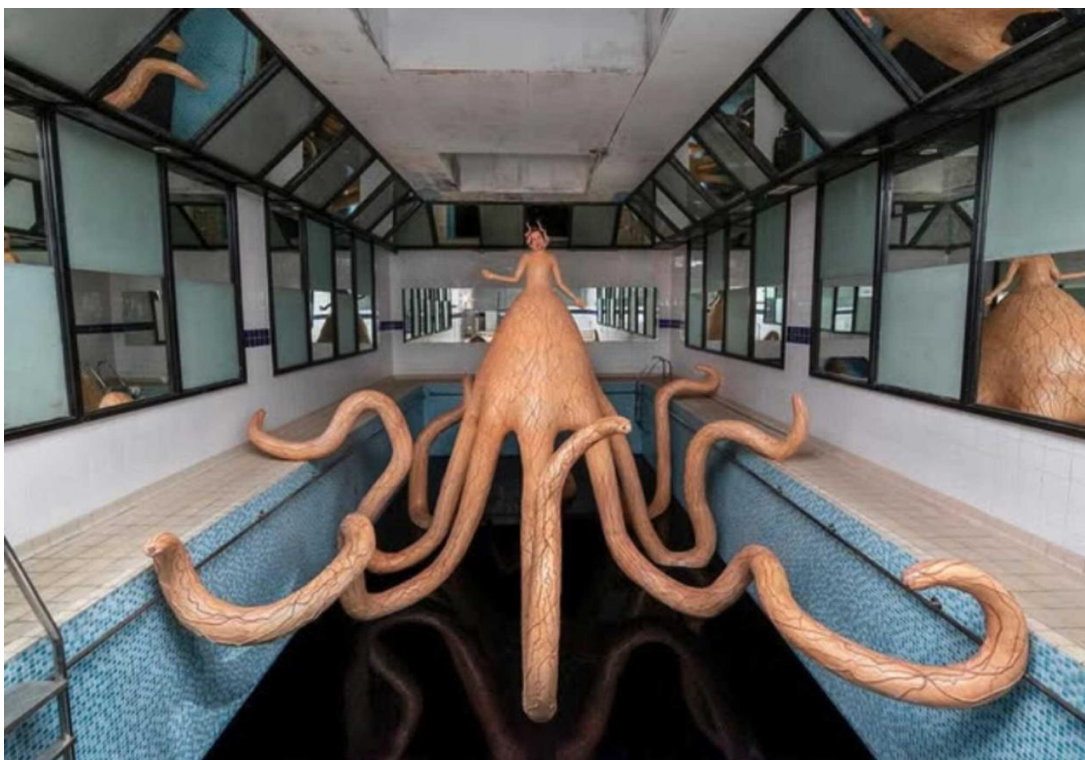




Agnes Questionmark, Octosapiens I, Transgenesis, 2021, curated by The Orange Garden in partnership with Harlesden High Street and Underground Flower. Photo Henry Kisielewski, courtesy the artist.

PRESS RELEASE

Sculpture Network's International Forum 'Bodytalk', 29 – 31 October, Berlin Final list of speakers announced

Berlin, 28 September 2026

From 29 to 31 October 2026, Sculpture Network's International Forum 'Bodytalk – The Return of the Human Figure in Contemporary Sculpture' brings the international sculpture scene to Berlin. The curatorial team of Anne Berk and Anemone Vostell announces the final list of speakers for the lecture day on 30 October.

[Sculpture Network's International Forum](#) is a comprehensive, two and a half-day program with talks and visits to leading art institutions. The lecture day, Friday 30 October, takes place at the PalaisPopulaire on Unter den Linden boulevard, right in the heart of Berlin. The visiting programme includes Kunsthaus Dahlem, Hamburger Bahnhof, Noack Foundry and Studio Anna Bogouchevskaia.

Central to the 16th edition of the Forum, curated by Anne Berk and Anemone Vostell, is *conceptual figuration* as a way of raising questions around themes such as identity, love, power, technology, and our relationship to nature. Unlike the monumental sculptures of the past, which towered above us and dictated meaning from their pedestals, contemporary sculpture today meets us at eye level. Artists communicate their questions to the viewer through gestures and '*bodytalk*'.

Curator: Anne Berk (NL), **Co-curator:** Anemone Vostell (DE)



Klara Kristalova, *Lust for Life*, Nordic Countries Pavillion, Biennial Venice 2026.
Photo FNG Pirje Mykkänen.

Lecture day, Friday 30 October

Anne Berk and **Anemone Vostell**, **Cultural Manager in Berlin** and **Board Member of Sculpture Network**, are delighted with the contribution of renowned art historians, curators and sculptors to discuss the 'narrative turn' and figuration in contemporary sculpture:

Anne Berk, Curator (NL) and **Chairperson of Sculpture Network** introduces the Forum theme '*Bodytalk*', addressing the return of the human figure in conceptual figuration, and how these silent figures speak to our bodies through body language. In her book and exhibition '*In Search of Meaning. Mensbeelden in Globaal Perspectief*', Berk researched how International artists use the gesturing body to communicate their questions about life.

Prof. Dr. Susanne Kähler (DE) is art historian, **Professor of Museology** at the **Berlin University of Applied Sciences (HTW)** and **Director** of the **Sculpture-in-Berlin.de**, an online platform archiving 3,000 sculptures. She will speak on the development of the 'body language(s) of sculpture in public space' from the 1980s to the present day, against the backdrop of the divided city of Berlin. Statues and human figures from different periods highlight the changes in figurative sculpture, its body language, and its function in society. from totalitarian regimes to democracy, Berlin's public sculptures testify to the profound changes in history.

