Sculpture Network
XVI International Forum



Bodytalk – The Return of the Human Figure in Contemporary Sculpture

29 - 31 OCT 2026

BERLIN, DE



www.sculpture-network.org

Cover picture: Jaume Plensa, Water's Soul, 2020. Newport, Jersey City, NJ, US.

Introduction

Dear guests, dear friends of sculpture,

a warm welcome to Berlin for the 16th International Forum of the Sculpture Network: *Bodytalk – The Return of the Human Figure in Contemporary Sculpture*.

The human figure is back, but it has changed. Unlike the monumental sculptures of bygone eras, which dictated meaning from their pedestals, contemporary sculpture meets us at eye level. It does not speak down to us, but speaks with us: through gestures, postures and gazes, through what we call ‘Bodytalk’.

Conceptual figuration lies at the heart of this Sculpture Network Forum. Here, the body is not merely a representation, but a figure of thought: it becomes the vehicle for questions that extend far beyond the depiction of an individual human being. Through the figure, the artists explore identity and belonging, love and intimacy, power and vulnerability. They examine what technology does to our bodies and our self-image, and how we understand our relationship with nature. The figure thus becomes a resonant space for themes that directly affect us right now. They do not provide ready-made answers, but invite us to reflect about life.

The programme combines lectures by art historians, curators and artist presentations with the direct experience of art. The lecture day takes place at the PalaisPopulaire on Unter den Linden boulevard, right in the heart of Berlin. It is complemented by visits to museums Kunsthaus Dahlem and Hamburger Bahnhof – Nationalgalerie der Gegenwart, as well as the Noack Art Foundry and the studio of the sculptor Anna Bogouchevskaia.

A new feature in the Forum’s 16-edition is the Collectors’ Talk. The Curatorial Board of the Sculpture Network has devised this discussion format: in it, female collectors discuss their perspectives and motivations regarding the representation of the body in contemporary sculpture.

We would like to thank all the speakers, the presenting artists, the participating institutions and you, the international audience, for enriching this Forum with your perspectives.
We wish you inspiring days and stimulating encounters.



Anne Berk

Sculpture Network Chairperson
and Forum’s curator



Anemone Vostell

Sculpture Network Board member
and Forum’s Co-curator

Programme

Day 1 - Thursday 29 October - Kunsthaus Dahlem

18:00 Welcome Reception
18:30 Introduction by the Director Dr. **Dorothea Schöne** and exhibition visit
19:30 Networking Cocktail

Day 2 - Friday 30 October - PalaisPopulaire

9:30 Registration/ Welcome coffee

10:00 Welcome Message - **Svenja von Reichenbach**, Director PalaisPopulaire by Deutsche Bank

10:10 Lectures/ Presentations moderated by **Anemone Vostell**
Anne Berk: *Bodytalk, the return of the figure in contemporary sculpture.*
Susanne Kähler: *Body language in public sculpture of (the two) Berlin(s) from the 80ies on.* A selection.
Anna Mustonen: *Myth, matter and bodies blur in a world shaped by collapse and renewal.* About the curation of the Nordic Countries Pavilion at the 61st Biennale di Venezia.

12:00 Lunch break & Sculpture Network s*howroom* (Info-desk for exchange)

13:30 Artist Presentations: **Agnes Questionmark** and **Andros Foros**

15:30 90-Second Presentations by member artists:
Margarete Adler, **Helena Aikin**, **Birgit Cauer**, **Dries Celis**, **Herbert Hundrich**, **Monika Majer**, **Anna Mrzyglod**, **Emilio Timp**, **Fleur van den Berg** and **Julie van Riel**.

16:00 Coffee Break

16:30 Collectors' Talk: *Female Collectors and the Representation of the Body in Contemporary Sculpture - Perspectives, Choices, and Motivations*
Teresa Calbo and **Kateřina Havrlant** moderated by **Natasha Bergmann**.

17:30 Discussion/ Exchange

Programme

Day 3 – Saturday 31 October – Berlin Museums & Studio Visits

10:45 Meeting point in front of the museum

11:00 **Hamburger Bahnhof** – National Gallery of Contemporary Art: Welcome message by the curator **Alice Koegel**, followed by a guided tour of the *Endless Exhibition,* the museums sculpture park.

