

## Speaker Biographies

### **Marc Barbey, Collector and Founder of Collection Regard, Berlin**

Collection Regard is the photographic collection of Marc Barbey focusing on German photography, especially photography related to Berlin. Marc Barbey is administering the estate of Hein Gorny (1904-1967). Acting as an archive as well as an exhibition space, publishing house and gallery, Collection Regard deliberately takes a position between museum and gallery. The aim is to show largely unknown photographic works which deserve attention in a curated context. Publications and art events in form of Salons Photographiques accompany the exhibitions that are also sent on tour. Marc Barbey (\*1971) grew up in Paris and studied international business at the Grande École (ESSCA) in Angers, France, and the Heriott Watt University in Edinburgh, Scotland. The international businessman has been active in sales and business developments positions in the metal industry as well as the software business. In 2003 he moved to Berlin and founded a family. Berlin is the birthplace of his private collection and since 2016 he dedicates himself completely to the development of the different activities of Collection Regard.

### **Krist Gruijthuijsen, Director, KW Institute for Contemporary Art**

Krist Gruijthuijsen (born in 1980, NL) is curator, and director of KW Institute for Contemporary Art since July 2016. He has been artistic director of the Grazer Kunstverein in Graz from 2012 until 2016 and is course director of the MA fine arts department at the Sandberg Instituut in Amsterdam since 2011. He is one of the co-founding directors of Kunstverein in Amsterdam and has organized a numerous amount of exhibitions and projects over the past decade, including Manifesta 7 (Trentino-South Tyrol, IT), Platform Garanti Contemporary Art Center (Istanbul), Artists Space (New York, US), Museum of Contemporary Art (Belgrade, RS), Swiss Institute (New York, US), Galeria Vermelho (São Paulo, BR), Stedelijk Museum (Amsterdam), Van Abbemuseum (Eindhoven, NL), Arnolfini (Bristol, UK), Project Arts Centre (Dublin, IE), Utah Museum of Contemporary Art (Salt Lake City, US), and Institute of Modern Art (Brisbane, AU).

Gruijthuijsen has produced, edited and published extensively in numerous collaborations with JRP|Ringier Kunstverlag, Sternberg Press, Mousse Publishing Printed Matter, Inc., Verlag der Buchhandlung Walther König and Kunstverein Publishing. Recent publications are amongst others *Mierle Laderman Ukeles – Seven Work Ballets* (Sternberg Press, 2015), *Vincent Fecteau* (Sternberg Press, 2015), *Writings and Conversations by Doug Ashford* (Mousse Publishing, 2014), *Lisa Oppenheim: Works 2003–2013* (Sternberg Press, 2014), *The Encyclopedia of Fictional Artists and The Addition* (JRP|Ringier, 2010) and several others under the umbrella of Kunstverein Publishing.

### **Joëlle Romba, Director & Head of Office Berlin, Specialist for Contemporary Art, Sotheby's**

Since 1st of June 2015 Joelle Romba continues her career at Sotheby's, which has already started in 1998, as Director and Head of Office Sotheby's Berlin and Specialist of Contemporary Art. After many years working for Sotheby's she decided in 2007 to become an art-dealer for 20th and 21st century art and founded in 2008 the independent art advisory Joëlle Romba Fine Arts. Since then Joelle Romba had not only advised private collectors, art lovers and companies with her expertise and passion for art or created tailored concepts, but she - as co-founder of A private View GbR - had also designed acclaimed exhibitions for international collections of modern and contemporary art, among them The Moment I become a collector. Furthermore she was active on behalf of renowned art fairs such as the artforum Berlin, the ARCO in Madrid or the frieze art fair in London. She created a limited art edition for the magazine *Lettre International* in close cooperation with renowned artists of contemporary art.

### **Christian Kaspar Schwarm, Founder Independent Collectors**

Christian Kaspar Schwarm (44) lives in Berlin where he works as a strategy consultant with business Partner Jone Szmania (Schwarm Szmania). At the young age of 16 Schwarm started working as a free-lance journalist in Ulm, covering reviews of local heavy metal concerts or regional town council meetings. During his studies of Political Science at university Schwarm founded his first company in 1996, which dealt itself with a then completely new phenomenon: the internet. Schwarm's newly founded firm grew quickly and soon engaged more than a hundred employees in three different locations. With the end of the so called „new economy“ Schwarm set up Dorten, a progressive advertising agency, which to this day distinguishes itself by passionately addressing some of the most important questions of cooperate social responsibility with clients such as BMW i, whose worldwide launch is carried out by Dorten as lead agency. A postcard by Sigmar Polke and an exhibition curated by Charles Saatchi were two encounters that marked the beginning of Schwarm's ever growing enthusiasm for contemporary art, which ultimately resulted in the founding of Independent Collectors in 2008 - the world's first and biggest online-community for collectors of contemporary art. Together with his business partner and the Independent Collectors team Schwarm moved into a new office space in

the summer of 2016. Working from a backyard remise in the heart of Berlin, Schwarm set up a working space, library and creative hub for clients, partners and friends. His strong love for books has led him to another project: 8 BOOKS A YEAR - an interdisciplinary non-fiction book subscription for anyone interested in challenging themselves with subjects and disciplines of the unfamiliar. Schwarm himself is an avid collector of books and art with a particular focus on contemporary works by artists addressing some of the most complex issues of our modern society such as Slavs and Tatars, Michael E. Smith, Fiona Banner, Mario Pfeifer, David Horvitz and Peter Piller.

Links:

<http://independent-collectors.com>

<http://8booksayear.com>

<http://scsz.eu>

<http://dorten.com>

### **Ben Street, Art Historian and Consultant Lecturer, Sotheby's Institute of Art**

Ben lectures on modern art, contemporary art and old master painting for a number of institutions, including Sotheby's Institute of Art, The National Gallery, Tate, the Victoria and Albert Museum and Dulwich Picture Gallery, and private organisations in the UK and abroad. He has contributed essays for museums and galleries across the world and is a contributing writer on contemporary art for Art Review magazine. Ben has consulted on public engagement in contemporary art for The Art Fund UK, Art Night London, Documenta (St Petersburg) and Overgaden (Copenhagen). He was the co-writer and presenter of 'Duchamp's Urinal' for BBC Radio 4 and is the author of interpretative material for major exhibitions at Tate and the Royal Academy. Ben has an MA in Art History from the University of Edinburgh.