

## **Anna Boghiguian receives the Wolfgang Hahn Prize 2024**

Anna Boghiguian (born 1946 in Cairo) will be awarded the 30th Wolfgang Hahn Prize of the Gesellschaft für Moderne Kunst at Museum Ludwig. The award ceremony will take place in November 2024 during Art Cologne 2024.

The Egyptian-Canadian artist of Armenian origin has presented one of the most exciting positions in contemporary art since her participation in the Biennials of Istanbul in 2009 and of Sharjah in 2011 and in dOCUMENTA 13 in 2012. She is known for her figurative murals, (note)books, drawings, paintings, photographs, and sculptures, as well as some spectacular large-scale installations. Boghiguian's work is often spontaneous and frequently created on location. She is considered a perceptive observer of the human condition and conveys an interpretation of contemporary life in which her content oscillates extremely cleverly between past and present, poetry and politics, history and literature. Her artworks celebrate a globally united humanity and focus on the aftermath of historical events and their conflicts in order to identify options for the future through an artistic reappraisal.

Through a combination of verbal and visual forms of representation, her works have an immediate and emotional effect.

Thematically, they combine the artist's profound historical knowledge with her awareness for current debates, although in their execution they seem like an antithesis to the optics of a technologized digital world. Boghiguian's unique artistic position in expression and emotionality has not yet received the attention in Germany that her authentic expressiveness deserves.

Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev, guest juror, explains about the nomination of Anna Boghiguian: "Her work's poetry and uniqueness as well as her directness and expressivity fit ideally into the Museum Ludwig's collection with its strong expressionist positions. Anna Boghiguian has been widely recognized internationally only recently, over the last ten years, so that this award is for a highly topical artist, rather than for a lifetime achievement. She is totally contemporary in her themes and in the connections she draws through her readings, travels and internet searches, between historical stories and political and aesthetic discussions of our present world."

"I am extremely pleased that Anna Boghiguian will receive the Wolfgang Hahn Prize 2024. With her, an artist is honored whose work is equally political and poetic. Moreover, in her figurative installations, manifold relationships can be established with 20th century painting in the Museum Ludwig. If she were to make a new work for the museum, following her fundamental artistic practice, this would be extremely gratifying and exciting," explains Yilmaz Dziewior, Director of the Museum Ludwig.

Mayen Beckmann, Chairwoman of the Gesellschaft für Moderne Kunst, adds: "Anna Boghiguian is an artist who, with great freshness and internationality, finds images that respond to our contemporary problems and events and reflect on the human condition based on precise historical knowledge. Like a nomad, she moves from exhibition to biennial, using the most humble materials, often found on site, to make her ideas visible in different media. This results in the most vivid drawings and expansive, text-layered installations. In these, she reveals her concerns, which ultimately make all of our concerns and conditionalities visible in an almost shamanic way."

As a daughter of an Armenian watchmaker, Anna Boghiguan studied political science and economics at the American University in Cairo in the 1960s. In the early 1970s, she moved to Canada and studied art and music in Montreal. She has travelled all her life and maintains a cosmopolitan culture. Boghiguan has her studio and residence in Cairo, but also lives and works in Europe, Asia, Africa and America. Winner of the Golden Lion for Best Pavilion (Armenia) at the 56th Venice Biennale in 2015, she also participated in the touring exhibition "Contemporary Arab Representation" in 2003, the 11th and 14th Istanbul Biennale in 2009 and 2015, the Sao Paulo Biennale in 2014 and 2023, and has received solo exhibitions at the Castello di Rivoli in Turin, Kunsthaus Bregenz, Museum für Gegenwartskunst Siegen and SMAK in Ghent, among others.



Anna Boghiguan, 2017, courtesy: Castello di Rivoli, Foto/Photo: Andrea Germani, © Anna Boghiguan

### **About the Wolfgang Hahn Prize**

The Wolfgang Hahn Prize is awarded annually by the Gesellschaft für Moderne Kunst am Museum Ludwig, in 2024 for the 30<sup>th</sup> time. The award is primarily intended to honour contemporary artists who have already made a name for themselves in the art world through an internationally recognised oeuvre, but who are not yet as well known in Germany as they deserve to be. The prize money of a maximum of 100,000 euros is funded by the members' contributions and goes towards the acquisition of a work or group of works by the artists for the collection of the Museum Ludwig. Linked to the prize is an exhibition organised by the Museum Ludwig of the acquired works by the awardee, as well as an accompanying publication.

The name of the prize honours the memory of the passionate Cologne-based collector and painting conservator Wolfgang Hahn (1924–1987), who was committed to the art of the European and American avant-garde in Cologne in many ways. The Gesellschaft für Moderne Kunst feels indebted to his exemplary work as a collector, as a founding member of

the Gesellschaft, and as head of the restoration workshops of the Wallraf-Richartz-Museum and the Museum Ludwig.

The previous awardees are:

2023	Francis Alÿs
2022	Frank Bowling
2021	Marcel Odenbach
2020	Betye Saar
2019	Jac Leirner
2018	Haegue Yang
2017	Trisha Donnelly
2016	Huang Yong Ping
2015	Michael Krebber / R.H. Quaytman
2014	Kerry James Marshall
2013	Andrea Fraser
2012	Henrik Olesen
2011	John Miller
2010	Peter Fischli, David Weiss
2009	Christopher Wool
2008	Peter Doig
2006	Mike Kelley
2005	Richard Artschwager
2004	Rosemarie Trockel
2003	Niele Toroni
2002	Isa Genzken
2001	Raymond Pettibon
2000	Hubert Kiecol
1999	Pipilotti Rist
1998	Franz West
1997	Cindy Sherman
1996	Günther Förg
1995	Lawrence Weiner
1994	James Lee Byars

### **About BAUWENS and EBNER STOLZ – sponsors of the award ceremony evening, the presentation, and the publication**

Rich in tradition, the BAUWENS Group develops, plans, builds, and operates real estate for living, working, and shopping throughout Germany. EBNER STOLZ is one of the largest independent medium-sized auditing and consulting firms in Germany and distinguishes itself in advising its clients through a multidisciplinary approach that combines auditing, tax consulting, management consulting, and legal advice. The companies are located in the same building in the Rheinauhafen in Cologne.

BAUWENS and EBNER STOLZ have supported the evening of the award ceremony, the presentation, and the publication of the Wolfgang Hahn Prize since 2016.

Further information is available at: [www.bauwens.de](http://www.bauwens.de) and [www.ebnerstolz.de](http://www.ebnerstolz.de).

