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PRESS RELEASE

Hamburger Bahnhof – Nationalgalerie der Gegenwart

Invalidenstr. 50/51, 10557 Berlin

Tue., Wed., Fri. 10am–6pm; Thu 10am–8pm; Sat.–Sun. 10am–6pm

Annual Program 2024

In 2024, Hamburger Bahnhof will present seven solo exhibitions featuring a wide range of international artists. In addition, three new collection presentations in various spaces throughout the museum, including the Rieckhallen and the Kleihueshalle, and a new annual commission for the historic hall, will expand the repositioning of Hamburger Bahnhof as the national gallery of contemporary art.

In November 2022, the Hamburger Bahnhof and Rieckhallen buildings were permanently secured through public purchase, and shortly afterwards were listed as protected monuments. On this basis, directors Sam Bardaouil and Till Fellrath have over the course of the year fundamentally repositioned Hamburger Bahnhof as the national gallery of contemporary art with new collection presentations, an independent visual identity, and a variety of exhibitions and special programs. With the 2024 annual program, the Hamburger Bahnhof team is further accentuating the museum as an open space. Alongside solo exhibitions by internationally acclaimed artists such as Tania Bruguera, Marianna Simnett, and Semiha Brksoy, as well as the Prize of the National Gallery in its new structure for the first time, Hamburger Bahnhof is offering additional events within new formats that open up the museum and its art to Berlin's diverse public.

Sam Bardaouil and Till Fellrath, Hamburger Bahnhof Directors: "With our second annual program, we are strengthening the position of Hamburger Bahnhof as the National Gallery of Contemporary Art in Berlin. The exhibitions will include artists who are part of the city's multifarious art scene such as Marianna Simnett, Andrea Pichl, the Prize of the National Gallery, and the legendary painter and opera singer Semiha Berksoy. At the same time, we are expanding our offerings of public programs in a range of formats that are aimed at our diverse audience, such as the new family programs every Sunday, or the second edition of the Open House and the Berlin Beats DJ series in the museum's garden. Hamburger Bahnhof is a public place that invites its audiences to be an active part of the museum."

A variety of special programs expand the programmatic lines that were already established this year such as the Berlin Beats music series from June to August 2023, or the new **Volkswagen Group Art4All Family Sunday** which was launched on September 24, 2023.

From December 2023 onwards, a new public program will begin with a new series of talks titled **Long Thursday**, which will take place on Thursdays at 6:00 pm, free of charge, in the museum's *Forum* space. Featuring a wide range of conversations with artists, panel discussions, film screenings, and a range of one-night events, **Long Thursday** invites the public

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to co-imagine new concepts for the role of the museum as a space for coexistence and collective progress.

After its great success in 2023, with more than 32,000 visitors, the museum's **Open House** returns from June 7 to 9. Three days packed full of festivities, artist talks, DJ sets and performances will mark the occasion with free admission to all exhibitions, programs and events. In addition to the unveiling of the Prize of the National Gallery exhibition, the open house days will coincide with the unveiling of the second commission for the museum's **Endless Exhibition**. Supported by the Peppermint Group, it was launched in 2023, featuring a new site-specific work by Judith Hopf. The new commission for the second edition will be announced in March 2024. **Berlin Beats** also returns with its second edition after its huge success in 2023 with more than 50,000 visitors. Every Thursday evening from June 7 to August 29, visitors can celebrate in the museum's garden, free of charge, some of Berlin's leading DJs with music ranging from experimental sound to hard beats.

The exhibition program kicks off in March with a seminal performance by **Tania Bruguera** titled *Where Your Ideas Become Civic Actions (100 Hours Reading The Origins of Totalitarianism)*, a 100-hour reading of Hannah Arendt's "Elements and Origins of Totalitarianism." Artists, theorists, and activists will read the text in Hamburger Bahnhof's historical hall (Hall 1), without interruption, day and night from Wednesday February 7, 2024, 7:00 pm until Sunday February 11, 11 pm. Initially performed in May of 2015 at the artist's home in Havana (Cuba), while she was under house arrest, Bruguera will adapt the piece to the local context, in terms of political, social, and spatial aspects. This performance is made possible by the Peter and Irene Ludwig Foundation.

On March 22, the museum's Kleihueshalle (Hall 2) will open with the first in a series of dialogue exhibitions that the directors have conceived especially for that space. One end of the hall will feature a new collection display centred on canonical works by **Joseph Beuys** from the museums' collection including *DAS KAPITAL RAUM (The Capital), 1970–1977*, *Straßenbahnhaltestelle. Ein Denkmal für die Zukunft (Tram Stop. A monument to the future), 1976*, and *Das Ende des 20. Jahrhunderts (The End of the Twentieth Century), 1983*. These works have permanently entered the museum's collection after being generously donated by the Marx family in November 2022.