Anna Mustonen (FI), **Chief Curator at Kiasma – Museum of Contemporary Art in Helsinki**, and Curator of the Nordic Pavilion at the 2026 Venice Biennale. Mustonen discusses the curatorial ideas behind the Venice presentation, a collaborative exhibition with Tori Wrånes, Klara Kristalova, and Benjamin Orlov. In times of uncertainty, bodies, myths, and matter become intertwined in worlds shaped by collapse and renewal. Bringing together sculpture, sound, and performance, Mustonen reflects on sculpture as an embodied experience, as well as artistic practices and Nordic and global perspectives.

Agnes Questionmark (IT), a **multidisciplinary artist** whose work encompasses performance, sculpture, video and installation, examines the body as a living archive – as an unstable interface between science, power and selfhood. Drawing on bioethics, mythology

and critical theory, she develops immersive experiences that confront viewers with the body in flux and propose speculative anatomies shaped by surgical, genetic and social interventions.

Andros Foros (CZ) is a young sculptor interested in iconography, and how we express ideas through the human figure. Foros plays with stereotypes in a humoristic way, combining the sacredness of Gothic sculpture, with grotesqueness and exaggeration. Some figures refer to the inner child in us, embodying the different identities we have. Postures and gestures as well as attributes like armor, disguises, and weapons are used to communicate inner feelings.

90 Seconds Presentations by Sculpture Network Members

A traditional part of the International Forum is the series of 90-second presentations by ten artist members who were selected through an open call. Each artist has 90 seconds and ten images to introduce their work in person. The selected members are: **Margarete Adler** (NL), **Helena Aikin** (ES), **Birgit Cauer** (DE), **Dries Celis** (BE), **Herbert Hundrich** (DE), **Monika Majer** (DE), **Anna Mrzyglod** (DE/PL), **Emilio Timp** (NL), **Fleur van den Berg** (NL) and **Julia van Riel** (PT). The format gives the audience a quick, varied overview of current sculptural practice across Europe and offers the artists a direct introduction to an international audience of curators, collectors and fellow professionals.

The selection was made by the Forum's curators, Anne Berk and Anemone Vostell.

Collectors' Talk

A new feature of this International Forum is the collectors' discussion, conceived by the **Sculpture Network Curatorial Board**, on perspectives, and motivation in the representation of the body in contemporary sculpture. In conversation with **Curatorial Board Member** and **Art Advisor Natasha Bergmann** (RU/ES), **Collectors Teresa Calbo** (ES) and **Kateřina Havrlant** (CZ) offer insights into the values, intuition and motivation behind the acquisition of figurative works and shed light on the role of female collectors in shaping artistic visibility.



Anna Uddenberg, CLIMBER (Pierced Rosebud), aqua resin, polyurethane foam, styrofoam, steel, vinyl, pleather, synthetic hair, wood, acrylic nails, crocs, faux fur, plywood, steel bracket, 160 x 280 x 170 cm, 2020. Photo Gunter Lepkowski

Visiting Programme: Thursday 29 and Saturday 31 October

The programme of the International Forum Berlin 2026 opens on the evening of October 29 with a welcome reception at **Kunsthau Dahlem**, the former studio building with a chequered history: built for Arno Breker, the most successful sculptor of Nazi Germany, and later used by post-war artists as different as Bernhard Heiliger and Wolf Vostell, the building and its current exhibition will be introduced to guests by **Dr. Dorothea Schöne, Artistic Director and Managing Director** of today's Museum of Post-War Modernism.

On the third day, on 31 October, the **Directors of Hamburger Bahnhof – Nationalgalerie der Gegenwart, Sam Bardaouil and Till Fellrath**, invite up to 100 international guests from across Europe to visit the *Endless Exhibition*, the museums sculpture park, and the exhibitions marking the museum's 30th anniversary, including the show by the Leipzig sculptors' collective **[materialistin]** – *Matter of Care, Care of Matter*.

The three-day conference concludes at the **Bildgießerei Noack** foundry, on Spreebord, opening its doors for a tour through the casting hall, chasing workshop, and contemporary gallery of this historic house, led by **Hermann Noack IV**. A particular highlight: a look into the studio of Russian-German sculptor **Anna Bogouchevskaia**, an internationally recognized artist working at the intersection of figuration and abstraction, housed within the foundry complex. The evening closes with a festive dinner at the adjoining **Bar Brasse**, a French restaurant with an open fireplace, the ideal setting for conversations beyond the conference.

About Sculpture Network

Founded in 2005 by steel sculptor and member of the ODIIOUS group Hartmut Stielow, together with entrepreneur Ralf Kirberg, Sculpture Network is created to promote three-dimensional art.

[Sculpture Network](#) is a network for artists, art professionals, art organizations, art lovers and collectors in Europe and beyond. Members are connected through the unique platform for 3D art with online magazine, newsletter, live- and online events, and the International Forum as its flagship event.

About International Forum

[Sculpture Network's International Forum](#) is a two and a half-day program, organized in cooperation with leading art institutions. Renowned experts and artists address a specific theme in contemporary sculpture, followed by a day of prominent sculpture-site visits.

International Forums have been held on various themes relating to contemporary sculpture at different venues across Europe, such as Yorkshire Sculpture Park (UK), the Kröller-Müller Museum (NL), the Verbeke Foundation (BE) or Ars Electronica (AU). The last one, hosted by the Centre Pompidou and Museo Picasso in Málaga, had the theme of '*Sculpture and Climate Emergency*'.

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