

Media release

Basel, October 6, 2025

## **Stephanie Seidel to join the Kunstmuseum Basel as Head of Art after 1960, Contemporary Art**

The Kunstmuseum Basel is pleased to announce that Stephanie Seidel (b. 1985) will join the museum as the new Curator of Contemporary Art on January 1, 2026. She succeeds Maja Wismer, who has been Head of Collection and Research at the Kunsthaus Zürich since July 2025. Seidel was chosen from a large field of outstanding international candidates in a monthslong selection process.

Stephanie Seidel arrives at the Kunstmuseum Basel after serving as Monica and Blake Grossman Curator at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami, Fla., USA. She has been at the ICA Miami since 2016, curating numerous extensive exhibitions, including on Olga de Amaral (in collaboration with the Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain), Thomas Bayrle, Judy Chicago, Michel Majerus, Allan McCollum, Diamond Stingily, Betye Saar (in collaboration with 49 Nord 6 Est—Frac Lorraine, Metz, France, and the Kunstmuseum Luzern), and Zilia Sánchez. This summer, Seidel also curated the exhibition *Borrowed Scenery* for the Kunstkommission Düsseldorf at the Lantz'scher Skulpturenpark. From 2013 until 2015, Seidel worked as a curator on the project 25/25/25 of Kunststiftung NRW, Düsseldorf, where she also led the project space Between Arrival & Departure.

Seidel has edited and contributed to numerous monographs. Her work has received several awards, including the Barbara Nessim Curatorial Travel Award of ICI (Independent Curators International), New York, in recognition of her seminal research on the artist Betye Saar. Seidel is also a member of the Betye Saar Legacy Group, an international committee of scholars founded in 2025 that is dedicated to preserving, interpreting, and advancing Saar's oeuvre.

The search committee was impressed with Stephanie Seidel's rigor and passion as well as the breath of her understanding of post-war and contemporary art. Her innovative exhibition practice, international profile, and bold ideas are poised to bring new perspectives to how the Kunstmuseum engages with the art of our time.

### **Imagery**

[www.kunstmuseumbasel.ch/en/media](http://www.kunstmuseumbasel.ch/en/media)

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