

Institute of Contemporary Arts

PRESS RELEASE

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THE INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS APPOINTS KERRY BISHOP AS MANAGING DIRECTOR

Stefan Kalmár, Director of the ICA, announced today the appointment of Kerry Bishop as the Institute's Managing Director, taking up post on 4 September 2019.

At the ICA, Bishop will be responsible for leading the implementation of the Institute's strategic vision and its operational delivery. Bishop has been COO at Frieze since 2013, where she successfully led the strategic and operational overview of all Frieze's activities, most recently the launch of Frieze Los Angeles, as well as developing key digital initiatives. Prior to working at Frieze, Bishop held director-level positions within architectural and interior design studios for over twelve years, responsible for the management and delivery of some of the UK's most significant new public buildings as well as many large-scale projects internationally.

Commenting on her appointment, Kerry Bishop said:

'I am honoured to take up the position of Managing Director of the ICA, which is a rare opportunity. Working with the existing team and Board, I look forward to creating and sustaining a supportive, responsive and fertile environment to ensure the artistic vision of the ICA is realised. Stefan's arrival marked a new era for the ICA; I am particularly excited to work with him to face the challenges of an ever-faster moving and changing world. I look forward to supporting the future of one of the world's most dynamic and creative cultural institutions.'

Stefan Kalmár said:

'It is fantastic that Kerry will be joining us at this exciting moment of great possibility. Kerry brings her invaluable experience and skills at the right time to the right place, ensuring the ICA's financial and organisational growth as well as its continuous leadership at the very forefront of radical contemporary arts practices and discourse.'

Kalmár became Director in early 2017. Under his leadership, the ICA has undergone significant changes in its management and governance, including the appointments of Richard Birkett as Chief Curator, Lisa Wong as Director of Finance, Stuart Bertolotti-Bailey as Head of Design, Jen Bartle as Head of Marketing and PR, Jessye Parke as Head of Development, Deborah Bosso as Head of HR and the promotion of Tom Campbell to Director of Operations and Visitor Services. New Board appointments over the same period include Wolfgang Tillmans, Robert Devereux, Francesca Thyssen-Bornemisza, Maria Sukkar, Dilyara Allakhverdova and Hadeel Ibrahim, who became Chair of the Board in 2018.

Upon taking post as Director, Kalmár introduced the London Living Wage for all ICA staff. In February 2019, the ICA became a fully accredited Living Wage Employer.

Under Kalmár, the ICA has reinforced its position as a critical forum for exploring visual cultures, through exhibitions by Seth Price, Julie Becker (currently touring to MoMA PS1), Forensic Architecture (nominated for the 2018 Turner Prize), Morag Keil, Metahaven and most recently, an expansive exhibition dedicated to the late Kathy Acker.

The ICA's Live programme has been reinstated with a series of music and theatre commissions, while the ICA's Talks & Learning strand has been revived as a space for radical debate, which has included the first UK appearance by activist Chelsea Manning in 2018.

This summer, the ICA stages the first-ever interpretation of Kathy Acker's 1982 play *Desire*, facilitated by The Wooster Group's Kate Valk; a new live commission by Egyptian experimental composer and musician Maurice Louca; and a programme of talks and performances curated by Philadelphia-based collective Black Quantum Futurism.

Since Kalmár has been Director, the ICA Cinema is now entirely programmed in-house, screening more than 400 independent productions annually. Kalmár also established the ICA Independent Film Council, comprised of industry specialists such as Laura Poitras, Tabitha Jackson, Tilda Swinton and Walter Murch.

Kalmár stripped back the galleries to reveal some of Jane Drew's historic 1968 design. Rochelle Canteen launched at the ICA in 2017. A new permanently sited work by artist Rirkrit Tiravanija was unveiled in June 2019.

This autumn, Kalmár co-curates with Birkett *Honey-Suckle Company: Omnibus*, the first-ever survey of the work of the Berlin collective Honey-Suckle Company, which brings together key moments of the group's twenty-five-year history.

Kalmár said:

‘Coinciding with one hundred years of Bauhaus and thirty years since the fall of the Berlin Wall, Honey Suckle Company's first survey at the ICA is as timely as it is long overdue. The exhibition offers a chance to reflect through Honey-Suckle Company's work the changes that Berlin has seen over the past twenty-five years.’

In December 2018 Kalmár was appointed a member of the artistic-team of Manifesta 13, taking place in Marseille 2020.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Founded in 1946 by a collective of artists, poets and their supporters, the **Institute of Contemporary Arts** is an independent organisation and registered charity which supports the most pressing debates in contemporary culture. The ICA stages groundbreaking exhibitions, performances and keynote lectures by many of the world's leading thinkers. Previously home to the Independent Group, the ICA played a pivotal role in the development of Pop art and charted the course of punk, performance art and independent cinema. The ICA staged the first institutional exhibitions by Francis Bacon, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Tacita Dean, Damien Hirst, Mike Kelley, Mary Kelly, Barbara Kruger, Gerhard Richter, Dieter Roth, Cindy Sherman, Nancy Spero, and Cosey Fanni Tutti and early exhibitions by Bernadette Corporation, Robert Mapplethorpe, Steve McQueen and Tino Sehgal; many now historic performances including those by Laurie Anderson, Einstürzende Neubauten and Yoko Ono; legendary concerts by The Clash, Throbbing Gristle, The Smiths, David Bowie and The Beastie Boys; and critical discussions by the likes of Kathy Acker, Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, Stuart Hall and Homi K. Bhabha. The ICA Cinema and its dedicated artist's film programme continue to showcase independent film and support pioneering filmmakers including Chantal Akerman, Kenneth Anger, Matthew Barney, Derek Jarman, Ken Loach and Laura Poitras. From its home on The Mall – the geographic heart of the UK establishment – the ICA is an organisation in which different modes of cultural production thrive on the mutual engagement with one another, and a programme that speaks to the challenges of the 21st century. www.ica.art

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