

Media release  
Zurich, 31 May 2022

## **Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft elects Dr. Philipp M. Hildebrand as Chair**

**At its 127th annual general meeting, the Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft elected Dr. Philipp M. Hildebrand as its new Chair. It also approved the 2021 annual report. With a total of 382,600 admissions, visitor numbers at the Kunsthaus were up 69% in 2021 compared with 2020. The handover to a new Director has been brought forward to 1 October 2022.**

In accordance with Art. 27 para. 1 let. a of the COVID-19 Ordinance 3, the annual general meeting on 30 May was conducted in writing. Of the 23,271 members of the Kunsthaus Zürich's patron association currently eligible to vote, 4,005 cast valid ballots. Dr. Philipp M. Hildebrand, former Chairman of the Swiss National Bank and currently Vice Chairman of BlackRock, board member of the Abegg-Stiftung and Trustee of the British Museum, received 2,540 votes (63.4%). He will take up his new post on 1 July 2022. Dr. Conrad M. Ulrich was also confirmed as a member of the Board for a further three years, by a large majority. The annual report and annual financial statements for 2021 were approved. PricewaterhouseCoopers were reappointed as auditors.

### **RECORD VISITOR NUMBERS. ANNUAL LOSS REDUCED.**

As at 30 September 2021, membership stood at a new high of 24,498, an increase of 3,682 compared with 2020. Admissions were among the highest of the last 20 years, reaching 382,603 (2020: 226,154) despite the pandemic. An operating loss of CHF –482,431 was recorded, again as a result of COVID-19, though this is a substantial reduction compared with the 2020 figure of CHF –980,952. Because, under normal circumstances, the Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft receives the majority of its funding from its own resources, compensation for cancellations and the like as well as for short-time working was not sufficient to make up for the lost income. Additionally, the move into the Chipperfield building and the rehanging of works in the existing buildings proved more expensive than planned. The annual report (in German) is published at [www.kunsthhaus.ch/jahresbericht21](http://www.kunsthhaus.ch/jahresbericht21).

### FORECAST FOR THE CURRENT YEAR

The Board is forecasting a further loss in 2022. Although the pandemic is abating, it will take time for the additional income that the museum receives from rentals to recover. Moreover, the procurement costs for energy and consumables, which have risen significantly since the start of the year, along with increases in the price of transporting and insuring loans from abroad, are likely to weigh further on the financial results. Visitor numbers, by contrast, are very promising, with more than 200,000 admissions already recorded since the beginning of the year.

### NEW KUNSTHAUS DIRECTOR TO TAKE OVER IN OCTOBER 2022

The current Director, Dr. Christoph Becker, has overseen the successful completion of his most important assignment: the Kunsthau extension. Accordingly, and as previously announced, he will be progressively stepping back from his duties over the course of the year. His successor, Ann Demeester, has begun her induction period at the Kunsthau, having stood down as Director of the Frans Hals Museum in Haarlem. Since February, she has been spending one week each month in Zurich for internal discussions. Ann Demeester will be moving to Zurich in the summer and will make herself available to the Kunsthau full time from August, thus ensuring she is ready to assume her responsibilities as new Director of the Kunsthau from October 2022. The proposal jointly submitted by the new Director and her predecessor to bring the handover forward by three months is supported by the Board and the new Chair.

### A MUSEUM THAT FOSTERS GREATER SOCIAL COHESION

Dr. Philipp Hildebrand has thanked the members of the Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft for the trust they have placed in him, commenting: 'Heading the Board of the Zürcher Kunstgesellschaft is an honourable, exciting and socially worthwhile task. Future Director Ann Demeester and I are united in our determination to position the Kunsthau not just as a museum, but also as a cultural platform for social and political exchange. Art must always be our central concern. We want it to open up new ways for visitors and the public to engage constructively with social policy issues old and new, and promote humanity and social cohesion.'

### INVITATION TO THE MEDIA BREAKFAST

The Chair and future Director invite the press to a media breakfast on Monday 27 June 2022, from 7.30 a.m. to 9 a.m., where there will be the opportunity to meet Dr. Philipp M. Hildebrand and Ann Demeester. Dr. Conrad M. Ulrich, interim Chair and member of the Board, will also be on hand to provide information.

## KUNSTHAUS ZÜRICH

We look forward to welcoming you. Kindly register at  
[www.kunsthhaus.ch/anmeldung-mediengespraech](http://www.kunsthhaus.ch/anmeldung-mediengespraech).

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