

**PRESS RELEASE**

# **NEW HEAD OF CONTEMPORARY ART COLLECTION**

**Frankfurt am Main, 24 April 2024.** The Städel Museum has a new Head of its Collection of Contemporary Art: Svenja Grosser. As Deputy Head since 2018, she has been responsible for the scholarly aspects of the collection over the past three years and has curated numerous exhibitions—most recently “Victor Man. The Lines of Life” and “Ugo Rondinone. Sunrise. East.” Her research interests include contemporary painting, 20th and 21st century staged photography, museology, and gender theory. From 3 May 2024, she will present a new exhibition: “Muntean/Rosenblum. Mirror of Thoughts”.

“Since its foundation more than 200 years ago, the Städel Museum has continuously expanded its own collection, always with an eye to the respective artistic present. Today, art after 1945 with a focus on German painting in an international context can be experienced on more than 3,000 square metres in the Städel’s iconic Garden Halls. It is a particular pleasure for me to appoint Svenja Grosser as the new Head of the Contemporary Art Collection. She has distinguished herself through her outstanding expertise and her commitment to contemporary mediation. In future, she will continue to work intensively on the expansion of the collection and its public-orientated presentation”, comments Philipp Demandt, Director of the Städel Museum, on the appointment.

Svenja Grosser was born in Cologne in 1991 and studied Art History, German Philology, and Philosophy at the University of Bonn. She has been working at the Städel Museum since 2018. As project manager, she was jointly responsible for the new presentation of the Collection of Contemporary Art in 2020 and subsequently curated various exhibitions of contemporary artists, including Marc Brandenburg, Michael Müller, and Philipp Fürhofer. She has also written and edited numerous essays and publications to accompany these exhibitions. As co-initiator of the DigAMus Award-winning art and mediation space CLOSE UP and the digital application of the same name, Svenja Grosser is committed to a broad perception of and engagement with contemporary art. The event format “Städel Invites”, which she co-developed, offers the public the opportunity to meet contemporary artists and learn more about their motivations, ideas, and themes in dialogue. Grosser has already made several acquisitions for the Collection of Contemporary Art, including

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und Städtische Galerie**

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works by Louise Nevelson and Leiko Ikemura. She also regularly conceives thematic presentations of the collection within the permanent exhibition, placing works in new contexts.

“The Städel’s Collection of Contemporary Art is a place of inspiration and creativity for our visitors, as well as for me as head of the collection, which can provide answers to the questions of our time. In the coming years, I will be working on an exhibition programme with a feminist focus, as well as on thematic issues relating to contemporary painting and interventions across epochs. Current discourses and issues will be incorporated into the work with the collection, as will the wealth of knowledge gained from continuous observation of the contemporary art sector. I am delighted to have been appointed and to be able to continue to make this high-calibre collection accessible to a broad public”, emphasizes Svenja Grosser.

### **The Collection of Contemporary Art at the Städel Museum**

The permanent exhibition offers a view of the history of art after 1945 that does not stand alone, but rather in the context of a narrative of European art at the Städel Museum spanning more than 700 years. In the spirit of a global zeitgeist, contemporary art at the Städel is therefore not presented as a straightforward, progressive process, but rather in a multifaceted and thematically interlinked way. This history of art after 1945 fans out from the central space of the approximately 3,000 square metre Garden Halls, beginning with major works of recent and emerging contemporary art. Some 230 works by 170 artists from various schools, styles, and groups open up surprising comparisons, perspectives, and vistas between the immediate present and its roots in past decades.

With the founding of the Städtische Galerie in the Städel Museum by the City of Frankfurt am Main in 1907, contemporary art was given a permanent place in the museum. Over the decades, the collection has been continuously expanded through numerous groundbreaking acquisitions. In 2012, the Collection of Contemporary Art was comprehensively presented in the Garden Halls for the first time. This expansion was made possible by the support of the public and the commitment of the Städtischer Museums-Verein, the cities of Frankfurt am Main and Eschborn, the State of Hesse, and the non-profit Hertie Foundation, as well as other foundations and numerous companies, whose commitment is expressed in the form of a hall sponsorship. The Städel Museum’s Collection of Contemporary Art has been expanded to this day by generous donations from private patrons and has received important works on loan from the corporate collections of Deutsche Bank and DZ BANK. The acquisitions made by the Städelkomitee 21. Jahrhundert have made a

significant contribution to the quality and scope of the current Collection of Contemporary Art.

