



## ***Annie Fletcher, Chief Curator of the Van Abbemuseum, appointed Director of the Irish Museum of Modern Art***

15.11.2018

**The Van Abbemuseum congratulates Annie Fletcher, the museum's Chief Curator on her appointment as Director of the Irish Museum of Modern Art. Annie will take up her post on March 1 2019.**

Annie joined the Van Abbemuseum in 2007 and in 2012 was appointed Chief Curator. Over the course of 10 years she has lead on many of the Van Abbemuseum's most significant projects. These have included the award winning Be[com]ing Dutch (2007-2008); The Museum of Arte Util (2013-2014) in collaboration with the artist Tania Bruguera and the recent ten day caucus Be[com]ing More (2017). She has curated major solo shows including Sheela Gowda (2013), Hito Steyerl (2015) and was co-curator with Charles Esche of the recent mid-career survey of Qiu Zhijie (2017). In 2019 she will curate the first survey of the work of Otolith Group.

During her time at the museum she has curated significant international projects including Ireland's Contemporary Art biennale EVA International (2014), and the recent group exhibition The Universe Flickers (2018) at SALT Istanbul. In 2016 she curated El Lissitzky: the Artist and the State with at IMMA including works from the Van Abbe's collection.

Annie has been a central figure supporting institutional innovation and knowledge sharing. She has been a tutor at De Appel Curatorial Programme, Dutch Art Institute and Design Academy Eindhoven. In 2005 she co-founded the If I Can't Dance platform. She has been an active member of the international museum network Museum as Hub and the European museum confederation L'Internationale, within which she has contributed to the development of a new, constituent approach to museums. In her last years

she has been engaged in translating this model into practice at the Van Abbemuseum in its Werksalon programme. Currently she is board member of Baltan Laboratories in Eindhoven..

Annie's drive to consider how the encounter with a work of art can generate a shared civic space, her insistence on challenging different forms of patriarchy and privilege within the cultural sector and society at large; and her

belief in the generative potential of artistic thinking will be the enduring legacy she leaves at the Van Abbemuseum.

Of her appointment Charles Esche, the Director of the museum, says:

We are truly delighted for Annie - even if we are saddened by her imminent departure. Annie is an irreplaceable colleague whose ideas have shaped the Van Abbe's profile over more than 10 years, for which I and the whole of the museum are hugely grateful. At the same time I am proud that she will go on to direct an important European museum as deserved recognition of her talents. I also look forward to new collaborations between our two museums in the years ahead.

Annie Fletcher says:

'I am excited to become the new Director of IMMA and feel very honored to have the opportunity. However, it will be so hard to leave the Van Abbemuseum, it is a truly innovative museum with courageous and inspiring leadership and team of extraordinary colleagues whom I have truly loved working with. Looking forward I can't wait to see what we can do together across the institutions and in the broader international arena'.

IMMA Chairman David Harvey commented; "The Board of IMMA undertook a robust recruitment exercise and we are delighted that Annie has emerged from a strong international field of exceptional candidates as the new Director of the museum. Annie is a highly respected curator with extensive international experience and networks that can deliver on IMMA's mission to connect audiences and art and provide an extraordinary space in Ireland where contemporary life and contemporary art connect challenge and inspire one another. I have every confidence that under her Directorship IMMA will continue to place the generation of new ideas and innovation at the heart of the organisation, enabling artists to make the work they want to make while bringing Ireland's cultural innovators into a deeper dialogue and a more fluid relationship with key international platforms and partners."

The Van Abbemuseum would like to thank Annie Fletcher for the enormous contribution she has made to both the museum and the city of Eindhoven over the past ten years. We wish her every success in her return to Ireland. She will remain a trusted colleague and friend and we look forward to collaborating with IMMA under her Directorship in the future.



For the editors:  
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Van Abbemuseum  
The Van Abbemuseum in Eindhoven is one of the leading museums for contemporary art in Europe. The museum has an intensive international collection of more than 2,700 works of art, including key works by Lissitzky, Picasso, Kokoschka, Chagall, Beuys, McCarthy, Daniëls and Körmeling. Questions in the field of art and society are raised by the museum in an experimental way. An open attitude, hospitality and the exchange of information are important for the Van Abbemuseum and we encourage both ourselves and the visitors to think about different subjects, for example about the role of the collection as a cultural "memory" or about the museum as a public space. As a result of international cooperation and exchange, the Van Abbemuseum is also a place where cultural cross-pollination takes place. It is a source of wonder, inspiration and imagination.

Van Abbemuseum,  
Bilderdijklaan 10, Eindhoven.  
[www.vanabbemuseum.nl](http://www.vanabbemuseum.nl)

Opening hours  
Tuesday to Sunday 11.00 – 17.00. 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month 11.00 - 21.00.

Admission  
Adults: € 12.00 / Groups of 10 or more: € 9.00 / Young people 13-18 years old, students, CJP holders, Eindhoven city pass (stadspas) holders: € 6.00/ Children under 13 years of age, Museum card: free / Family pass (2 adults and max. of 3 children until 18 years): € 18.00. Tuesday 15.00 – 17.00: free.