In the southern end of the Kleihueshalle in dialogue with the Beuys presentation, New York-based artist **Naama Tsabar** opens her first institutional solo exhibition in Germany, which will be on view from March 22 until September 22. Drawing from the disciplines of sculpture, music, performance, and architecture, Tsabar will develop the exhibition in collaboration with a group of female-identifying or gender non-confirming musicians and performers from Berlin and New York. With the use of felt in connection with sound, the artist corresponds with the Joseph Beuys works that are shown in parallel in the Kleihueshalle.

From April 25 until October 6, Hamburger Bahnhof's new main, site-specific, main hall (Hall 1) commission will be on view. Responding to the

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hall's iconic architecture, this commission will be presented annually. **Alexandra Pirici** inaugurates the series by transforming the hall (Hall 1) into a living landscape where human bodies - including those of visitors, move and perform alongside chemical reactions, mineral formations and physical phenomena, inviting us to observe how we resemble, influence and attune to one-other. The exhibition celebrates and recognizes the continuum between the animate and the inanimate, as both metaphor and scientific fact. In 2024, this annual exhibition is co-commissioned by Hamburger Bahnhof and Audemars Piguet Contemporary.

From May 17 until November 3, Berlin-based artist **Marianna Simnett** will present a new multi-channel video work within an immersive, mixed-media installation in the Museum's Werkraum (Hall 3). Commissioned by Hamburger Bahnhof, the exhibition coincides with the 2024 European Football Championship in Germany and is conceived as an exploration of the types of masculinity, nationhood, and mechanisms of inclusion and exclusion that are deeply embedded within the game. The exhibition is a contribution to the art and culture programme for UEFA EURO 2024 and is supported by the Stiftung Fußball & Kultur EURO 2024 GmbH with federal funds.

On June 7, the exhibition of the **Preis der Nationalgalerie** (Prize of the National Gallery) will open with works by **Pan Daijing, Dan Lie, Hanne Lippard** and **James Richards**. The 2024 edition marks the first presentation of this bi-annual exhibition in its new format whereby the prize is jointly awarded to four distinct artists showing different positions as equal and in direct dialogue with one another. The exhibition is made possible by the Freunde der Nationalgalerie and supported by BMW.

September 6 will mark the long-awaited reopening of the museum's Rieckhallen (Hall 6). The large industrial halls will be divided into two distinct spaces. One area will expand last year's collection presentation **Nationalgalerie: A Collection for the 21st Century**. A selection of large-scale installations spanning a variety of media will continue the presentation's multi-layered panorama of Berlin's art scene and the city itself, spanning more than three decades from the threshold of the opening of the Berlin Wall through to the present. The other area dedicated for temporary exhibitions, will feature the first exhibition in Germany by Los Angeles-based artist **Mark Bradford**. On view from September 6, 2024 until March 10, 2025, the exhibition will feature both existing and newly commissioned works through which Bradford engages with histories of migration, displacement, and violence, and makes a direct response to the context of Hamburger Bahnhof.

From November 8, 2024, until May 4, 2025 Berlin-based artist **Andrea Pichl** enters into dialogue with the collection presentation of Joseph Beuys in the Kleihueshalle (Hall 2). Pichl's solo exhibition at Hamburger Bahnhof, the second in the series of dialogue exhibitions with Beuys, will feature a new installation that builds on her signature engagement with architecture in Berlin and beyond. Through her show at Hamburger Bahnhof, Pichl continues to question the tenuous relationship between people, places, and conflicted histories.

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The 2024 annual program concludes with a large retrospective for Turkish painter and opera singer **Semiha Berksoy** (1910 – 2004) in the museum's East Wing (Hall 3). A leading Soprano in 1930's Berlin, Berksoy was forced to return to Istanbul after the outbreak of WWII in 1939. The exhibition, Berksoy's first retrospective in Germany, covers more than six decades of her work, which is presented within an operatic environment that highlights the versatile nature of her practice.

The exhibitions Naama Tsabar, Alexandra Pirici, Prize of the National Gallery, Marianna Simnett, Mark Bradford and Andrea Pichl are each accompanied by a publication as part of the Hamburger Bahnhof's series of artist catalogues published by Silvana Editoriale Milano. To coincide with Semiha Berksoy's retrospective, Hamburger Bahnhof will publish, also with Silvana Editoriale Milano, a comprehensive publication on the artist's entire oeuvre.

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