

To: Mr. Marko Jenko  
President of the Expert Board of Moderna galerija  
Moderna galerija  
Windischerjeva, 2  
1000 Ljubljana  
Slovenia

Madrid, 23 January, 2020

Dear Mr. Jenko,

With this letter we, the directors of the museum confederation L'Internationale, would like to express our concern about the dynamics surrounding the reappointment of the director of Moderna Galerija.

We have learned that Zdenka Badovinac was recently appointed as an acting director which has prolonged the whole process of reappointment. This has increased uncertainty and speculations about selection of a future director of Moderna galerija. It is important for us that we are assured that such a situation will not influence the possible reappointment of Mrs Badovinac and that you are aware of the extent of the international support and commitment to Moderna Galerija's current leadership.

It is without question that Moderna Galerija has developed a unique profile in Europe under the leadership of Mrs Badovinac. She has professionalised the organisation and has driven it to become a leading institute in the international museum world. Her recent tenure as chair of the International Council of Modern Art Museums was a confirmation of the globally influential position Mrs Badovinac has secured for Moderna Galerija and for the contemporary culture of Slovenia. Her extensive network of artists and museum colleagues, and ability to secure international funds have transformed the expectations and influence of the museum within the region and beyond. To name only a few initiatives, we think of the internationally renowned Artest 2000+ Collection that she established in 2000; of Mrs Badovinac's leadership role in securing the renovation of Moderna Galerija and the expansion of the museum to the Metelkova building; and of the many exhibitions and events that propelled Slovenian artists and art discourse to the forefront of many art professionals' thinking about art in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In the expectation of a new moment of financial crisis, it is this rich and strong personal contribution that has allowed Moderna Galerija to build and maintain its position as one of the most valued institutions in the international art world.

A vital project in all this activity has been the recent establishment, initiated by Mrs Badovinac herself, of the international museum confederation L'Internationale. This network of museums is spread across Europe and is currently operating with the financial support of the largest possible grant of the European Union Culture Programme. This is a programme that will run into 2023 and is vital to the long-term planning of all its museum members. As Mrs Badovinac's colleagues, we are very concerned that the promising outlook of the confederation and its possibility to reposition contemporary cultural heritage on a European basis will be endangered if she leaves at this delicate moment in its development. We

anticipate that it would be very difficult for any new director to take over this programme and Mrs Badovinac's role in the confederation. As one of the founders, the confederation is currently still strongly connected to Mrs Badovinac, at a time when it is beginning to function in the broad interests of its members and in fulfilling the expectations of the European Union. Any new director at this particular moment will have to deal with a complex set of developing institutional arrangements related to this project. In fact, L'Internationale has started to develop its programme "Our Many Europes" two years ago. Any changes in the structure of our agreement could damage the relationship with the European Union. We therefore fear that Moderna Galerija will leave L'Internationale and the programme "Our Many Europes" in the event of Mrs Badovinac's departure. This will add substantial financial stress to the museum that, even if it made serious improvements in the last years, it is still very fragile.

Therefore, we very much hope that the current discussion about the length of directorial mandates is carefully weighed against the current situation in which Moderna Galerija is fully involved. As institutions dedicated to the preservation of our heritage, museums themselves require a similar carefulness and long-term planning in dealing with organisational transitions.

If you have any questions concerning these observations, we would be happy to discuss them in more detail in person or in writing.

With kind regards,



Manuel Borja-Ville

Director Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid, Spain

Chair of L'Internationale Board of Directors, signs this letter on behalf of the board of directors of L'Internationale and its members:

Bart de Baere

Director Museum van Hedendaagse Kunst Antwerpen, M HKA, Antwerp, Belgium

Ferran Barenblit

Director MACBA, Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain

Charles Esche

Director Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, Netherlands

Joanna Mytkowska

Director Muzeum Sztuki Nowoczesnej w Warszawie, Warsaw, Poland

Meriç Öner

Director SALT, Istanbul, Turkey

# L'internationale

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M HKA (Antwerp), SALT (Istanbul & Ankara), Van Abbemuseum (Eindhoven),  
MSN (Warsaw) / NCAD (Dublin), HDK-Valand (Gothenburg)

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