

Biographies of the jury members

Christoph Thun-Hohenstein



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Christoph Thun-Hohenstein (born 1960) assumed direction of the MAK – Austrian Museum of Applied Arts / Contemporary Art on 1 September 2011.

He completed his doctoral degrees in law in 1982 and in political science and art history in 1983 at the University of Vienna. In 1984 he began working for the Austrian Foreign Ministry, for which he held posts in Abidjan (1985), Geneva (1986–1990), and Bonn (1991–1993). From September 1999 to August 2007, he was director of the Austrian Cultural Forum New York, after which he served as managing director of departure, the Creative Unit of the Vienna Business Agency, until August 2011.

Christoph Thun-Hohenstein has published on topics dealing above all with European integration and with contemporary culture and art, and has held numerous lectures on these topics. He has also curated exhibitions of contemporary art, and he regularly serves on selection juries.

Barbara Baum



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Barbara Baum (born 1968) is a freelance curator and art consultant in Vienna. After studying art history at the University of Vienna, she began collaborating with Austrian artists in 1990. In her role as a curator, she has staged more than 60 contemporary art exhibitions. She has been on the staff of important Austrian art institutions, auction houses, and art publishers, participated in art fairs, and worked in the classical modern art business and at prominent galleries. From 2003 to 2013 she was the artistic director of the STRABAG Kunstforum in Vienna, where she developed and coordinated the Bruno Gironcoli sculpture hall, Artlounge, Artcollection, Artstudio, and artist-in-residence programs. From 2004 to 2013 she was an organizer and jury member of STRABAG's Artaward with the participating countries Austria, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Russia, and Romania. In her capacity as an art consultant for the OMV Group since 2010, Barbara Baum has worked on art projects in Austria, Turkey, and Romania.

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Andreiana Mihail

Andreiana Mihail studied philosophy at the University of Bucharest and philosophy of art at Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne University. In 2006 she founded the eponymous gallery, which represents preeminent Romanian artists including Ion Grigorescu, Ciprian Mureșan, Cristi Pogăcean, Mona Vătămanu, and Florin Tudor. She has curated exhibitions featuring the work of artists Mircea Cantor, Adrian Ghenie, and others. Since 2013 she has also been active as an art consultant. The Andreiana Mihail Gallery has taken part in major arts fairs such as Art Basel, Frieze London, and Frieze New York.

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Alice Rawsthorn

Alice Rawsthorn writes about design for the International New York Times, which syndicates her columns worldwide. She is also a columnist for Frieze magazine and the author of the critically acclaimed book *Hello World: Where Design Meets Life*, which explores design's influence on our lives in the past, present, and future. Born in Manchester and based in London, Alice is a trustee of the Whitechapel Gallery and the Michael Clark Company contemporary dance group, as well as Chair of Chisenhale Gallery's Board of Trustees. Her previous books include a biography of fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent. In 2014 Alice was awarded the rank of Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for her services to design and the arts.

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Bärbel Vischer

Bärbel Vischer (born 1971) is Curator of the MAK-Contemporary Art Collection. Since joining the museum in 2007, she curated exhibitions as *Signs Taken in Wonder. Searching for Contemporary Istanbul* (with Simon Rees) and solo exhibitions with Franz West, Liam Gillick, Walter Pichler, David Zink Yi, Pae White, and the artistic intervention by Füsün Onur for the MAK Permanent Collection Carpets. As an independent curator she realized projects that relate to a cultural and historical framework such as the exhibition *Wo Warst Du! All Ambra*, viewing the Renaissance Art Chamber through contemporary art and *From Russia with Love*, focusing on the Russian Community of Merano, Italy. With Simon Starling she developed the exhibition *Plant Room* that mediated Karl Blossfeldt's approach on art, architecture, and nature.