

Biennale

Biennale für aktuelle Fotografie E 4,6 68159 Mannheim

Press Release

9 September, 2020, Mannheim/Ludwigshafen/Heidelberg

**Iris Sikking appointed as Curator of the Biennale für aktuelle Fotografie 2022
Running: 19 March – 22 May, 2022 / Opening: 18 March, 2022**

The *Biennale für aktuelle Fotografie 2022* will be curated by Iris Sikking from the Netherlands. This was announced today by the board of the Biennale upon consultation in a meeting with the directors and managers of the partnering exhibition houses of the Biennale. The 3rd *Biennale für aktuelle Fotografie* will take place from 19 March through 22 May, 2022, in various exhibition venues in Mannheim, Ludwigshafen and Heidelberg.

Iris Sikking (*1968 in Amsterdam) lives and works as an independent curator in Amsterdam. She is a trained photography historian and film editor. Through the mid-1980s, she also worked as a DJane in Delft. As a curator, author and mentor, her focus has been on artistic positions at the intersection of art, photojournalism and documentary photography. Innovative strategies of storytelling paired with her eclectic use of media and presentation methods are the hallmarks of her curatorial work. For more than fifteen years, she has realized international projects in close cooperation with artists, conceived thematic exhibitions and published photo books as well as online projects. In 2018, she was chief curator of the Krakow Photomonth Festival. With the goal of establishing the basis for initiating a broader discourse about photography in the 21st century, she was editor of the photo book *Why Exhibit? Positions in Exhibiting Photographies* (published by Fw:books, Amsterdam) that same year. As an exhibition consultant, she is responsible in 2020 for the presentation of the research project *Facing Srebrenica and the Future of Memory in Europe* at Framer Framed, Amsterdam. In 2021, she will realize an exhibition based on the archive of Dutch wartime photographer Chas Gerretsen for the Nederlands Fotomuseum in Rotterdam and *Tree and Soil* in Fotomuseum Den Haag, a long-term project by Robert Knoth and Antoinette de Jong. Alongside her curatorial projects, she also conducts portfolio reviews, is a member of a number of competition juries and serves on the advisory board of the renowned Mondriaan Fund. She is also a tutor for the *BA Photography, Film & The Digital* course at the School of Art and Design, St. Joost in Breda.

Iris Sikking: “From DJing to film editing or curating photography exhibitions – from putting people in motion to storytelling and designing entire spaces and establishing connections between individual works of art: For the Biennale, I would like to bring together the best of these three worlds. I can hardly wait to design a Biennale together with international artists and local partners which examines relevant topics with an entirely new approach. I will be guided in this endeavor by my long-standing interest in documentary work. And I look forward to our joint project with great joy!”

**für aktuelle
Fotografie**

Biennale

Sabine Schirra, Chairwoman of the Biennale: “We are delighted that Iris Sikking is curating the Biennale 2022. She looks back on extensive projects and, above all, festival experience and has a tried-and-tested track record as a team player. We are certain that she will conceive a Biennale which will react to local conditions while shining a broader spotlight on world events and addressing the important social issues of our times – which are more relevant today than ever before.”

About the Biennale

Since 2005, the *Biennale für aktuelle Fotografie* takes place every two years in Mannheim, Ludwigshafen and Heidelberg. For each edition, an internationally renowned guest curator is invited to develop six thematic exhibitions on a total of around 4,500 square meters in the most important exhibition houses throughout the three cities. A multifaceted analogue and digital educational programme for a large regional and international audience accompanies the exhibitions. In addition, the Biennale has established itself as an international get-together for photography experts. To realize the Biennale, cultural organisers and promoters in the Rhine-Neckar region work closely with artists and partners from all corners of the globe. The Biennale engages the three cities and their cultural institutions in a dialogue and has already become a model in Germany and beyond.

Previous curators were:

2020: David Company

2017: Florian Ebner, Christin Müller, Fabian Knierim, Boaz Levin, Kerstin Meincke and Kathrin Schöneegg

2015: Urs Stahel

2013: Andréa Holzherr

2011: Solvej Helweg Ovesen and Katerina Gregos

2009: Esther Ruelfs and Tobias Berger

2007: Christoph Tannert

2005: Hansjoachim Nierentz

Participating institutions in 2022

Heidelberger Kunstverein, Kunsthalle Mannheim, Kunstverein Ludwigshafen, Port25 – Raum für Gegenwartskunst (Mannheim), Wilhelm-Hack-Museum (Ludwigshafen), ZEPHYR – Raum für Fotografie in den Reiss-Engelhorn-Museen (Mannheim)

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