

April 10 – July 21, 2019

**Jac Leirner: 2019 Wolfgang Hahn Prize
and the 25th anniversary Wolfgang Hahn Prize
Presentation of publication on this occasion**

Award ceremony and opening: Tuesday, April 9, 2019, 6:30 p.m.

Press conference: Tuesday, April 9, 2019, 11 a.m., press preview starting at 10 a.m.

In 2019, the Gesellschaft für Moderne Kunst am Museum Ludwig will honor Jac Leirner with the Wolfgang Hahn Prize. For the first time, the Gesellschaft für Moderne Kunst is honoring a South American artist.

Jac Leirner, born in São Paulo in 1961, has been pursuing a subtle analysis of social and representational systems for many years. She creates installations, collages, and sculptures according to principles of collecting, accumulation, and classification. Found and often industrially manufactured everyday objects play an important role in her work. The results are dense, often minimalist works that play with the aesthetic, representational, and socio-cultural levels of meaning of the objects.

Honoring a South American artist for her internationally relevant oeuvre will broaden the Western perspective toward global developments in contemporary art. Leirner's work, located at the intersection of minimalism, conceptualism, and institutional critique, is an important addition to the collection of the Museum Ludwig. Thanks to the dedication of its members, the Gesellschaft für Moderne Kunst is presenting the Wolfgang Hahn Prize for the twenty-fifth year in a row.

On the occasion of the award, Jac Leirner's work *Museum Bags* (1985/2019) will be acquired by the Gesellschaft für Moderne Kunst for the collection of the Museum Ludwig and presented in the permanent collection. The award also includes a publication in collaboration with the artist, edited by the Gesellschaft für Moderne Kunst.

About Jac Leirner

Jac Leirner was born in 1961 in São Paulo, where she lives and works today. She first exhibited her work in 1982, in São Paulo, and international solo exhibitions at institutions such as the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston, the Museum of Modern Art in Oxford, and the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis quickly followed. Since then, Leirner has continually exhibited in a variety of renowned institutions around the world. For instance, she has had a major retrospective at the State Art Gallery of São Paulo (2011) and has also shown her work at the Museo Tamayo Arte Contemporáneo in Mexico City (2014), the Museum of Contemporary Arts of Shanghai (2016), and the Irish Museum of Modern Art in Dublin (2017). Leirner has participated in numerous biennials, including the São Paulo Biennial in 1989 and 1994, the Venice Biennale in 1990 and 1997, the Havana Biennial in 2000, and the Bienal do Mercosul in Porto Alegre, Brazil, in 2005 and 2015. In Germany Leirner's works have been shown at Documenta IX in 1992 and at the Josef-Haubrich-Kunsthalle in Cologne in the same year.

25 Years Wolfgang Hahn Prize

This year marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Wolfgang Hahn Prize by the Gesellschaft für Moderne Kunst. To celebrate the occasion, a large-format magazine will be published. This publication includes previously unpublished documents, photos and articles and offers a look behind the scenes of each year's award.

The prize is primarily intended to acknowledge contemporary artists who have already made a name for themselves in the art world through an internationally recognized oeuvre, but who are not yet as well known in Germany as they deserve to be. The prize money of a maximum of 100,000 euros comes from contributions by the members and is used to acquire a work or series of works by the artist for the collection of the Museum Ludwig. The prize includes an exhibition of works by prize winner organized by the Museum Ludwig as well as an accompanying publication.

The name of the award honors the memory of the passionate Cologne collector and conservator of paintings Wolfgang Hahn (1924–1987), who was involved with European and American avant-garde art in Cologne in various ways. The Gesellschaft für Moderne Kunst is beholden to his exemplary work as a collector, as a founding member of the Gesellschaft für Moderne Kunst, and as head of the conservation at the Wallraf Richartz Museum and the Museum Ludwig.

Publication

25 Year Wolfgang Hahn Prize. 1994-2019. From the Archives.

Edited by Carla Cugini, Gesellschaft für Moderne Kunst. With prefaces and postscripts by Mayen Beckmann, Yilmaz Dziewior, Markus Wiedenmann and Ferdinand Spies. German/English, Publisher: Verlag der Buchhandlung Walther König, Cologne.

Format: 26 x 40 cm, 86 pages and 210 reproductions, Price 12.80 Euro.

Sponsors

The award ceremony, exhibition, and publication are again being generously supported in 2019 by BAUWENS and Ebner Stolz. We thank ART-INVEST for their sponsorship of the 25th anniversary of the Wolfgang Hahn Prize, as well as our project partner Meiré and Meiré.

Website and Social Media

The Museum Ludwig will be posting about the exhibition on its social media channels with the hashtag #MLxJacLeirner.

Facebook/Instagram/Twitter/Vimeo: @MuseumLudwig – www.museum-ludwig.de

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