

At the end of the year in which the art historian and curator Igor Zabel would have celebrated his sixtieth birthday and upon the tenth anniversary of the Igor Zabel Award, a series of various events dedicated to Igor Zabel’s heritage and the significance of contemporary art will take place in Ljubljana.



Igor Zabel. Photography: Borut Krajnc

Igor Zabel Award for Culture and Theory 2018

Award ceremony
7.12. / 18:00 / Moderna galerija

The Igor Zabel Award for Culture and Theory acknowledges the exceptional achievements of cultural protagonists whose work supports, develops or investigates visual art and culture in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe.

Named in honour of the distinguished Slovenian curator and art historian Igor Zabel (1958–2005), the award has been conferred biennially since 2008 in cooperation with ERSTE Foundation (Vienna) and the Igor Zabel Association for Culture and Theory (Ljubljana). With prize money totalling 76,000 EUR, it is one of the highest and most prestigious prizes for cultural activities related to Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe.

In 2008 the award went to the Croatian curatorial collective What, How & for Whom (WHW), in 2010 to the Polish art historian Piotr Piotrowski (1952–2015), in 2012 to the Macedonian art historian and curator Suzana Milevska, in 2014 to the Russian curator and art writer Ekaterina Degot, and in 2016 to the Russian curator and art writer Viktor Misiano.

Award ceremony programme	
18:00–19:15	The Curator’s Room — Igor Zabel: How to Make Art Visible? English premiere of the documentary film
20:00–20:30	Igor Zabel Award ceremony Opening thoughts and statement by the jury
20:30–21:00	Art as Commitment and Right — a conversation with the laureate, Joanna Mytkowska The conversation will focus on the possibilities and challenges of reaffirming the relation of art to society in times of radical socio-political transformations in Poland and beyond and on the role of a museum as civically responsible institution in this context.
21:00–21:30	Igor Zabel Award Grants ceremony Statement by the jury and presentation of the grant recipients

2018 award recipient
Joanna Mytkowska, Poland — Igor Zabel Award for Culture and Theory 2018 laureate The laureate is an art historian, curator and, since 2007, the director of the Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw. In the 1990s, Mytkowska started her professional career as a curator at the Foksal Gallery in Warsaw, a legendary, non-commercial art space set up by artists in 1966. After that, she co-founded and worked at the Foksal Gallery Foundation in Warsaw with the aim of establishing research and funding opportunities for Polish contemporary art as well as taking care of the legacy of Polish avant-garde artists. From 2006 to 2007, she worked at the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris, but soon after embarking on her international curatorial career outside of Poland, she decided to return to Warsaw and took over directorship of the Museum of Modern Art.

The jury has awarded Joanna Mytkowska the Igor Zabel Award for Culture and Theory 2018 for her committed and outstanding work as the director of the Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw. The jury acknowledges the extraordinary intellectual, curatorial and civic achievements that Mytkowska has developed over the last 15 years, especially as the director of MoMA in Warsaw, her commitment to reaffirming the relation of art to society in times of radical socio-political transformations and her outstanding expertise on art from Central and Eastern Europe.

2018 grant recipients
Edith Jeřábková, Czech Republic — Igor Zabel Award Grant recipient according to the jury’s selection Curator, researcher, teacher and art writer from Prague, for her resilience regarding emancipating non-institutional forms of cultural production and searching for new articulations of curatorial practice and theory.
Oberliht Association, Moldova — Igor Zabel Award Grant recipient according to the jury’s selection Oberliht Association from Chisinau, Moldova, in recognition of its ongoing support to the local artistic community and its innovative engagement with projects in the public space.
Visual Culture Research Center (VCRC), Ukraine — Igor Zabel Award Grant recipient according to the laureate’s selection VCRC from Kyiv, which, through the analysis of visual culture, aims to foster reflection on the post-Soviet political and economic situation, for its unique contribution to acting, critical thinking and creativity in the highly difficult context of Ukraine in the state of war today.

