

Media release

Basel, October 6, 2025

Gabriel Dette to join the Kunstmuseum Basel as Curator of Old Masters

The Kunstmuseum Basel is pleased to announce that Gabriel Dette (b. 1976) will join the museum as the new Curator of Old Masters on February 1, 2026. He succeeds Bodo Brinkmann, who retired at the end of March 2025. Dette was chosen from a large field of outstanding international candidates in a monthslong selection process.

Since 2023, Gabriel Dette has worked in Munich at the Bavarian State Painting Collections, where he has been Chief Curator of Early German and Early Netherlandish Painting at the Alte Pinakothek while also overseeing the Branch Galleries in Augsburg, Bamberg, Burghausen, and Füssen. Before this appointment, he was Assistant Curator of Old Masters with Bodo Brinkmann at the Kunstmuseum Basel from 2017 until 2023. Dette started his career as a curator at the Städel Museum in Frankfurt am Main in 2006; after a traineeship as curatorial assistant in the Early German and Early Netherlandish Paintings division, and until 2010, he was Assistant Curator of Paintings before 1800. He then worked as a research associate at the Institute of Art History of the Goethe-Universität, Frankfurt am Main, and the Institute of the History of Architecture and Art History at the Technical University of Darmstadt.

As a curator or co-curator, Gabriel Dette has contributed to diverse exhibitions and collection presentations in Frankfurt, Basel, and Munich, including *Cranach the Elder* (2007/08), *Caravaggio in the Netherlands: music and genre in the work of Caravaggio and the Utrecht Caravaggists* (2009), *Botticelli* (2009/10), *controversial?* (2019), *Rembrandt's Orient* (2020/21), *Picasso—El Greco* (2022), *Nude Model and Virtuous Heroine. The Suicide of Lucretia by Albrecht Dürer and Lucas Cranach the Elder* (2024), and, most recently, *How Pictures Tell Stories. From Albrecht Altdorfer to Peter Paul Rubens* (2025/26).

Gabriel Dette impressed the search committee with his enthusiasm and insight into how to bring a fresh vision to exhibition making within his field. He understands that the art of the 15th to 18th centuries can speak in new ways to audiences today, underscoring its relevance and resonance in our own time. He is no stranger to Basel or the

Kunstmuseum Basel, where he already created a strong network amongst colleagues and the museum public, and we look forward to welcoming him back to the institution.

Imagery

www.kunstmuseumbasel.ch/en/media

Media contact

Karen N. Gerig, Tel. +41 61 206 62 80, karen.gerig@bs.ch