



DR. PHIL. DOROTHEA VAN DER KOELEN

Short Biography

Born in Darmstadt on April 6, 1960, Dorothea van der Koelen grew up in a family characterized by humanistic values in Mainz. Immediately after graduating from the humanistic Rabanus-Maurus-Gymnasium in Mainz (1979), she opened her own gallery and organized her first exhibition.

The presentation of the Polish artist Andrzej Pollo (1981) was the starting point of a long and successful journey into international contemporary art. As a gallerist and curator, Dorothea van der Koelen has designed or co-supervised nearly 600 exhibitions worldwide (in Europe, Canada, USA, Australia, UAE,

China, Japan, Nepal, Korea, Egypt). In 1989 she opened her second gallery in Mainz (Halle Dammweg). From 1980 she also studied art history, philosophy, book science, logic and Romance philology at the Gutenberg University in Mainz. In 1993 she wrote her dissertation on ›The Work of Heinz Gappmayr. Presentation and Analysis‹, which was published in 1994 by LIT-Verlag and subsequently received her doctor's degree.

Since 1982 she is a member of the Federal Association of German Galleries and published numerous essays on contemporary art in museum lectures, magazines and books since 1985. The passion for art could not be satisfied by intensive gallery work, study and scientific activity alone. In 1995, Dorothea van der Koelen and her brother Martin van der Koelen founded the publishing house ›Chorus-Verlag für Kunst und Wissenschaft‹. With over 160 scientific publications such as the catalogues raisonné ›Fabrizio Plessi. OPUS Video Sculpture‹ (1997), ›Eduardo Chillida. OPUS P.I-IV‹ (1996-2004) or ›Günther Uecker. Opus Liber‹ (2007), the ›Chorus-Verlag‹ is known around the world today.

In 2001, Dorothea van der Koelen opened ›La Galleria‹ in Venice, a branch of her first gallery in Mainz. It never ceases to enrich La Serenissima with high-class exhibitions since. One year later, she curated the epoch-making intercultural exhibition ›Water - Sand -Space‹ in Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates.

Next year, she established the ›van der Koelen Foundation for Art and Science‹, which is dedicated to the promotion of young talent and the dialogue between cultures through its series of lectures, exhibitions and the awarding of scholarships. Since 2006, Dorothea van der Koelen is a member of the Advisory Board of Art Karlsruhe. In addition, she has been involved in numerous art-in-architecture projects over decades, collaborating with artists, architects and entrepreneurs.

In 2009, Dorothea van der Koelen celebrated the 30th anniversary of her gallery with the exhibition ›When Ideas Become Form‹. At the same time she founded the ›Dr. van der Koelen Consulting‹, which advises museums and companies worldwide on exhibition projects, the development of art collections and collection concepts and marketing. As a juror and evaluator, she also participates in numerous boards awarding scholarships and art prizes.

In 2013, her long-standing collaboration with artist Lore Bert was crowned through the exhibition ›Art & Knowledge‹. It was recognized as great contribution to the 55th International Art Biennale in Venice and attracted over 100,000 visitors from all over the world.

In 2014 – 35 years after her brave and promising start – Dorothea van der Koelen fulfills one of her greatest dreams. She opened the Center for Art and Science ›CADORO‹ in Mainz, presenting the exhibition ›Towards the Future‹.

Her lifelong work for the arts was honored with the award of the Max Slevogt Medal of the State of Rhineland-Palatinate in December 2015. It is the state's highest honor for artists and art patrons. In 2017, Dr. Dorothea van der Koelen is also appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Rheinland-Pfalz Culture Foundation. Two years later, she is awarded the Gutenberg statuette for her commitment for the arts and her home city Mainz and she is appointed to the Advisory Council of Arts of the City of Mainz.



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