2018 jury members and nominators
Jury members Adam Budak — CHIEF CURATOR, NATIONAL GALLERY, PRAGUE Ana Janevski — CURATOR, MOMA, NEW YORK Erzen Shkololli — DIRECTOR, NATIONAL ART GALLERY OF ALBANIA, TIRANA
Nominators Anna Daučíková, Branislav Dimitrijević, Maja and Reuben Fowkes, Christian Höller, Livia Páldi, Dan Perjovschi, Magdalena Radomska, Barbara Steiner, Adam Szymczyk, Maria Vassileva

The award ceremony will be moderated by Nataša Briški, journalist, co-founder and editor of the Metina lista online media.

Sound by: Luka Prinčič/Nova deViator
Light by: Vadim Fiškin
Celebration event music by: DJ Borka

The Igor Zabel Award ceremony is open to the public and will be held in English.



Igor Zabel's office, 1997. Photography: Lado Mlekuž, Moderna galerija, Ljubljana

Award ceremony	International conference
Moderna galerija Cankarjeva cesta 15, Ljubljana Organized by: the Igor Zabel Association in collaboration with the ERSTE Foundation and Moderna galerija, Ljubljana Project manager: Urška Jurman Production manager: Mateja Kurir PR manager: Urška Comino Technical manager: Borut Cajnko Assistant: Hana Cirman	Moderna galerija Cankarjeva cesta 15, Ljubljana Organized by: Moderna galerija in collaboration with the Igor Zabel Association and the ERSTE Foundation Concept by: Zdenka Badovinac Project manager: Adela Železnik PR manager: Mateja Dimnik Technical manager: Tomaž Kučer
Presentation of Šum #10 journal	Documentary film
Museum of Contemporary Art Metelkova Maistrova ulica 3, Ljubljana Organized by: Šum journal in collaboration with the Igor Zabel Association, MG+MSUM and the Boks Gallery Association	Kinodvor Kolodvorska ulica 13, Ljubljana Slovenian premiere organized by: Kinodvor in collaboration with the Igor Zabel Association and Vertigo

IGOR ZABEL ASSOCIATION FOR CULTURE AND THEORY	Programme leaflet Editor: Urška Jurman Design: Anja Delbello & Aljaž Vesel / AA English translations: Maja Lovrenov English language editing: Jana Renée Wilcoxon
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Art — How Much is it Still an Idea for the Future?

International conference

6.12. / 13:00–19:00 / Moderna galerija

The conference focuses on the concept of contemporary art, especially on the question of how much it is able to shape ideas for the future. If modernism was to a large extent oriented towards the future and postmodernism towards the past, then we would like to know which temporality determines contemporary art. Further on, we will discuss what it actually means when we say that contemporary art is global art. Is it a concept co-shaped by subjects from different parts of the world or a construct of the global art system that has boomed after 1989, when the “old first world” triumphantly spread the doctrine of neoliberal capitalism across the globe?

Participants: Clémentine Deliss, Zoran Erić, iLiana Fokianaki, Ana Janevski, Nomaduma Masilela, Cuauhtémoc Medina Gonzalez, Lívía Páldi, Marjetica Potrč, Marcelo Rezende, Adam Szymczyk

13:00–13:15 **Welcome**
Zdenka Badovinac – MG+MSUM
Urška Jurman – IGOR ZABEL ASSOCIATION

First panel — What is Global Art?

Nowadays, the big world museums are more frequently presenting art on the basis of geographical diversity. But what has actually remained a common denominator in this advocating of heterogeneity? The latest documenta, for example, advocated global diversity by stepping beyond art and also exhibiting the traditional practices of the local cultures of indigenous communities, on which colonialism imposed a Western concept of art and culture. Furthermore, what do the various local spaces get from these representations of diversity and to what extent can such a treatment of diversity avoid the mechanisms of capital and its culture industries? To whom are the critical voices formed by international exhibitions speaking?

13:15–14:00 **Marcelo Rezende** — KEYNOTE SPEECH
Critic, curator and writer, who is currently the co-director of Kunstarchiv der Avantgarden in Dresden and former director of the Museum of Modern Art of Bahia (2012–15). He is based in Salvador and Berlin.

