



## Kunsthalle Bratislava founds the KHB Gallery Board after the first three years of its independent operation

In connection with the establishment of a new, independent state-subsidized organization from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, the *Kunsthalle Bratislava* decided to establish the *KHB Gallery Board* as the main professional advisory body of the organisation's statutory body. While the usual role of a Gallery Board is mainly to approve the exhibition plan, the competencies of the *KHB Gallery Board* will be much broader.

The draft statute of the *Gallery Board* already states that it is a “collective and advisory body especially in the field of creating the exhibition plan of the *Kunsthalle Bratislava*“ and it represents a platform for the exchange of expert opinions in the field of contemporary visual art and its direction. The *Board* may also discuss other activities of the KHB, e.g. in the field of documentation, education, additional programs, fundraising, marketing communication, etc. It is entitled to submit proposals for the improvement of KHB's activities.”

*“During the past six years, when Kunsthalle Bratislava was provisionally established as part of other cultural institutions, it was able to generate professional content and direction, in fact, only from its own resources. I see the possibility of establishing the KHB Gallery Board as one of the key benefits that the organization’s independence has brought,”* said Nina Vrbanová, Director of KHB.

The first group to evaluate and determine the direction of *Kunsthalle Bratislava* in the next three years, will have seven members. So far, six leading domestic and Czech personalities with a rich international agenda and reputation have accepted the nomination and honorary membership in the *Board*. The term of office of each member shall begin on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 and end no later than June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

The following were appointed members of the *KHB Gallery Board*: Bohunka Koklesová, Michal Novotný, Zuzana Megová, Gábor Hushegyi, Lýdia Pribišová, and Vít Havránek. *“We plan to offer the seventh place in the Board to the representative of the general partner of the institution. We are currently working on it,”* added Vrbanová.

The next and the very first meeting of the *KHB Gallery Board* is planned for the autumn of this year, depending on the current possibilities – in person or in an online form. The first tasks of the *Board* should include the approval of the *Statute of the KHB Gallery Board* as the basis for its long-term operation, as well as the guidance of a comprehensive exhibition plan for the years 2021 — 2023.



**Appointed members of the Kunsthalle Bratislava Gallery Board****doc. Mgr. Bohunka Koklesová, PhD.**

BOHUNKA KOKLESOVÁ (\*1972) works at the Department of Theory and History of Art of the *Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Bratislava*. She is engaged in research, publishing and curatorial activities. She is a member of *AICA – International Association of Art Critics*.

Her research is focused on the relationship between art and politics, the study of totalitarian regimes, art and visual culture of the 1940s and 1950s. She has published two monographs on the subject: *V tieni Tretej ríše, oficiálne fotografie slovenského štátu (In the Shadow of the Third Reich: Official Photographs of the Slovak State, 2009)* and *Súmrak doby, prelamovaná história, pamäť, fotografia (The Dawn of an Era, A Broken History, Memory, Photography, 2018)*.

The focus of her curatorial work is on the contemporary art and photography. She has prepared a number of exhibitions for domestic and foreign audiences. Since 2019 she has been the Dean of the *Academy of Fine Arts and Design*.

**PhDr. Vít Havránek, PhD.**

VÍT HAVRÁNEK (\*1971) is theorist and organiser. He graduated in art history from the *Faculty of Arts at Charles University* in Prague, and was awarded a PhD degree in 2006 (dissertation: *Authentic Structures, Personalities and Structures of Interpretation in Czechoslovak Art 1949 – 2004*). He worked as a curator of the *Modern and Contemporary Art Collection* of the *National Gallery in Prague* (1996 – 1998), and the *Prague City Gallery* (1998 – 2002). Since 2002 he has been the director of the *transit.cz Contemporary Art Initiative*, which he co-founded. He lectures on contemporary art at the *Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague*. Vít Havránek is a co-founder of the *Pas group* (production of present-day activities, along with Tomáš Vaňek and Jiří Skála). Havránek is credited with a new perception of the work produced by Jiří Kovanda, Július Koller and Stano Filko. He was the curator and co-curator of many exhibitions. He is an editor of the publisher *jrj | Ringier Art Publisher, Zürich (transit series: Atlas of Transformation, Jiří Skála, Kateřina Šedá, Jan Mančuška, Jiří Kovanda, and so on)*. He lives and works in Prague.

