

**Press release: Anke Hoffmann and Yvonne Volkart elected new curatorial team at Shedhalle Zurich**

In brief: *The Board of Shedhalle Zurich is pleased to announce that Anke Hoffmann and Yvonne Volkart have been elected as the Shedhalle's new curatorial team. The two curators, writers and media experts will begin their three-year term of office on 1 August 2009; extension by an additional year is possible. They will succeed Sönke Gau and Katharina Schlieben, who are leaving after five successful years during which they built long-term relationships with artists and introduced the Thematic Project Series as an entirely new format, thus giving the exhibition context of critical contemporary art crucial new impulses.*

We are pleased to announce that Anke Hoffmann and Yvonne Volkart will begin their term as curatorial team at Shedhalle Zurich on 1 August 2009, following the departure of Sönke Gau and Katharina Schlieben. The Shedhalle defines itself as a place where artistic and curatorial practice acquire critical social relevance. Rotating the curatorial team every three to five years and collaborating with visiting projects as an integral part of the programme make the Shedhalle a highly flexible institution that is able to articulate fields of discourse in which curators, artists and visitors participate on an equal footing.

This coming summer Sönke Gau and Katharina Schlieben will conclude their five-year term at the Shedhalle with the fourth Thematic Project Series, *Translation Paradoxes and Misunderstandings*. The Thematic Project Series were introduced as a new format in October 2004 with the opening series *Spectacle, Pleasure Principle or the Carnavalesque?* followed by *Colonialism without Colonies?* and *Work to Do!* All the series built on the Shedhalle's guiding principle: "The mental comma instead of the full stop." Sönke Gau and Katharina Schlieben successfully extended the Shedhalle's range of activities as an art institution. They explored thematic lines by cultivating long-term relationships with artists, encouraged artistic production at the Shedhalle and created in the *Shedhalle Newspaper* an ambitious new medium of communication. Their commitment to contemporary forms of artistic production, their awareness of the need to promote such art forms in the exhibition business and their creativity in communicating them in the most diverse formats have supplied institutions both national and international with crucial new impulses. The Shedhalle Board is deeply indebted to Sönke Gau and Katharina Schlieben and would like to thank them for their years of commitment and hard work.

When designing the programmes for their three-year term (with the option of a one-year extension) at the Shedhalle, Anke Hoffmann and Yvonne Volkart will be able to draw on their long-standing familiarity with the history of critical artistic practice at the Shedhalle. Yvonne Volkart has already done curatorial work for the Shedhalle, as in 1998 when she was involved in the organization of *schnittstelle/produktion* (with Ulrike Kremeier/plattform) and in 2000, when she presented *Widerspenstige Praktiken*. She gained her PhD at Oldenburg University with a thesis on the fluidity of the subject, assimilation and resistance in media art (*Fluide Subjekte – Anpassung und Widerspenstigkeit in der Medienkunst*, Bielefeld 2006) and since 2002 has lectured on art, cultural and media theory at the FHNW School of Art and Design in Aarau and Basel. Her most recent exhibition project *Ökomedien: Ökologische Strategien heute* in 2007/2008/2009 was a collaboration with Sabine Himmelsbach and Karin Ohlenschläger in Oldenburg, Basel and Valencia. Anke Hoffmann, Yvonne Volkart's counterpart on the new curatorial team, is an experienced curator and explorer of cultural phenomena. From 1999 to 2001 she was on the curatorial team of the *transmediale festival for art and digital culture berlin* and from 2001 to 2004 worked as a research assistant at the Center for Art and Media in Karlsruhe (ZKM). Since 2004 Anke Hoffmann has contributed to the work of the RealismusStudio at the Berlin-based New Society for Visual Arts (NGBK), where she co-curated exhibitions such as *tainment* (2004), *Auflösung* (2006) and *Der Blinde Fleck – Blind Spot* (2008). In 2006 she was part of the curatorial team of the 7th Werkleitz Biennial *Happy Believers*.

Asked about future exhibition projects at the Shedhalle, Anke Hoffmann and Yvonne Volkart stress the importance of “the courage to bring together the seemingly irreconcilable, brittle or erratic and to rely on visuality and the physically irrational dimension of knowledge and experience.” Anke Hoffmann and Yvonne Volkart will augment their team as required by involving like-minded external experts from a wide range of backgrounds to reach “beyond the established dichotomy of the intellectual versus the sensual and to develop the Shedhalle as a political place where people meet and congregate.” They will also attach weight to exhibitions and events combining international dialogue with a strong local base, thus giving Shedhalle Members a vital role as supporters of the Shedhalle idea.

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Anke Hoffmann and Yvonne Volkart. We look forward to working with them.

Yours,

Shedhalle Zurich Board

Teresa Chen, President  
Federica Gärtner  
Jean-Pierre Hoby  
Irene Jost  
Kurt Mäder  
Simone Schardt  
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Downloads: This press release and ready-to-print portraits of new curators Anke Hoffmann and Yvonne Volkart are provided in digital format at <http://www.shedhalle.ch/eng/presse/index.shtml#kuratorium>.