14:00–14:20 **Cuauhtémoc Medina González**
Art critic, curator and art historian based in Mexico City. He was the first associate curator of the Tate Modern’s Latin American collection and is chief curator for the 12th Shanghai Biennale (2018).

14:20–14:40 **Nomaduma Rosa Masilela**
Writer, historian and artist based in New York City. She was a member of the curatorial team for the 10th Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art.

14:40–15:00 **Adam Szymczyk**
Artistic director of documenta 14 in Athens and Kassel in 2017. He was director at Kunsthalle Basel (2004–14) and co-curator of the 5th Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art in 2008.

15:00–15:15 **Break**

15:15–16:00 **Discussion — moderated by Ana Janevski**
Ana Janevski is currently a curator in the Department of Media and Performance Art at the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

Second panel — Art, an Idea for the Future

Although contemporary art frequently describes the future as dystopian, there are many art projects that do not describe time, but merge with it, last in it, develop with it, and thus, in their own way, co-create the future. The present has become embedded in the very tissue of art and it therefore seems that art also has a greater chance of changing reality. Even though contemporary art is an important social agent and a vibrant platform for various micropolitics, we nevertheless have to ask what real impact it actually has and further on, how much of an effect should art have in reality? Which experience of art then provides the most important basis for the future?

16:15–17:00 **Clémentine Deliss** — KEYNOTE SPEECH
Curator, publisher and cultural historian. Between 2010 and 2015, she directed the Weltkulturen Museum in Frankfurt. She is currently professor of Curatorial Theory & Dramaturgical Practice at the University of Arts & Design, Karlsruhe.

17:00–17:20 **Zoran Erić**
Currently chief curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Belgrade. His research fields include the meeting points of urban geography, spatial-cultural discourse and the theory of radical democracy.

17:20–17:40 **iLiana Fokianaki**
Writer and curator based in Athens and Rotterdam. In 2013, she founded State of Concept Athens and is the co-founder of the research platform Future Climates. Fokianaki is currently a lecturer at the Dutch Art Institute.

17:40–18:00 **Marjetica Potrč**
Artist and architect based in Ljubljana and Berlin. From 2011 to 2018, she was a professor at the University of Fine Arts/HFBK in Hamburg, where she taught Design for the Living World, a class on participatory practices.

18:00–18:15 **Break**

18:15–19:00 **Discussion — moderated by Lívía Páldi**
Lívía Páldi is a curator of visual arts at Project Arts Centre in Dublin.

The conference is free of charge; it will be held in English.

On Contemporaneity of Contemporary Art

Presentation of Šum #10 journal

28.11. / 18:00 / Museum of Contemporary Art Metelkova

A presentation of the thematic section of Šum #10 on defining contemporary art at the turn of the 1990s with lectures by Kaja Kraner on some of the key concepts of the contemporariness of contemporary art and by Sergej Kapus on how Igor Zabel defined contemporary art.

The Curator’s Room — Igor Zabel: How to Make Art Visible?

Documentary film

starting 22.11. / Kinodvor

The Curator’s Room, a documentary film dedicated to the art historian and curator Igor Zabel (1958–2005), focuses on Zabel’s work in the field of visual arts from the end of the 1980s to his death. Through the film, we learn how, in that epochal time – at the turn of the century and at the intersections of (post)modern and contemporary art, the local and international art space, socialism and capitalism, East and West, the artistic and the social/political –, he faced in his work not only great changes and conflicts, but also possibilities for the new.

The film portrays not only a man who, despite the internal contradictions of the art world, persistently believed in the power of art, but also the time and space in which Igor Zabel worked and which he co-shaped.

Director: Damjan Kozole
Scriptwriter: Urška Jurman
Photography: Matjaž Mrak
Editor: Jurij Moškon
Producer: Danijel Hočevar
Production and distribution: Vertigo
Co-production: RTV Slovenia, Igor Zabel Association
Supported by: Slovenian Film Centre

IGOR ZABEL
AWARD FOR
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22.11.–7.12.2018
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