12:00 Individual visit of the exhibitions marking the museum's 30th anniversary.

13:00 Meet one of the artists from the sculptors' collective **[materialistin]** in their exhibition *Matter of Care, Care of Matter*.

14:00 Lunch Break at Reinhard Bär Restaurant und Café (nearby) and transfer

16:00 **Noack Foundry and Art Gallery**: Introduction to the family business by **Hermann Noack IV**, followed by a guided tour of the foundry and gallery with director and curator **Isabella Greenberg**. Visit to the studio of **Anna Bogouchevskaia** and meet the artist.

18:00 Gala Dinner at French restaurant **Bar Brass**

Menu

Starter

Puntarelle with Parmesan dressing and macadamia

Main Course (please select one)

Courgette frittata with pepper and tomato sugo, ricotta salata

Porcini mushroom risotto with cime di rapa and sea buckthorn

Dessert (please select one)

Pumpkin cake with sour cream ice cream and kumquat

Rosehip parfait with red wine pear and rum zabaglione



Contact infos

If you have any questions during the event, please contact:

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Speakers



Anne Berk (NL), Curator

Anne Berk is independent curator, author and educator, based in the Netherlands. Her writing and curatorial practice explore the relation between contemporary art, life and the changing of society. She wrote more then a thousand articles about contemporary art, sculpture and applied arts, which have been published in journals, art magazines and the Financieele Dagblad. She curated numerous theme exhibitions, amongst others: *Bodytalk*, Museum Beelden aan Zee, The Hague NL (2004); *In Search of Meaning. Mensbeelden in Globaal Perspectief*, Museum De Fundatie, Zwolle NL (2015); *Beyond the Body*, Kunstcentret Silkeborg Bad, DK (2018), *Object Love – Liebes Ding*, Museum Morsbroich Leverkusen, DE (2020). Since 2005, she is active in Sculpture Network, currently as Chairperson. She curated different International Forums, *Sculpture Lives On – Modernism and Globalisation* at the Kröller-Müller Museum NL (2013); *Landart, Ecoart and Bioart* at the Verbeke Foundation BE (2016), and co-curated *Bodytalk. The Return of the Human Figure in Contemporary Sculpture* at PalaisPopulaire by Deutsche Bank DE (2026).



Susanne Kähler (DE), Art Historian

Prof. Dr Susanne Kähler studied art history as well as French and psychology in Kiel and at the Freie Universität Berlin. Her doctorate was on the subject of *German Sculptors in Paris 1871 to 1914*. After a traineeship at the Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe Hamburg, she worked as a freelancer in the field of monument conservation and she managed the Kunstgussmuseum in Lauchhammer. From 2003 to 2023 she was a member of the executive board of the Verein für die Geschichte Berlin. Today, she is a professor in the Museology degree programme at the Berlin University of Applied Sciences (HTW) From 2021 to 2025 she was the dean of the School of Culture and Design at HTW. Her research areas concern the various museum-relevant approaches to objects of cultural heritage, including photographic collections and sculpture, with an emphasis on the material aspect. In particular, she is dedicated to the cataloguing and digitisation of art in public space, a topic that has been continuously developed since 2018 on the basis of the project *Sculpture in Berlin* (bildhauerei-in-berlin.de) funded by the Berlin Senate. She is member of the management team at the Berlin Centre for Industrial Culture (Berliner Zentrum Industriekultur, bzi) since 2025.

Photo: Alexander Rentsch © HTW Berlin, Presse- und Öffentlichkeitsarbeit



Anna Mustonen (FI), Curator

Anna Mustonen is Chief Curator at Kiasma museum Helsinki and curator of the Nordic Countries Pavilion at the 61st International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia. Her work focuses on contemporary art, collaborative exhibition-making, and the relationship between myth, materiality, and social transformation within both Nordic, Baltic and global contexts. In her lecture, Mustonen will discuss the curatorial ideas behind *How Many Angels Can Dance on the Head of a Pin?*, a collaborative exhibition by Tori Wrånes, Klara Kristalova, and Benjamin Orlow at the Nordic Countries Pavilion. Bringing together sculpture, installation, sound, and performance, the exhibition explores worlds shaped by collapse and renewal, where myth, bodies, and matter become intertwined. The lecture will reflect on the role of sculpture and embodied experience in contemporary art, as well as the curatorial process of creating a shared exhibition across different artistic practices and Nordic as well as global perspectives.
Photo:Lisa Smeds



