

Berlin, 28 March 2018

### INVITATION TO THE PRESS CONFERENCE Hamburger Bahnhof – Museum für Gegenwart – Berlin

Invalidenstraße 50/51, 10557 Berlin

Tue, Wed, Fri 10:00-18:00, Thurs 10:00-20:00, Sat + Sun 11:00-18:00

#### Hello World. Revising a Collection

28 April – 26 August 2018

An exhibition by the Nationalgalerie – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, supported by the Federal Cultural Foundation as part of its *Global Museum* initiative

Press conference: Friday, 27. April 2018, 11 am

Opening: Friday, 27. April 2018, 8 pm

We are happy to invite you to the press preview of the exhibition *Hello World. Revising a Collection* at Hamburger Bahnhof – Museum für Gegenwart – Berlin on Friday, March 27, 2018, 11 am.

Hello World. Revising a Collection is a critical inquiry into the collection of the Nationalgalerie and its predominantly Western focus: What could the collection look like today, had an understanding characterised its concept of art, and consequently also its genesis, that was more open to the world? How might the canon and the art historical narratives themselves have changed through a widening and multiplication of perspectives? With these questions as starting points, the exhibition unfolds in 13 thematic chapters as a many-voiced collaboration of internal and external curators, encompassing the whole exhibition space of the Hamburger Bahnhof – Museum für Gegenwart – Berlin.

The exhibition was developed by Udo Kittelmann with Sven Beckstette, Daniela Bystron, Jenny Dirksen, Anna-Catharina Gebbers, Gabriele Knapstein, Melanie Roumiguière and Nina Schallenberg for the National-galerie – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, with contributions from guest curators Zdenka Badovinac, Eugen Blume, Clémentine Deliss, Natasha Ginwala and Azu Nwagbogu.

#### In attendance:

#### **Christina Haak**

Deputy Director-General Staatliche Museen zu Berlin

#### **Udo Kittelmann**

Director of the Nationalgalerie – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin

#### **Hortensia Völckers**

Artistic Director of the German Federal Cultural Foundation

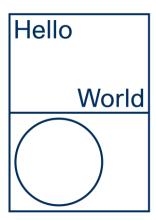
#### **Gabriele Knapstein**

Head of Hamburger Bahnhof – Museum für Gegenwart – Berlin

Members of the curatorial team will be available for questions subsequent to the press conference.

To attend the press preview, please send us an email by Thursday, April 26, 2018: presse@smb.spk-berlin.de.

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## Staatliche Museen zu Berlin Preußischer Kulturbesitz

# World

#### About the exhibition

Hello World places the focus on transnational artistic networks and cross-cultural exchanges from the late 19th century to the present. Works and groups of works from the collection of the Nationalgalerie provide points of departure for thirteen narratives. Such stories include Heinrich Vogeler's path to the Soviet Union, Dadaist Tomoyoshi Murayama's sojourn in Berlin in the 1920s, and the collaborations between Nicolás García Uriburu and Joseph Beuys.

More than a hundred works - paintings, sculptures, installations, videos and films – from the holdings of the Nationalgalerie are supplemented with roughly two hundred works on loan from other collections of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin and the Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz: Ethnologisches Museum, Kunstbibliothek, Kupferstichkabinett, Museum für Asiatische Kunst and the Zentralarchiv as well as the Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut and the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin. In addition, three hundred artworks, magazines and documents are presented in the exhibition from other national and international collections. All in all, the show features works by more than 250 artists.

On the occasion of the exhibition an extensive program of events, performances, discussions, and artists talks with take place. A catalogue will be published by Hirmer Verlag in June 2018.

#### **About the Nationalgalerie**

The collection of the Nationalgalerie serves this exhibition both as a point of departure and frame of reference. As an institution, the Nationalgalerie of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin today encompasses five museums: Alte Nationalgalerie, Neue Nationalgalerie, Museum Berggruen, Sammlung Scharf-Gerstenberg and Hamburger Bahnhof – Museum für Gegenwart – Berlin. Its extensive holdings date from the late eighteenth century to the present and reflect the ups and downs over this period. Founded in 1861, the collection had many of its artworks classified as "degenerate" by the Nazis, a verdict which inevitably led to their removal or destruction. Germany's division after World War II also left its traces: while the Nationalgalerie in the west of Berlin shifted its attention to Western European and North American art, the Nationalgalerie in the eastern part of the city concentrated on German art. Hello World is the first exhibition to explicitly call the Eurocentric character of the Nationalgalerie's collections into question, opening up a discussion on how a museum collection can reposition itself today.

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