



Folkwang

University of the Arts

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PRESS RELEASE

New Pina Bausch professorship created at the Folkwang University of the Arts

The internationally renowned performance artist Marina Abramović will be the first holder of the new interdisciplinary guest professorship from October 2022

For the 2022/23 winter semester, the Folkwang University of the Arts is setting up the new Pina Bausch professorship with funds from the state government of North Rhine-Westphalia - named after the world-famous Folkwang alumna Pina Bausch.

The Pina Bausch professorship creates the opportunity to appoint internationally outstanding artists from all disciplines as visiting professors for one year at the Folkwang University of the Arts. Here they are invited to develop new ways of working and to implement thinking and research that transcends all boundaries together with the students. At the start of the new professorship, it was possible to win the internationally renowned performance artist Marina Abramović as the first guest professor. In four work phases in 2022 and 2023, she will work with 25 selected Folkwang students from all fields of study - music, theater, dance, design and science. A public performance is planned for the summer of 2023.

Born in 1946 in Belgrade, Serbia, Marina Abramović is today considered to be the internationally most important representative of performance art. After studying painting at the Academy of Arts in Belgrade, she has been performing artistically worldwide since 1973. Marina Abramović uses physical borderline experiences to deal with topics from the political and art context as well as her biography in her performances. She is honored and respected worldwide for her sensational work. She was represented at the Documenta in 1977, 1982 and 1992 and received the Golden Lion at the Venice Biennale in 1997. In 2006, Abramović received the U.S. Art Critics Association Award for Best Exhibition of Time Based Art for her performance Seven Easy Pieces at the Guggenheim in New York City. In 2008, Abramović received the



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Austrian Decoration of Honor for Science and Art in Vienna. In 2011, she was awarded Honorary Royal Academician status by The Royal Academy in London. In 2013, Abramović was awarded the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres Officer for her work in Bolero, Paris. In 2014, Abramović was named one of The 100 Most Influential People by TIME Magazine. In 2021, Abramović was awarded the Princess de Asturias Award for the Arts, in Spain. Hardly any exhibition had such a great response as "The Artist Is Present" in 2010 at MoMa, New York, for which Abramović sat on a chair for 2 months, 7 hours a day and invited people to sit opposite her and look at her. In 2018 the first major European retrospective of her work took place in the Bundeskunsthalle Bonn.

The idea for the Pina Bausch professorship arose from a decade-long connection and artistic collaboration between the Tanztheater Wuppertal, the Pina Bausch Foundation, the Folkwang University of the Arts and with a view to the Pina Bausch Center that is currently being set up. The tradition and philosophy of the Folkwang University of the Arts as well as the name of Pina Bausch, who had a lasting influence on the dance and theater culture of the 20th century and the arts, not least through the perspective on the body, stand for the interdisciplinary approach of the professorship. influenced to this day. However, it is not about dealing with her work or her person. Rather, the Pina Bausch professorship enables artists of all disciplines to freely choose their topics and tasks. Starting with Marina Abramović, the focus will continue to be on transdisciplinarity, artistic courage and social commitment by outstanding artists.

The Pina Bausch professorship is made possible by the Ministry of Culture and Science of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia and is funded by the Kunststiftung NRW.

Comments on the Pina Bausch professorship:

Marina Abramović_ first holder of the Pina Bausch professorship:

"I will always regret having never met Pina Bausch in person. She understood profoundly emotions triggered by the physical actions so close to performance art.



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Feelings are real when actions are real. I am so honored to be the first professor to teach at the Folkwang University of Art echoing the memory of Pina Bausch."

Prof. Dr. Andreas Jacob_ Rector of the Folkwang University of the Arts:

"I am very grateful to the many internal and external pioneers of this extraordinary project. After all, the new Pina Bausch professorship is a huge gift to our students and underscores the unique opportunities that studying at Folkwang and the interdisciplinary collaboration of the arts offer. Working with Marina Abramović will be an incomparable experience for our students."

Salomon Bausch_ Founder and CEO of the Pina Bausch Foundation:

"The contact with the most diverse disciplines at the Folkwang had a strong influence on my mother. During this time she got to know great artists - many important connections and friendships developed from this. I wish for the students experiences for their life. They will certainly never forget Marina Abramović..."

Pina Bausch on the Folkwang School of the time:

"What was great and unique about the Folkwang School was that both the performing arts and the visual arts were taught under one and the same roof. So music, opera, drama, dance alongside painting, sculpture, photography, graphics, design, etc. (...) It was quite natural that everything was mutually beneficial, that you learned and noticed something from everything." (from the Kyoto workshop -Speech "Find something that doesn't need a question", 2007)

Groß / 5. July 2022