Andros Foros (CZ), Artist

Andros Foros is a Czech sculptor and painter working under this artistic name, based in Prague. He graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Prague (AVU) in 2019, from the Drawing Studio, and spent a further year on an internship in the Figurative Sculpture Studio at the same academy. His work explores the idea of the inner child — the notion that our past selves continue to live within us, even as our identity evolves from birth to death. Foros stages dialogues between these different moments of the self: possible and impossible conversations between identities that share the same beginning and end, conducted through gesture, pose and attributes such as armour and disguise. A recurring motif is the duel, an inner contest for attention between these selves. His sculptural language draws on Gothic art without imitating it, retaining its sense of the sacred while introducing grotesque and theatrical exaggeration — the resulting works sit somewhere between altarpiece and toy. Drawing on collective memory and internet imagery, he reworks and parodies familiar symbols, displacing stereotypes to leave room for the viewer's own interpretation rather than a fixed narrative.



Agnes Questionmark (IT), Artist

Agnes Questionmark is a multidisciplinary artist whose work spans performance, sculpture, video, and installation. Her practice interrogates the body as a living archive—an unstable intersection of science, power, and selfhood. Drawing from bioethics, mythology, and critical theory, she develops immersive experiences that confront viewers with forms in flux, proposing speculative anatomies shaped by surgical, genetic, and social interventions. She received her BFA from Camberwell College of Arts, London. Her recent performances include *CHM13hTERT* (2023), staged in Milan's central train station with SpazioSerra, and Transgenesis (2021), presented in London by The Orange Garden and Harlesden High Street. Questionmark's work has been presented in major international venues, including the 60th Venice Biennale (2024), the Centre d'Art Contemporain Geneva, the Maxxi Museum in Rome, and the 14th Gwangju Biennale. Her writing has been featured by Nero Editions, and in 2024 she published her first book *QuestionGen(0.00022ml)*, launched at the ICA in Milan. She has participated in residencies such as the Midwater Residency in collaboration with Studio Forlane (Greece, 2019) and has received multiple recognitions, including finalist placements for the Mario Merz Prize, Darmo Art Prize, and Stromboli Prize (2024), and the Circa x Dazed Class of 2022. Across mmedia and platforms, Questionmark builds a practice that engages the body as a poetic and political site—one where transformation is not just possible, but necessary.

Photo: Sage Yodit

90-Second Presentations by Member Artists

A traditional part of the International Forum: ten artist members, selected through an open call, introduce their work in person. Each has 90 seconds and ten images. The format gives the audience a quick, varied overview of current sculptural practice across Europe. With:

- Margarete Adler (DE)
- Helena Aikin (ES)
- Birgit Cauer (DE)
- Dries Celis (BE)
- Herbert Hundrich (DE)
- Monika Majer (DE)
- Anna Mrzyglod (PL/DE)
- Emilio Timp (NL)
- Fleur van den Berg (NL)
- Julie van Riel (NL/PT)



Teresa Calbo (ES), Collector

Teresa Calbo is a Spanish collector, curator, writer and art critic whose approach to collecting is deeply rooted in philosophy, language and the performative dimension of contemporary art. She studied Philosophy at University of Valencia and later taught philosophy before dedicating herself fully to contemporary art and collecting. Calbo understands collecting not as the accumulation of objects, but as a form of writing — a way of constructing personal narratives and exploring new modes of perceiving and engaging with the world through art. In her own words, a collection exists “primarily in the mind,” shaped through associations, memories and encounters with artists and artworks. A significant part of her collection is devoted to contemporary sculpture and artists working with the body, gesture, sign, ritual and traces of human presence. Her collection brings together practices that investigate the boundaries between language, memory and embodied experience, often through performative or ritualistic processes. Among the represented artists are Julia Llerena, Shirin Salehi, Cristina Mejías, Lucía Bayón, Juliana Cerqueira Leite and Mónica Planes. Through collecting, Teresa Calbo explores how contemporary art can open spaces for reflection, transformation and new ways of inhabiting human experience.



