

Saturday, 10 October 2026
2:00 pm

Panel Discussion — (Bühne)

Engagement as Practice: Art Between Freedom, Responsibility and Collectivity

(English translation of this German speaking panel)

Claudia Emmert, Director of the Kunstmuseum Bonn

Adib Fricke, Spokesperson for the Executive Board of the German Artists' Association, IKG member and artist

Karin Lingl, Managing Director of the Kunstfonds Foundation

Manos Tsangaris, composer, musician and artist, and President of the Berlin Academy of Arts

Moderator: Uta M. Reindl, independent art critic and curator

What does it mean for art to engage with society today? And how can artistic freedom, individual responsibility and collective action coexist within increasingly complex political, cultural and institutional conditions?

This panel takes up questions that reach back to the founding principles of IKG in the 1970s, while asking how these principles might be rethought for the present. At their centre is the conviction that artistic practice does not exist in isolation: it is shaped through exchange, dialogue and networks that can challenge established structures and create spaces for solidarity and collective agency.

Particular attention will be given to the importance of cross-border networks among artists and cultural practitioners, especially in view of current developments in cultural policy and the growing pressure on international cooperation. What forms of artistic and institutional solidarity are possible when national frameworks become increasingly dominant? How can internationalism remain a meaningful cultural practice rather than simply an organisational ideal?

Building on the interconnected principles of internationalism, artistic freedom and networks beyond national structures, the discussion will explore how these ideas can be repositioned, expanded and made productive under changed social and political circumstances.

The conversation will also consider the network as a cultural and political form: not simply as a means of exchange, but as a space in which alternative alliances, publics and forms of belonging can be constituted. Against the fragmentation of cultural landscapes and the renewed emphasis on national frameworks, can transnational artistic networks offer models of cooperation that are both critical and resilient?

The panel brings together perspectives from museum practice, artistic advocacy, cultural funding and contemporary artistic production. Together, the participants will consider engagement not simply as a position or political statement, but as an ongoing practice of connection, responsibility and collective action.