

Press Release

A New Director for the Center for Icelandic Art

Reykjavik, February 1, 2010

Dorothee Kirch has been appointed Director of the Center for Icelandic Art for a term of five years, starting 1 March 2010.

Kirch was born in Germany in 1974 but studied and worked in Iceland from 1994 to 2005. She graduated from the Icelandic Academy of the Arts, Department for Fine Arts, in 2001 and took an MBA-degree from Reykjavik University in 2005. She has worked in various capacities on the Icelandic art scene as well as internationally and has extensive knowledge and contacts in the field, especially in Europe and the United States. She has worked for galleries in Iceland and the US but in recent years she has focused on curatorial work. She was one of the two curators of the Icelandic pavilion in the Venice Biennale last year.

Dorothee Kirch replaces Dr. Christian Schoen who has served as Director of the Center of Icelandic art for the last five years.

Dorothee Kirch is fluent in Icelandic, German, English and French. She is married to Markús Þór Andr sson, curator, with whom she has collaborated on several projects in recent years.

About the Center for Icelandic Art

The Centre for Icelandic Art is an independent institution founded in 2005 for the purpose of promoting Icelandic art worldwide. The centre is financed primarily by the Icelandic Ministry of Education, Science and Culture and backed by major museums and artists' associations in Iceland, as well as the Trade Council of Iceland. The most extensive regular project overseen by the centre is the commissioning of exhibitions for Iceland's participation in the Venice Biennale. For more information, see the centre's web page: www.cia.is.

DOROTHÉE KIRCH

b. 1974, Erlangen, Germany, lives and works in Berlin and Reykjavik. is a freelance curator based in Berlin. She graduated with a BA in studio arts from the Iceland Academy of the Arts in 2001 and an MBA (Master of Business Administration) from Reykjavik University in 2005. Recent projects include the organization of "Experiment Marathon Reykjavik" curated by Hans Ulrich Obrist and Ólafur El asson and "Of This and Other Worlds: Einar Thorlaksson and Gabriela Fridriksdottir", an exhibition at the Arnesinga Art Museum in Iceland. Currently she is working on a documentary with and on artist Hreinn Fridfinnsson along with Ragnheidur Gestsd ttir and Mark s T Andr sson. With Andr sson she curated the Icelandic pavilion for the 53rd Venice Biennale in 2009.

Education:

- 2003 – 2005 Reykjavik University, Reykjavik, Iceland
MBA, Master of Business Administration
- 1998 – 2001 Iceland Academy of the Arts, Reykjavik, Iceland
BA, Visual Arts, Sculpture Department

Work experience:

- 2009 The End, Ragnar Kjartansson, Icelandic Pavilion, Venice Biennale
Co-curator
- 2009 Stray Beacons, Reykjavik Arts Festival
Co-curator
- 2008 - “Um stund / For a whileWhile”, documentary with/about artist Hreinn Fridfinnsson
Producer
- 2008 Sjónauki - Art Magazine
Part of the editorial team
- 2007 – 2008 “Reykjavík Experiment Marathon” curated by Hans U Obrist and Olafur Eliasson
Reykjavík Art Museum, Iceland
Assistant Curator
- 2007 Elin Wikström – “Rebecka espera, Asa da, Sten aloja.” –
Sala de Arte Público Siqueiros, Mexico City, Mexico
Participant in performance
- 2007 Art Forum Berlin / i8 gallery
Berlin, Germany
Production of gallery booth

- 2007 “Of This and Other Worlds”
Arnesinga Art Museum, Iceland
Co-Curator
- 2006 – 2007 Palermo Archive, Millerton, NY
Archivist
- 2001 – 2005 i8 Gallery
Reykjavik, Iceland
Assistant Director
- 2005 “Life Time, Material Time, Work Time”
Catalogue Coordinator
- 2004 – 2005 “Life Time, Material Time, Work Time” curated by Jessica Morgan
Reykjavík Art Festival, Reykjavík, Iceland
Assistant Curator
- 2004 Eidar – Seminar, organized by J. Sighvatsson, O. Eliasson, F. Ingvarsdottir P. Buzari
Egilsstadir, Iceland
Coordinator
- 2003 “Grassroots – 2003”
The Living Art Museum, Reykjavík, Iceland
Co-Curator with Erling Klingenberg
- 2003 “Global Suburbia”
Prague Biennale 1, National Gallery, Prague, Czech Republic
Curator
- 2002 “Grassroots – 2002”
The Living Art Museum, Reykjavík, Iceland
Curator
- 2000 – 2001 La Galerie, Noisy-le-sec, France
Assistant