

Kunsthalle Basel

Press Release of 13.11.2023 – **Embargo: 13.11.2023, 2:15 p.m.**

Mohamed Almusibli to become new Director of Kunsthalle Basel

We are delighted to announce that the Swiss curator Mohamed Almusibli, has been selected to succeed Elena Filipovic as Director and Chief Curator of Kunsthalle Basel, who leaves after nine years to take on the new role as Director of Kunstmuseum Basel.

Mohamed Almusibli is currently Co-Founder and Director of the independently run art space “Cherish” in Geneva, as well as Consultant for the Hartwig Art Foundation, Amsterdam. He will take up his new office as Director and Chief Curator of Kunsthalle Basel on 1 March 2024.

“It is an honor to have been appointed to the position of Director and Chief Curator of Kunsthalle Basel, an institution with a great history of artistic innovation and cultural discourse that has always placed the artist at its center and has come to stand as a beacon in the art world.

I am humbled to follow in the footsteps of my predecessor, Elena Filipovic, whose impactful leadership profoundly shaped the Kunsthalle's distinguished profile. Building upon this strong foundation, my objective is to sustain and enrich Kunsthalle's tradition of excellence and its unwavering commitment to the art of our time as a seminal space for groundbreaking exhibitions.

I look forward to collaborating with the remarkable team at Kunsthalle Basel, the board, and the wider art community to cultivate a dynamic program that engages and challenges our audiences, all while keeping the artists' vision at the forefront of our mission,” says Mohamed Almusibli about his appointment.

Mohamed Almusibli (*1990, Geneva, Switzerland) is a curator based in Geneva. In 2019 he co-founded and directed the non-profit art space “Cherish”, together with James Bantone, Thomas Liu Le Lann, and Ser Serpas. “Cherish” hosted over 20 exhibitions, providing a platform for emerging local artists while also introducing several international artists to their first showcase in Switzerland. In 2021, he organized the Almusibli Panorama—an extensive year-long online video program for the Centre d’Art Contemporain of Geneva, which marked its conclusion with the inaugural edition of the Swiss Moving Image Award. Almusibli currently serves as a consultant for the Hartwig Art Foundation in Amsterdam. Since 2021, he has been an adjunct professor in the MFA program at ECAL - Ecole Cantonale d’Art de Lausanne.

Almusibli holds a Master of Fine Arts from the Haute Ecole d’Arts et Design, Geneva, a Bachelor of Arts and Media degree from the Zurich University of Arts, ZHdK, as well as a Bachelor of History of Art and Arabic from the Université de Genève, UNIGE.

Kunsthalle Basel

With his experience and qualifications, Mohamed Almusibli - curious, passionate and ambitious - emerged as the candidate best suited to fulfill the requirements. He impressed the Selection Committee with his professional career to date, in particular as Co-Founder and Director of the independently run, non-profit art space "Cherish" in Geneva, as well as his close links with contemporary artists, his fresh perspective of the use of technology, his awareness of the local art scene and his own personality. In addition, he convinced the Selection Committee with the proposed program he envisaged for Kunsthalle Basel, showcasing exciting emerging practices while creating a dialogue with more historical positions. Mohamed Almusibli also brings with him a broad international network of connections.

The Selection Committee, chaired by Martin Hatebur, was made up of five members of the Board of the Basler Kunstverein and two external experts. The five Board members were Dominik Müller, gallerist in Basel, Edit Oderbolz, Cécile Hummel, and Johannes Willi, all three artists based in Basel, and Martin Hatebur, President of the Basler Kunstverein. The external members of the Selection Committee were Kasia Redzisz, Artistic Director of KANAL – Centre Pompidou, Brussels, and Shahryar Nashat, artist, based in Paris.

Our advertisement for this position attracted more than 90 applications from around the world. After studying the dossiers, 11 candidates were invited to a preliminary interview. This group was then narrowed down and further discussions held with the shortlisted applicants. All of those invited had to outline firstly their previous experience as a curator and secondly a possible year's programme at Kunsthalle Basel.

We are eager to see how Mohamed Almusibli will implement his vision and experience at Kunsthalle Basel and look forward to the new angles he will bring to our work together.

Basler Kunstverein
Kunsthalle Basel

Press Contact:

Sina Bauer, Head of Communications and Events

E: press@kunsthallebasel.ch, T: +41 61 206 99 11

Kunsthalle Basel / Basler Kunstverein is generously supported by the Canton of Basel-Stadt.



Kanton Basel-Stadt

Kultur