

Press Release

Museum Folkwang

Tobia Bezzola is appointed new director of Museum Folkwang, Essen **Museum Folkwang, Essen** **22. June 2012**

Tobia Bezzola has been appointed the new director of Museum Folkwang and will take up the job on 1 January 2013, acting in an advisory capacity to the museum as of the autumn. The Board of Trustees reached its decision unanimously, following the recommendation of the Selection Board.

Tobia Bezzola (born 11 February 1961, Bern, Switzerland) joins us from Kunsthaus Zürich, where he has been a curator since 1995 and, since 2001, Head of the Exhibitions Department.

He studied Art History and Philosophy in Bern and Zurich (with study trips to Paris and Rome), and was awarded a Ph.D. in 1992 for a dissertation supervised by Hermann Lübke on "Rhetoric in the work of Kant, Fichte and Hegel. A contribution to the history of the philosophy of rhetoric". That same year he started work as a curator, initially as assistant to Harald Szeemann. In 1995, he was made curator at Kunsthaus Zürich, where he has since organized over 30 exhibitions, covering Classical Modernist topics, post-War and contemporary art, and photography. For example, he has curated shows on Paul Gauguin, Pablo Picasso, Max Beckmann and Alberto Giacometti, European Pop Art, on Joseph Beuys, Francis Alÿs, Christian Marclay and Thomas Struth as well as themed projects on media history, such as WALLFLOWERS, Large Photographs, Hot Spots: Rio de Janeiro / Milano – Torino / Los Angeles, 1956 to 1969, or FotoSkulptur. Photography of Sculptures, from 1839 to the Present.

Lord Mayor Reinhard Paß thanked the nine members of the Selection Board: "You deliberated on a series of high-calibre candidates and in the end decided unanimously in favour of Tobia Bezzola. That vote was very clear as regards who the new director of our Museum Folkwang should be. The City of Essen very much looks forward to many exciting and outstanding exhibitions under his directorship."

"In the form of the Chipperfield-designed building, Museum Folkwang has created an exceptional setting to present its wonderful and highly interesting collection, to strong international acclaim. Dr. Bezzola is superbly networked worldwide and has the scholarly qualifications necessary to further advance Museum Folkwang's special programmatic approach," said Andreas

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Bomheuer, Head of the City of Essen's Culture Dept. "With his experience, he will definitely enrich the regional museum world," suggested Dr. E.h. Middelschulte, Chairman of the Folkwang Museumsverein, emphasizing that the museum had made a great choice: "Having got to know Dr. Bezzola I cannot imagine a better new director for our Museum Folkwang. My best wishes to him in handling such a complex and exacting task!"

Dr. Tobia Bezzola comments that "I am incredibly pleased to have the privilege, along with all the staff members and all those who so strongly support Museum Folkwang, to further develop the immense future potential of the institute – on behalf of the city, the region, and all friends of art, beyond the nation's borders."

Images are available for downloading at www.museum-folkwang.de

Opening Hours Tue – Sun 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Fri 10 a.m. – 10.30 p.m., Closed Mondays

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