Kateřina Havrlant (CZ), Founder of the Havrlant Art Collection

Kateřina Havrlant is an investor, entrepreneur, art collector and philanthropist. She spent twenty-five years in technology companies, fourteen of them in senior global roles at Google in the UK, the US and Switzerland. Today she invests in technology start-ups and, with her firm Lion Beat Capital, advises companies on growth strategy, ESG and the integration of AI. She serves on the commercialization council at the Academy of Arts, Architecture & Design in Prague. Her philanthropy focuses on young people, children, and the positive impact of technology on society, including support for the Creative Edge conference on digital technologies and AI in the visual arts. She is the owner of the Havrlant Art Collection (HAC), a private international collection founded in 2015 to support progressive contemporary art in the Czech Republic and Central Europe. Shaped by her background in online technologies, the collection places great value on openness and accessibility. It comprises 202 artworks by 62 artists, most of them presented at www.havrlant.art. HAC was introduced to the public in 2022 with the exhibition *HAC#1* at Prague’s former Pragovka factory and marked its tenth anniversary in 2025 with *HAC#2* at the Mánes Exhibition Hall.

Photo: SHOTBY.US – Lenka Glisníková & Karolína Matušková

Moderators



Anemone Vostell (DE), Cultural Manager

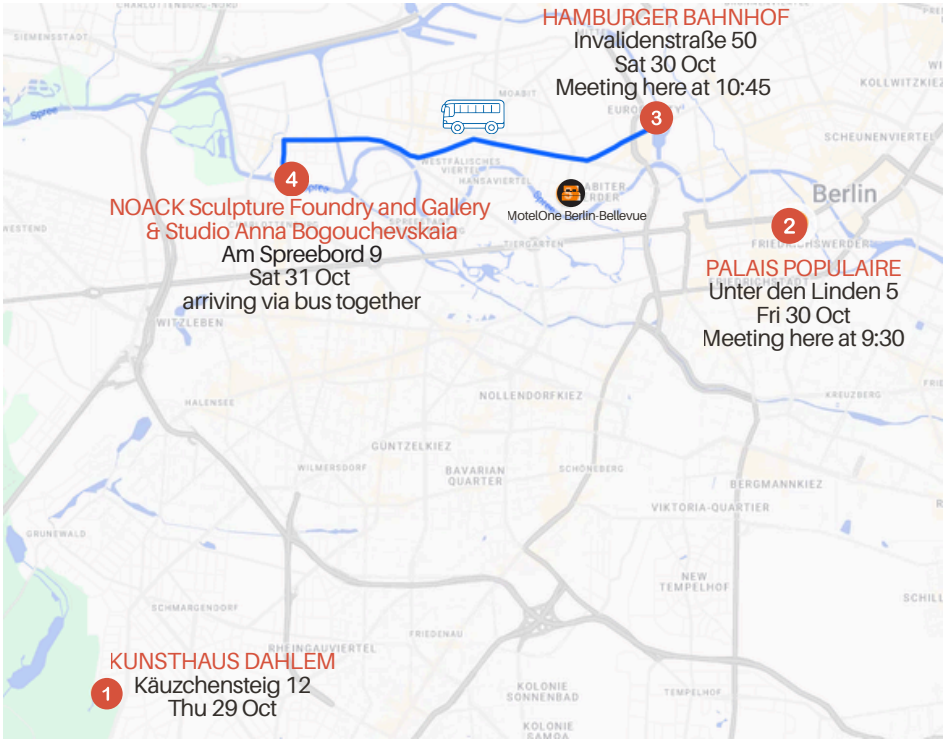
Anemone Vostell is an independent cultural manager based in Berlin and across Europe. She studied journalism and Slavic studies at the Free University of Berlin. During her studies, she specialised in media theory and cultural management. She has been active in the international art market for over 25 years. As a gallery partner, freelance curator and cultural manager, she has organised numerous exhibition projects both in Germany and abroad. From 2004 to 2018, she was the managing director of the Berlin Galleries Association, developing and overseeing numerous art projects and exhibition formats. In addition, she curated the collection of contemporary art at the Allianz Forum on Pariser Platz right in the heart of Berlin. Following the trend towards broader democratisation – including within the art market – in 2020 she founded her own agency, BAM! Berlin Art Management – Art Projects & Consultancy. Her projects include publications such as retropsektive artist monographs, art exhibitions and curatorial support. Since 2022, she has been volunteering with the European Sculpture Network. Here she organises Dialogue events and Experiences (art tours) centred on contemporary sculpture. She has been a member of the Executive Board since the end of 2025.
Photo: Simone Strippgen



