

Maribel Nicolás Cabello

Maribel Nicolás Cabello is someone, who is good at juggling multiple balls at once. As gallery and show manager of Art Düsseldorf, she makes sure that everything runs smoothly at one of the Rhineland's biggest fairs for contemporary art. This year in November, for the third time around, the former steel factory complex Areal Böhler will turn into a highlight of the art calendar — an event you don't want to miss. Gallerists, collectors, directors, dealers, curators, critics, artists and art lovers from all over the world come together here to admire emerging and established art of both regional and international significance. Maribel Nicolás tells us what lies behind Art Düsseldorf.

How did you end up in your current job?

During my studies, there was this mandatory internship. With great interest, I read a job advertisement for an internship at the Art Fair Cologne and thereupon applied. Luckily, I was hired. After completing another internship there the following year, I was offered a permanent position as gallery manager. When my predecessor became self-employed with the bar 'Kassette' in Oberbilk, I took over show management as well. The two activities complement each other well because many tasks overlap.

What exactly does your job as gallery and show manager entail?

As gallery manager, I'm responsible for the exhibitors and everything related to their participation. Amongst other things, I take care of logistics, exhibition booths, accommodation, permits, procedures and security. As the main contact person, my role is basically to support the exhibitors in every respect. In terms of show management, I work on everything that fair

visitors perceive consciously and subconsciously: Banners, information signs, cash points, cleaning services, and so on. For smooth workflow, everything needs to be timed perfectly.

Which part of gallery and show management do you enjoy most?

For sure the interaction with exhibitors. You learn a lot through communication, planning, organizing, and assisting. By now, I know many of them well — the relationship is very sincere. New galleries always join in as well. That's very exciting!

What are the fair's highlights this year?

Once again, there's an emphasis on sculpture that I'm particularly looking forward to. Unfortunately, I can't reveal any details, but the guest lectures are bound to be a great success again. I'm also thrilled about the 'rsvp' section: On show will be very young positions, which were selected by a terrific group of curators, including Marianne Dobner from the mumok in Vienna, Devrim Bayar from WIELS in Brussels, as well as Elisa Linn and Lennart Wolff from KM Temporaer in Berlin.

Why buy art?

For me, it's quite simple: You should buy art when it's emotionally moving.

Düsseldorf as a picture: What would it look like?

A photograph in black and white.

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TEXT MERIT ZIMMERMANN · PHOTO SIMON GEHLEN

NAME
MARIBEL NICOLÁS CABELLO
AGE 36
JOB **GALLERY- AND
SHOW MANAGER**
PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION
**ART HISTORY AND HISTORY
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF
COLOGNE & APPRENTICESHIP
AS AN EVENT MANAGER**
📷 [@MARIBEL_NICOLAS.C](#)
[ART-DUS.DE](#)