

Annexe 4 Manifesta 16 Ruhr Creative Mediators Biographies

25th of September, 2025
St. Josef Kirche, Gelsenkirchen, Germany

Josep Bohigas

Josep Bohigas Arnau (Spain, b. 1967) is an architect from the ETSAB (Barcelona School of Architecture) with a Master's Degree from Columbia University, United States and UPF (University Pompeu Fabra), Spain.

Bohigas was the co-director of the BOPBAA Architecture studio from 1991 to 2015 and won various architectural competitions, including the extension to the Thyssen Museum in Spain, the Housing block in the Forum area and the El Molino Theatre in Spain. He received awards for professional recognition, including the FAD awards (1998, 2000, 2007) and the City of Barcelona awards (2007, 2014, 2016).

He has directed and curated several cultural activism programmes which have highlighted new solutions to the housing problem: *Barraca Barcelona* 2003, *APTM* 2005, *Eme3 Collapse* 2009, *Piso Piloto* 2015 and *Arquitectes de Capçalera* 2014–2024. He was the general manager and leading urbanist of the Urban Development Agency, Barcelona Regional, from 2016 to 2023 and the Agency of Urban Ecology from 2019 to 2022. He is an associate professor at the ETSAB and co-director of the Master's degree in Lighting Design at the UPC Foundation (Polytechnic University of Catalonia). He is the founder and a member of the Urban Front, a transnational consultancy focused on helping

progressive public and social sectors achieve their goals as they address the critical urban problems of the 21st century. Josep Bohigas is the Urban Creative Mediator for Manifesta 16 Ruhr.

René Block

René Block (Germany, b. 1942) grew up in the Lower Rhine region, attended the Werkkunstschule (School of Applied Arts) in Krefeld in the stained-glass class from 1959 onwards, and moved to Berlin in 1963 to continue his studies. He began working as an independent curator after more than 15 years of experience in the visual arts through running his own galleries in Berlin and New York (1964–1979). One of his most significant exhibitions, *Für Augen und Ohren* (For Eyes and Ears, 1980), explored the relationship between music and visual art in the 20th century.

From 1982 to 1992, Block was responsible for the visual arts and music programmes of the Berlin Artists-in-Residence Programme (DAAD), organising numerous exhibitions, projects and music festivals. Until 1995, he also led the Exhibition Service of the Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen (IfA), promoting German art abroad. From 1997 to 2006, he served as Director of the Kunsthalle Fridericianum in

Kassel. In 2008, he founded Kunsthall 44Møen, one of Denmark's most advanced centres for contemporary art.

Block has been artistic director of several international biennials, including *Towards an Art of Peace* (Hamburg, 1985), *The Readymade Boomerang* (Sydney, 1990), *Orient/ation* (Istanbul, 1995), *Eurafrica* (Gwangju, 2000), *Love it or Leave it* (Cetinje, 2004) and *Art, Life & Confusion* (Belgrade, 2006). He also curated the Nordic Pavilion at the Venice Biennale (2007) and the 3rd Riga Biennial (2022).

René Block lives and works in Berlin, where he founded, in 2008, TANAS, a Berlin-based platform for contemporary Turkish art.

Leonie Herweg

Leonie Herweg (Germany, b. 1997) is a curator and writer based in Berlin. Her curatorial practice is informed by a transdisciplinary background and an interest in site-responsive formats, co-creation and community-oriented practices. With familial links in the Ruhr Area, she is particularly engaged in exploring how local knowledge and histories can shape collective processes of cultural production.

She studied International Relations and Law in Switzerland and Japan (BA) and Curating Contemporary Art at the Royal College of Art in the United Kingdom (MA).

Herweg is co-founder and director of GROTTTO, a contemporary art space which hones in on an intergenerational programme which takes shape both in the exhibition space as well as elsewhere in the neighbourhood. She is also a partner of Café Tiergarten (Berlin).

She has worked across institutional and independent contexts, including the Goethe-Institut, Egypt; Museum MMK für Moderne Kunst,

Frankfurt; mumok, Austria; Grisebach, Berlin; and Galerie Mezzanin, Switzerland. Herweg will work in a tandem with René Block for Manifesta 16 Ruhr.

Henry Meyric Hughes

Henry Meyric Hughes (United Kingdom, b. 1942) is a London-based curator, writer and art critic. He is the former Director of the British Council's Visual Arts Department and the Hayward Gallery in London. He served as the first President of the International Foundation Manifesta until 2008.

Meyric Hughes' extended career includes the co-curation of numerous landmark international exhibitions, such as *Art and Power: Europe under the Dictators 1930–1945* (Germany and Spain) *The Spirit of Romanticism in German Art, 1790–1990* and *Yves Klein* (Germany and Spain), all between 1992 and 1996. He was British Commissioner for the Venice and São Paulo Biennials, curating presentations by Frank Auerbach (1986), Tony Cragg (1988), Anish Kapoor (1990) and Richard Hamilton (1992), amongst others. In 2003, he curated the Cypriot Pavilion at the Venice Biennale and co-curated the 2008 Prague Triennale. He was curator for Weimar 1999, European City of Culture, and later advised the Council of Europe on its exhibitions programme (2008–2014).

