art and architecture.

Dr. Vanessa Sondermann, born 1976 in Cologne, studied art history at the University of Cologne and at the Karlsruhe University of Arts and Design. Since May 2015 she has been a research associate at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, responsible for the Akademie-Galerie – Die Neue Sammlung (Academy Gallery – The New Collection) as well as for public relations. Since 2021 she has additionally held a teaching appointment at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf. She is (co-)curator and (co-)author of the exhibitions, publications, and catalogues of the Akademie-Galerie - Die Neue Sammlung, with a research focus on the art and the art history of the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf since 1945. Most recently, her two publications on Walter Kaesbach (Deutscher Kunstbuchverlag 2025) and Ewald Mataré (2025) appeared.