## Mgr. Zuzana Megová, PhD.

ZUZANA MEGOVÁ (\*1983) is the Chief State Counselor for the Section of Arts and Creativity of the *Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic*. She was born in Bratislava, where she studied journalism and doctoral studies in the field of mass media studies. She has been working at the *Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic* since 2012. As the Director General of the section, she coordinated several strategic tasks of the Ministry, such as the establishment of the *Slovak Arts Council (Fond na podporu umenia)*. In the years 2014-2018 she was the coordinator of the *Strategy for the Development of Culture (Stratégia rozvoja kultúry)* and the two related action plans approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic. After the successful launch of the *Slovak Arts Council*, she created the conditions and co-created the legislative framework for the establishment of the *Minority Culture Fund (Fond na podporu kultúry národnostných menšín)*. During the presidency of the Slovak Republic in the Council of the EU, she chaired the *Cultural Affairs Committee* in Brussels.

## Mgr. Gábor Hushegyi

GÁBOR HUSHEGYI (\*1959) is contemporary art critic. He graduated in philosophy and aesthetics from the *Faculty of Arts at Comenius University in Bratislava* (1985). Between 1987 and 1990 he was involved in the new concept of school aesthetic education at the Cabinet of Aesthetic Education of the *Institute for Education*; from 1990 to 1994 he was Assistant Lecturer at the *Faculty of Education* in Nitra, and from 1994 to 2005 in the *Department of Hungarian Language and Literature* at the *Faculty of Arts at Comenius University in Bratislava*. He worked as a curator in the *Kunsthalle / Múcsarnok* Budapest (1998 – 1999) and in the *Slovak National Museum* (2005 – 2013), and was on a diplomatic mission serving as a director of the *Slovak Institute in Budapest* (2013 – 2017). Gábor Hushegyi currently works as a coordinator of the Arts Council. He is a member of the Slovak Section of the International Association of Critics *AICA* and the *Slovak Committee* of *ICOM*. In 2011, he received the *Lajos Németh Prize for Visual Art Criticism* (Budapest).

# Mgr. et Mgr. Lýdia Pribišová, dottore di ricerca

LÝDIA PRIBIŠOVÁ (\*1980) is a curator and art historian based in Bratislava. Since 2006, she is Slovak editor of *Flash Art Czech & Slovak Edition*, since 2015 managing editor. 2013 – 2015 she used to work as project coordinator in *tranzit.sk*. In 2012 she founded nonprofit initiative *PILOT*. In 2007 and 2011 she co-curated Slovak section of *Prague Biennale*, in 2019 she co-curated *Kaunas Biennial* in Lithuania. In 2019, she was guest curator of *Hit Gallery*, preparing the whole year program. In 2013, she obtained PhD degree at the *University La Sapienza in Rome*, in 2016 she published the book *La Quadriennale di Roma. Da ente autonomo a fondazione (Quadriennale of Rome. From Public Body to Foundation)* based on this research. She is a member of *AICA*. She collaborated with many institutions and galleries in various countries.

# Mgr. Michal Novotný

MICHAL NOVOTNÝ (\*1985) is the director of the Collection of Modern and Contemporary Art at the *National Gallery in Prague*. From 2011 – 2018, he has run the *Centre for Contemporary Art FUTURA* and from 2016 together with Jiří Černický also the *Studio of Painting at the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design in Prague*. In 2018, he prepared curatorial projects for the *Passerelle Centre for Contemporary Art in Brest*, together with Jiří Kovanda, a site-specific project for the *Black Cube Art Museum* in Denver, and with Anna Daučíková the exhibition at the *State of Concept* in Athens. The two-year curatorial project under the title *Orient, Meditation on the Eastern European Identity*, featured 45 artists and travelled to the *Contemporary Art Centre in Riga*, *BOZAR* in Brussels, and *Bunkier Sztuki* in Krakow.

## Contact:

Lila Rose | PR and fundraising manager  
lila.rose@kunsthallebratislava.sk | 0918 817 126