Sommerakademie Paul Klee with new concept and new sponsorship

A decade ago, the former Sommerakademie im Zentrum Paul Klee introduced a landmark educational template that is now being reinvented by the reestablished Sommerakademie Paul Klee. Sommerakademie Paul Klee’s new concept is based on a close cooperation between the Bern University of the Arts HKB and the Zentrum Paul Klee, along with other private and public partners. Tirdad Zolghadr is director of the new Sommerakademie and curator of the first two-year cycle (2017-19).

The new program builds on the summer retreats of the former Sommerakademie, while proposing a more complex blend of theory and practice, discourse and production. Under the artistic directorship of curator and writer Tirdad Zolghadr, eight fellows will meet over the months of August 2017 and August 2018, for a period of three weeks, to not only work collaboratively, but also to use the professional infrastructure of the Bern University of the Arts HKB for their own artistic ends. Although based on the idea of an academy, the aim is to transcend the blueprint of seminars and tutorials with international speakers, and to focus on group research and cross-professional coalition building. The fellows will remain in touch over the course of two years, and generate a collectively authored event in the spring of 2019. This event will provide the point of departure for the subsequent cycle (2019–21), featuring new fellows and a new curator.

New concept

The new format is seeking to combine the momentum of collective action, artist residencies, and discursive platforms, without interrupting the process of individual production. With its atypical timeline and exceptional infrastructure, it combines collective inquiry with the perks of production-oriented residencies. The new Sommerakademie Paul Klee is a fully funded program, covering room, travel and visa expenses. This in close partnership with international art institutions such as KW Institute for Contemporary Art Berlin.

New sponsorship

The Sommerakademie im Zentrum Paul Klee was founded in Bern 2006, as an institution funded by the Cantonal Bank of Bern over a period of eleven years. The cooperation with the Cantonal Bank of Bern ended as planned in 2016, resulting in the dissolution of the “Foundation Sommerakademie im Zentrum Paul Klee”. At this time, the Bern University of the Arts HKB, in cooperation with the Zentrum Paul Klee, initiated a follow-up project with the name “Sommerakademie Paul Klee”, which will ensure the continuation of the unique educational program and its international network. Foundations are now being laid for the “Association Sommerakademie Paul Klee” consisting of the Bern University of Applied Sciences (represented by the Bern University of the Arts HKB), and the Zentrum Paul Klee. Andreas Vogel, Head of the Design and Fine Arts Department of the Bern University of the Arts HKB and Nina Zimmer, Director Kunstmuseum Bern – Zentrum Paul Klee will share the co-presidium.
Sommerakademie Paul Klee

5-25 August 2017 in Bern: REALTY

Further sessions:
4-24 August 2018
April 2019

Director and first guest curator 2017-19
Tirdad Zolghadr,
associate curator at KW Institute for
Contemporary Art in Berlin und teaches at
Dutch Art Institute in Arnhem.

Fellows 2017-19
Johanna Bruckner (AUT)
Crystal Z Campbell (USA)
Luiza Crosman (BRA)
Alexandros Kyriakatos (GRC)
Alexis Mitchell (CAN)
Bahar Noorizadeh (CAN/IRN)
Heather M. O’Brien (USA)
Jonathan Takahashi (USA)

Contributors 2017
Philippe Bischof, Cultural Affairs, Basel-Stadt
Tashy Endres, University of the Arts, Berlin
Adelita Husni-Bey, artist, New York
Suhail Malik, Goldsmiths, University of London
Renzo Martens, Institute for Human Activities, Ghent
Dieter Lesage, Royal Institute for Theatre, Cinema & Sound, Brussels
Enno Schmidt, Initiative Basic Income in Switzerland, Basel
Lise Soskolne, Working Artists and the Greater Economy (W.A.G.E.), New York

Public Events
Artist Remuneration & UBI
Lise Soskolne (W.A.G.E.) & Enno Schmidt
16 August 2017, 7pm, Kunsthalle Bern

Beyond Gentrification
Philippe Bischof, Tirdad Zolghadr & guests
18 August 2017, 2pm, Bern University of the Arts HKB

Presentation of the new Sommerakademie Paul Klee
Nina Zimmer, Thomas Beck, Tirdad Zolghadr & Fellows 2017-19
25 August 2017, 5pm, Zentrum Paul Klee

www.sommerakademie-paul-klee.ch

Contact
Maria-Teresa Cano, Head of Communication & Public Relations Kunstmuseum Bern - Zentrum Paul Klee
mariateresa.cano@zpk.org
Tel + 41 (0)31 359 01 89
Fax + 41 (0)31 359 01 02

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