Natasha Bergmann (ES), Art Advisor

Natasha Bergmann is an art advisor, art market expert and collector, and a Curatorial Board Member of Sculpture Network. She currently lives and works in Madrid, Spain. She has a background in international relations and graduated from the Art Business programme at Lomonosov Moscow State University in 2012. She went on to study Aesthetics and Philosophy of Art at the Sorbonne in Paris, from 2019 to 2021, deepening the theoretical grounding behind her market expertise. Natasha is the former COO of Phillips Auction House's Moscow branch, where she led the team through several years of significant growth, restructured roles and responsibilities around clear strategic goals, and built partnerships that allowed the house to expand its offline presence and reach. Natasha works as an independent advisor and lecturer, guiding collectors and emerging art professionals through the workings of the international art market — its history, its trends, and the practical opportunities it offers to those entering it.

Locations



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Event Partners:

KUNSTHAUS DAHLEM

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Venues

KUNSTHAUS DAHLEM



Kunsthaus Dahlem is an institution dedicated to exhibiting post-war modern art in Germany. As such, it is committed to the principles of diversity, respect, and integration. The values of freedom, human rights, democracy, and constitutionalism define its activities. Located in a historic building directly next to Grunewald, in the immediate vicinity of the Brücke Museum, its focus is on the presentation of sculptural art, complemented by painting, graphic works, and photography, with particular emphasis on the years 1945 to 1961.
Photo: Gunter Lepkowski

PALAIS POPULAIRE by Deutsche Bank

The PalaisPopulaire is a forum for people who want to experience art and culture in an interdisciplinary way under one roof. To this end, the museum offers a wide-ranging program that brings together diverse aspects of contemporary culture. This includes exhibitions from the Deutsche Bank Collection, as well as presentations from the “Artist of the Year” program and “SculpturePopulaire” in front of the Prinzessinnenpalais on Unter den Linden boulevard.
Photo: Mathias Schormann



HAMBURGER BAHNHOF – National Gallery for Contemporary Art



Berlin is, and remains, a city of art, and Hamburger Bahnhof is an integral part of this vibrant cultural landscape. Since its opening on 3 November 1996 as a venue for the Nationalgalerie's collection, the museum has become an international meeting point for contemporary art. In 2026, Hamburger Bahnhof celebrates its 30th anniversary with a programme that spans from the site's history into the future.
Photo: Kulturprojekte, Alexander Rentsch

NOACK Sculpture Foundry and Gallery

The renowned Noack Sculpture Foundry and Gallery is a traditional family business now in its fourth generation. After more than 110 years at its Friedenau site, Hermann Noack IV established a completely new foundry and administration building. The so-called Kulturforum – a complex comprising a foundry, gallery, sculpture garden, restaurant, and several studios directly on the Spree – covers a total area of 10,000 sqm.
Photo: Matthias Hamel



Studio Anna Bogouchevskaia



Born in Moscow in 1966, sculptor Anna Bogouchevskaia studied at the Moscow Surikov Art Institute and was a master student of Vladimir Zigal. Based in Berlin since 1994, she works at the intersection of figuration and abstraction, increasingly drawing on natural phenomena such as water. Her work is held in museum collections including the Tretyakov Gallery. Her studio is housed within the Noack foundry complex.
Photo: c. Noack gallery

About Sculpture Network

A hub for inspiration and connection

Sculpture Network promotes contemporary three-dimensional art by connecting artists, art professionals, art organisations, art lovers and collectors in Europe and beyond.

We are a non-profit organization that was founded in 2004 in Berlin by the artist Hartmut Stielow with the support of collector and businessman Ralf Kirberg.

For more than 20 years, we have been networking with different components of this flourishing scene, from art lovers to artists, collectors, curators and students to museums, galleries, and service providers. They all meet virtually on our platform or personally at one of our events.

With us, the whole world comes together in the name of sculpture!

Not a Sculpture Network member yet?
Scan the QR code and join today!

Imprint

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