



Berlin, 16 January 2024

PRESS RELEASE

Hamburger Bahnhof – Nationalgalerie der Gegenwart

Invalidenstraße 50/51, 10557 Berlin, Germany

Tue, Wed, Fri 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Thu 10 a.m. – 8 p.m., Sat + Sun 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Hamburger Bahnhof launches its newly founded patrons circle Hamburger Bahnhof International Companions e.V. to support diversity and inclusion through educational programs, exhibitions, events, and acquisitions for the collection, with the goal to raise 10 Mio EUR in funds until the end of 2028.

Hamburger Bahnhof – Nationalgalerie der Gegenwart in Berlin announces its newly founded patrons circle **Hamburger Bahnhof International Companions e.V.**, which aims to promote diversity and inclusion through education, exhibitions, projects, acquisitions, and publications. Founded in October 2023 at the initiative of directors Sam Bardaouil and Till Fellrath, the International Companions aims to raise 2 million Euros annually through private members and sponsors, with a total target of 10 million Euros in programme funds by the end of 2028, out of which 1.2 million euros have already been secured for 2024.

One of the first initiatives that will be made possible through the International Companions is the underwriting by the **SAHA Association** in Istanbul of a senior curator position with special expertise in the region. The position will be advertised later this summer for a period of three years. The **Arndt Foundation** will annually support the purchase of an artwork by a Berlin-based artist for the Nationalgalerie's collection at Hamburger Bahnhof. In 2024, the first acquisition will be a photographic installation by **Isaac Chong Wai**, which is currently on view as part of the new collection presentation at the west wing of the museum. In addition, the International Companions will facilitate new educational programs for schools, and outreach initiatives for the immediate neighbourhood and for various communities in Berlin.

In June 2023, Hamburger Bahnhof marked the purchase of its buildings and the permanent securing of its site through public funding with a three-day open house celebration. Since then, the museum has seen a vast increase in visitor numbers. In the second half of 2023, Hamburger Bahnhof recorded three times as many visitors as in the first half, totalling 400,000 visitors to its programmes last year. **Hamburger Bahnhof International Companions e.V.** will help the museum grow further through supporting various future initiatives that promote diversity and inclusion as the cornerstones of a socially relevant museum. **Sam Bardaouil** and **Till Fellrath** commented: "We are overwhelmed by the broad support that Hamburger Bahnhof has been receiving, and are grateful for the many individuals who have already joined our new International Companions. Artists and communities from all over the world have found their home in Berlin. The global scope of Hamburger Bahnhof International Companions will enable a broad scope of new initiatives that will reflect and promote the diversity of our society."

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The founding members of **Hamburger Bahnhof International Companions e.V.** include established art patrons who are globally well connected and who live in London, Hong Kong, Berlin, Dubai, Munich, Jeddah, Bilbao, Istanbul, New York, Seoul, Lugano, Melbourne and elsewhere. They include **Abdelmonem Alserkal, Karen Boros, Monique and Max Burger and TOY friends, Dagmar Döring, Füsün Eczacıbaşı, Marx Family, Inderbitzi-Marx Family, Alexander Guttmann, Esra Eliane Joo, Andreas and Ulrike Kurtz, Silvia and Hubertus Langen, Hatice and Jan-Frederik Marx, Hamza Serafi, Tiffany Wood and Matthias Arndt, Yolanda Zugaza**, and others.

In addition, several foundations and companies will support Hamburger Bahnhof in 2024 through the International Companions. **Deutsche Bank** funds **In Conversation**, a series of monthly talks with international artists. Further partners include **illycaffè, Samsung Foundation of Culture**, and **Werkstatt für Kreative der Stiftung Kunstforum Berliner Volksbank** among others.

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