**New Exhibition: Muntean/Rosenblum. Mirror of Thoughts**

Markus Muntean (b. 1962) and Adi Rosenblum (b. 1962) have been working together since the 1990s. In their primarily painterly oeuvre, they impressively combine their identities to create *one* artistic signature. From 3 May to 1 December 2024, the Städel Museum is presenting an exhibition dedicated to the artist duo in the Collection of Contemporary Art with a video work and eleven large-format paintings—including two new works—whose settings are places of transit: shopping centres, airport terminals, hotels, or offices. Immersed in their own thoughts, the young protagonists stare intently at their smartphones or gaze into the distance, are in motion or look out at the viewer with boredom or irritation. The work of Muntean/Rosenblum fluctuates between the influences of past art periods and contemporary pop-cultural phenomena. While their compositions are firmly anchored in the pictorial memory of art history, referencing well-known masterpieces from the Renaissance to Modernism, their figures are taken entirely from the present. They stem from an image archive established over many years, fed by photographs from lifestyle magazines, the Internet, and their own photo shoots. The artist duo uses this rich pool of images as a basis for creating peculiar scenes through the medium of painting: set against anonymous urban backdrops, the dramatically arranged young people look like isolated extras in a contemporary stage play. Strange and at the same time familiar in their composition, the paintings reflect an atmosphere of lethargy and indifference. It is a painful yet liberating moment that marks the transition from adolescence to adulthood—a state of limbo. As if looking through a magnifying glass, Muntean/Rosenblum address central themes of our time: the ambivalence of human existence, the growing insecurity of the individual, and a pervasive sense of transience.

**Curator:** Svenja Grosser (Head of Contemporary Art Collection, Städel Museum)

**Project Coordinator:** Maja Lisewski (Assistant curator, Collection of Contemporary Art, Städel Museum)

**STÄDEL INVITES MUNTEAN/ROSENBLUM**

**Live event with the artist duo, with music & drinks**

On Friday, 3 May 2024, the curator Svenja Grosser will talk to the artist duo Muntean/Rosenblum about their exhibition “Mirror of Thoughts”. Short guided tours invite visitors to discover the Collection of Contemporary Art and its exciting

connections to the works of Markus Muntean and Adi Rosenblum. Drinks and a DJ set by Philipp Priebe round off the evening.

Tickets cost 5 euros and can be purchased online at [shop.staedelmuseum.de](https://shop.staedelmuseum.de).

Remaining tickets available at the ticket desk on the evening of the event. Doors open at 6.30 pm; event starts at 7.00 pm.

The STÄDEL INVITES event series takes place in partnership with BMW on the occasion of exhibitions by selected contemporary artists.

#### **NEW HEAD OF CONTEMPORARY ART COLLECTION**

**Location:** Städel Museum, Schaumainkai 63, 60596 Frankfurt am Main

**Information:** [staedelmuseum.de](https://staedelmuseum.de)

**Visitor Services:** +49(0)69-605098-200, [info@staedelmuseum.de](mailto:info@staedelmuseum.de)

**Opening Hours:** Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun + holidays, 10.00 am – 6.00 pm; Thu 10.00 am – 9.00 pm

**Special Opening Hours:** For up-to-date information on special opening hours, please visit [staedelmuseum.de/en/visit](https://staedelmuseum.de/en/visit).

**Tickets and admission:** Tue – Fri: €16, reduced €14, Sat, Sun + holidays €18, reduced €16; every Tuesday from 3:00 pm €9; free admission for children under 12. Groups of 10 or more (non-concession adults): €16 per person. All groups are required to book their visit in advance by contacting us at +49 (0)69-605098-200 or [info@staedelmuseum.de](mailto:info@staedelmuseum.de).

**@staedelmuseum** on social media: #staedel on Instagram / YouTube / TikTok / Facebook / LinkedIn / STÄDEL STORIES: even more stories and background information about the collection and the special exhibitions to read, see, and hear at [stories.staedelmuseum.de](https://stories.staedelmuseum.de).