Founding Chair of the International Awards for Art Criticism (2014–) and Honorary President of the International Association of Art Critics, Meyric Hughes has contributed to numerous publications and has been honoured by the French and German governments for his contribution to international art discourse.

Michael Kurtz

Michael Kurtz (United Kingdom, b. 1998) is a critic and curator based in the United Kingdom. He grew up in Leicester and was educated in the History of Art at the University of Oxford and Birkbeck, University of London. Since then he has written about emerging artists across Europe and beyond for publications including *Art Monthly*, *e-flux* and *ArtReview*, and he won the International Award for Art Criticism in 2023. His research is concerned with the changing significance of socially engaged art practices from the twentieth century in our digital, globalised present. Kurtz will work in a tandem with Henry Meyric Hughes for Manifesta 16 Ruhr.

Anda Rottenberg

Anda Rottenberg (Poland, b. 1944) is a renowned Polish art historian, curator, art critic, writer and founding advisory board member of Manifesta. Over a decades-long career, she has held key positions including Director of the Zachęta National Gallery of Art in Warsaw, Artistic Director of the Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw and visiting consultant at MoMA in the United States.

She has (co-)curated around 100 exhibitions, including large international shows like *Europe Unknown* (Poland, 1991), 1st Gwangju Biennale, South Korea 1995; *L'Autre Moitié de l'Europe* (Jeu de Paume, France, 2000/2001); *Forgetting*, Weserburg Museum, Germany, 2000; art festival *Continental Breakfast*, Serbia 2004; *Side by side. Poland-Germany, 1000 years of history in art* (Martin-Gropius-Bau, Germany) 2011; *Progress and Hygiene* (Zachęta National Gallery Poland) 2014. She was the curator and commissioner of

the Polish Pavilion at the Venice Biennale (1993–2001) and the São Paulo Biennale (1997–2007) and was a member of the selection jury for the documenta Director in 2007.

Rottenberg has authored numerous non-fiction publications, essays, a novel and a cookbook. Key publications include *Art in Poland 1945–2005* (2005; 2020) and *From Poland with Love—Letters to Harald Szeemann* (2019/2021). She was President of the Polish section of the International Association of Art Critics (AICA) and Vice-President of AICA International (1991–1995).

While working as a freelance art writer and curator, she currently hosts the weekly radio broadcast *Andymateria* and functions, since 2017, as the Editor of Culture for *Vogue Poland*.

Krzysztof Kosciuczuk

Krzysztof Kosciuczuk (Poland, b. 1983) curates exhibitions and writes. After receiving degrees in History of Art and English Philology at the University of Warsaw, he worked at Foksal Gallery Foundation Poland, as well as on exhibitions organised by the Royal Castle Museum, Poland and the Zachęta National Gallery of Art, Poland. In 2016 he joined the team of documenta 14 curated by Adam Szymczyk in Greece and Germany. In 2017 he relocated to Switzerland where he worked as curator and artistic director of Muzeum Susch, in Graubünden. Until 2021 he was responsible for programming, including exhibitions of Evelyne Axell, Heidi Bucher, Feliza Bursztyn, Laura Grisi, Emma Kunz and Carolee Schneemann. He has been a guest tutor and then co-head of Work.Master, Master of Fine Arts Program in Contemporary Artistic Practices at Geneva University of Art and Design (HEAD), Switzerland. He contributes to *Frieze* magazine, *Mousse*

and *Artforum*. He has been a contributing editor of *Frieze* magazine since 2016. He recently co-curated, with Christoph Platz-Gallus, solo exhibitions of Agnieszka Kurant (*Uncomputables*, 2023), Simon Denny (*Metaverse Landscapes*, 2023), as well as Roe Rosen (*The Kafka Companion to Wellness*, 2024) at Kunstverein Germany. Kosciuczuk will work in a tandem with Anda Rotternberg for Manifesta 16 Ruhr.

Gürsoy Doğtaş

Gürsoy Doğtaş (Germany, b. 1975) is a curator and art historian. His practice lies at the intersections of institutional critique, structural racism and Queer Studies. He (co-)curated, among others, the exhibitions *There is no there there* at the Museum für Moderne Kunst Germany (2024), *Annem işçi—Who Sews the Red Flags?* at Museum Marta Herford in Germany (2024), *Gurbette Kalmak / Bleiben in der Fremde* at Taxispalais in Austria (2023), as well as the festival *What Would James Baldwin Do?* (2024) in Germany and the symposium *Public Art: The Right to Remember and the Reality of Cities* (2021) in Germany. From 2022–23, he taught as a guest professor at the Institute for Art in Context at the Berlin University of the Arts and, from autumn 2024 to summer 2025, held a QuiS Visiting Research Fellowship at the Städelschule and Goethe University in Germany. He is the Public Programme Creative Mediator for Manifesta 16 Ruhr.