

IGOR ZABEL AWARD FOR CULTURE AND THEORY 2020

Igor Zabel Award for Culture and Theory 2020 Grant according to the jury's selection

Katalin Erdődi, curator, dramaturg, and cultural worker, Budapest/Vienna

The Igor Zabel Award Grant 2020 is given to Katalin Erdődi in recognition of her locally embedded and inclusive curatorial practice, distinguished by its scope as well as by its critically reflexive and joyful qualities. Informed by a variety of artistic and activist methods, her work aims to enhance bottom-up social participation and cross-disciplinary collaboration, trigger processes of democratization, and raise ecological awareness.

For Katalin Erdődi, the division between art and life does not exist. Rather, she conceives of art as a social practice, as a meaningful tool that allows us to explore and shape contemporary realities. Her work as a curator, dramaturg, and researcher unfolds both the critical and imaginative potential of contemporary art. It searches for cross-disciplinary and transversal collaboration and fosters different forms of artistic expression in specific contexts. Erdődi carefully accompanies artistic practices and facilitates artistic production by thoughtfully engaging with varied audiences. Informed by a variety of artistic and activist methods, her work aims to enhance bottom-up social participation, trigger processes of democratization, and raise ecological awareness.

Erdődi's strong interest in cross-disciplinary work stems not only from her mixed background in contemporary performance and visual arts, but also from her studies in economics, social sciences, and political theory. Her practice intersects these fields of critical thought to develop politically engaged artistic and curatorial strategies and to present art in the public space. She realizes projects in different formats – ranging from performance through exhibition-making to site-specific and process-oriented approaches – and thus explores the possibilities of art as a social practice.

Erdődi's current and recent curatorial projects investigate processes of rural change and socio-political transformation in the Hungarian countryside, including *News Medley* in collaboration with the artist Alicja Rogalska and the Women's Choir of Kartal (OFF-Biennale Budapest, 2021), and *I like being a farmer and I would like to stay one* with the artist Antje Schiffers and three farmers from Hungary (Ludwig Museum Budapest, 2017–2018). She connects these hands-on participatory projects with her academic research on collaborative artistic and curatorial practices in the post-socialist rural space.

Erdődi has worked as a curator for art institutions and festivals, such as steirischer herbst Graz, Impulse Festival in Düsseldorf/Köln/Mülheim, brut/imagetanz festival Vienna, GfZK – Museum of Contemporary Art Leipzig, and Trafó House of Contemporary Arts Budapest. As a dramaturg,

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she has collaborated with the artists Sonja Jokiniemi, Igor and Ivan Buharov, Oleg Soulimenko, Gin Müller, Sööt/Zeyringer, and Doris Uhlich.

However, Katalin Erdődi is less interested in authorial, institutional positions per se than she is in creating public platforms for knowledge exchange and shared experience. As an independent curator, she has initiated and curated a diverse range of projects, among others *Enjoy Austria* with the artist Núria Güell (Vienna, 2016), *Social Honey* with the artist group finger (Budapest, 2013), the symposium *politics of the small act* (Leipzig, 2012), and *PLACCC Festival*, an international festival for site-specific performance and art in public space that she co-founded and co-curated with Fanni Nánay (Budapest, 2008–2011).

Katalin Erdődi's commitment to institutional critique and her self-reflexive approach to curatorial work have allowed her to make uncompromised professional decisions.

2020 jury members:

Šejla Kamerić, artist, Sarajevo

Anthony Gardner, art historian, Oxford

Franciska Zólyom, curator, director of the GfZK – Galerie für Zeitgenössische Kunst Leipzig