

## **New Director for the Museum for East Asian Art**

Thursday, June 1, 2023, 3:15 p.m.

### **Dr. Shao-Lan Hertel to start new position on July 1, 2023**

New Director of the Museum for East Asian Art (MOK) of the City of Cologne is to be Dr. Shao-Lan Hertel. Mayor Henriette Reker proposes her to the Main Committee of the City Council. Approval is to be given per application of urgency so that Dr. Hertel can take up her duties as early as July 1, 2023.

Dr. Shao-Lan Hertel studied East Asian Art History and Sinology in Berlin, Beijing, and Paris. She worked as Assistant Professor and Visiting Professor at Free University Berlin, where she recently held the Interim Chair of East Asian Art History. With her specialization in Chinese calligraphy and ink art of the late imperial, modern, and contemporary periods, she spent several years in research at the China Academy of Art, Hangzhou, and the Academy of Art and Design, Tsinghua University, Beijing. Beginning from 2018, she worked in the Collections Department of Tsinghua University Art Museum, Beijing, engaged with scientific and curatorial work; most recently as awarded J. S. Lee Memorial Fellow of the Bei Shan Tang Foundation.

“In Shao-Lan Hertel, we have not only been able to win an expert in the field of East Asian art, but also a personality who approaches the Cologne museum with a fresh, undisguised eye. The Museum for East Asian Art, which opened in 1913, is a jewel of the Cologne museum landscape and deserves to be led into a new, forward-looking era with a sure hand.”

states Mayor Henriette Reker.

Stefan Charles, Deputy Mayor of Fine Arts and Culture at Cologne City Council, further states:

“I am convinced that Shao-Lan Hertel will further advance the MOK as a vibrant and highly relevant place among the Cologne museum landscape. She represents a new generation of museum makers, and I very much look forward to our cooperation. Our joint task will be to strengthen the international positioning of the museum in increased manner.”

“As a native of the Rhineland, I am very pleased to bring my years of international experience to Cologne.”

says Hertel. Further:

“I would like to expand the local and global art and culture networks here and demonstrate: the MOK is an important part of Cologne’s dynamic locality with its dense and rich cultural landscape. I very much look forward to the creative task of setting the future course of the museum and its cultural heritage, and to spark new potentials and synergies in the process.”

The MOK will be managed in the form of a co-directorate. In addition to Dr. Hertel as Scientific Director, an executive directorate is to be established. This nationally and internationally successful management model will also be introduced at the Rautenstrauch-Joest-Museum simultaneously. The newly created position of Executive Director of both museums will be filled on an interim basis until the regular tendering process has been completed.

City of Cologne – Press and Public Relations Office

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<https://www.stadt-koeln.de/politik-und-verwaltung/presse/mitteilungen/25847/index.html>