

Marcel Odenbach to Receive the 2021 Wolfgang Hahn Prize

Marcel Odenbach (*1953 in Cologne) will be awarded the 2021 Wolfgang Hahn Prize. The award ceremony is scheduled to take place on **November 16, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.**, the day before the planned opening of Art Cologne.

The decision was made by the jury consisting of Susanne Pfeffer, director of the Museum für Moderne Kunst in Frankfurt am Main, and the board members of the Gesellschaft für Moderne Kunst: Mayen Beckmann (chairwoman), Gabriele Bierbaum, Sabine DuMont Schütte, Yilmaz Dziewior (director of the Museum Ludwig), Jörg Engels (treasurer), and Robert Müller-Grünow.

On the choice of Marcel Odenbach as 2021 Wolfgang Hahn Prize recipient, guest juror Susanne Pfeffer commented: “For decades, Marcel Odenbach has resolutely examined constructions of cultural identity and gender in his drawings, collages, videos, and installations. His starting point is not only the Self, but the Other. Marcel Odenbach creates works that—experimental in form and theoretically founded in content—expose historical connections between colonialism and globalization and make the violence of the normative and representation tangible.”

As part of the 2021 Wolfgang Hahn Prize, thanks to the artist, a unique, extraordinary acquisition will be made: Odenbach’s *Schnittvorlagen* (master copies), as the artist calls them.

These works are a kind of ongoing archive of pictures and at the same time the current basis for the artist’s work. The archive currently comprises 106 works in A3 format. Each work focuses on a specific topic and is a collage of sometimes similar, sometimes different motifs. The artist finds these motifs in magazines and other sources, cuts them out, and collages them. He then reproduces this “master copy,” cuts out motifs, recomposes them, and in some cases colors them, resulting in an ongoing distillation of new works. At the same time, they are essential for the artist’s conceptual approach and illustrate his principle of finding, assembling, collaging, and blending. The *Schnittvorlagen* have never been shown before and are now being acquired by the Gesellschaft für Moderne Kunst for the collection of the Museum Ludwig.

“We consider ourselves extremely lucky to award Marcel Odenbach the 2021 Wolfgang Hahn Prize. Despite his importance, he is still not as well known as he deserves to be. It is a special privilege to be able to purchase his *Schnittvorlagen* for the collection. These are a central basis for his artistic work and of immeasurable intellectual value. We are very grateful to Marcel Odenbach for his generosity,” says Mayen Beckmann, chairwoman of the Gesellschaft für Moderne Kunst.

Yilmaz Dziewior, director of the Museum Ludwig: “When we met with Marcel Odenbach to talk to him about a possible acquisition of his *Schnittvorlagen* for the collection of the Museum Ludwig, I couldn’t believe our luck when he agreed. For many years I have wanted to bring these to the Museum Ludwig. In my view, artists’ archives are central to understanding their work—although Odenbach’s *Schnittvorlagen* could actually be called independent works in their own right.”

Marcel Odenbach’s *Schnittvorlagen* will be presented to the public for the first time at the award ceremony.

The collection of the Museum Ludwig already includes several video works by Marcel Odenbach (*Sich selbst bei Laune halten*, 1977/78; *Die Distanz zwischen mir und meinen Verlusten*, 1983; *Männergeschichten*, 2003; *Ein Bild von einem Bild machen*, 2016) as well as the work on paper *Wirtschaftswunder* (2016).

About Marcel Odenbach

Marcel Odenbach, born in Cologne in 1953, studied architecture, art history, and semiotics at the Technische Hochschule in Aachen from 1974 to 1979. Today the artist lives in Berlin, Cologne, and at times also in Cape Coast, Ghana.

The artist had his first institutional solo exhibition as a student in 1978 at de Appel in Amsterdam. Numerous other solo exhibitions at institutions in Germany and abroad followed, including the Kölnischer Kunstverein in Cologne (1979), the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam (1982), the Institute of Contemporary Arts in Boston (1986), the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris (1987), the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía in Madrid (1989), the Bundeskunsthalle in Bonn (1994), the Kölnischer Kunstverein in Cologne (1999), the National Gallery in Sofia (2005), the Hamburger Bahnhof – Museum für Gegenwart in Berlin (2006), the Kunsthalle Bremen (2008), the Kunstmuseum Bonn (2013), the Tel Aviv Museum of Art (2016), and the Kunsthalle Wien (2017). Odenbach's ten-year project *Tranquil Motions*, which was scheduled to be shown next in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, was postponed due to the pandemic. Organized by the Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen, it started in 2014 in Montevideo, Uruguay, and it traveled to Caracas, Venezuela; Quito, Ecuador; Lima, Peru; Bogota, Colombia; Santiago, Chile; Porto Alegre, Brazil; Mumbai, India; and Karachi, Pakistan.

Odenbach recently took part in the Busan Biennale in 2018, preceded by the Kochi-Muziris Biennale in 2012 and the 7th Sharjah Biennial in 2005. In 1988 he participated in documenta 8.

From 1990 to 1993, Odenbach was a professor at the Rijksakademie in Amsterdam. He taught as a professor of media art at the Staatliche Hochschule für Gestaltung in Karlsruhe from 1992 to 1998. After a one-year visiting professorship at the University of California in 1999, he was professor of media art at the Kunsthochschule für Medien in Cologne from 2000 to 2010. Since 2010 he has taught film and video at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf.

Marcel Odenbach's latest exhibition will begin on October 3, 2020: *Marcel Odenbach: Es brennt* at the Kunsthalle Nürnberg (until January 10, 2021).

2020 Wolfgang Hahn Prize Winner Betye Saar

The presentation of the Wolfgang Hahn Prize to this year's winner Betye Saar has been rescheduled to March 23, 2021. The new acquisition *The Divine Face* will also be presented at the Museum Ludwig at that time.

About the Wolfgang Hahn Prize

This year marks the twenty-seventh presentation of the Wolfgang Hahn Prize by the Gesellschaft für Moderne Kunst. The award is primarily intended to recognize contemporary artists who have already made a name for themselves in the art world through their internationally recognized oeuvre, but who are not as well known in Germany as they deserve to be. The crucial aspect is the “youthfulness of the oeuvre” of the respective prize winner, as Rolf Hofmann stated on the founding of the prize in 1994. The prize money of a maximum of 100,000 euros comes from contributions by the members and is used to acquire a work or series of works by the artist for the collection of the Museum Ludwig. The prize includes an exhibition organized by the Museum Ludwig with acquired works from the prize winner as well as an accompanying publication.

The name of the award honors the memory of the passionate Cologne collector and painting restorer Wolfgang Hahn (1924–1987), who was involved in various ways with the art of the European and American avant-garde in Cologne. The Gesellschaft für Moderne Kunst is indebted to his exemplary work as a collector, a founding member of the Gesellschaft für Moderne Kunst, and the head of the restoration workshops at the Wallraf Richartz Museum and the Museum Ludwig.

The previous recipients are:

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

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

Further information: www.bauwens.de and www.ebnerstolz.de