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PRESS RELEASE

Groundbreaking for the Museum des 20. Jahrhunderts

– Check against original text in German –

Today the groundbreaking ceremony for the Museum des 20. Jahrhunderts of Nationalgalerie took place with Minister of State for Culture Monika Grütters and Governing Mayor of Berlin Michael Müller in attendance. The event on the construction site on Potsdamer Strasse is a milestone along the way to the new building.

Monika Grütters stated: “The Museum des 20. Jahrhunderts will create a place in the heart of the city where the defining experiences of the past century become visible as reflected in art – all of the upheavals, abysses, and pinnacles. It will finally give the spectacular collection of twentieth-century art in the Nationalgalerie and the generous donations in the Erich Marx, Ulla and Heiner Pietzsch, and the Egidio Marzona Collections a fitting and proper place. Herzog & de Meuron’s first-class architecture will make Berlin’s Kulturforum into what it was meant to be: a living showplace of cultural exchange and social discourse.”

Michael Müller, governing mayor of Berlin said: “The cultural metropolis of Berlin is pleased that today’s groundbreaking signals the beginning of the construction of this important cultural project in the heart of our city. This controversial project for twentieth-century art is another great treasure that will enrich our city and make it more attractive to guests from all over the world. Presenting modern art in a new way will also reflect the changing history of this complex period. The Museum des 20. Jahrhunderts is a major step in the further urban development of the Kulturforum and will help to define it in a new way. Berlin expresses its gratitude to the federal government for this important commitment to the cultural life of its capital city.”

For **Hermann Parzinger**, president of the Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz (SPK) and the general contractor, this day is an irreversible moment on the way to realizing the project: “We have combined our efforts to come one significant step closer to our goal of creating a worthy location for outstanding twentieth-century art in Berlin. I would like to thank Minister of State Monika Grütters for her unwavering dedication and the German Bundestag for its support and am happy that they recognized the potential of the collections and of Berlin as a location for museums. After a seemingly endless struggle to find a solution to the urban development of the Kulturforum, realizing Herzog & de Meuron’s design will finally create

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a building that will turn the location into a genuine forum, into an urbane place of viewing art, encountering others, and debating.”

Jacques Herzog, architect, explained: “The building for the twentieth-century collection was conceived for this specific site in Berlin. It is also a covered piece of the city, an intersecting boulevard, where everyday life, artistic experiments, performances, and public debates mingle and stimulate each other. Its outer form does not require ostentation or grandiose sculptural gestures. A large roof, the archaic yet current and openly provocative form of the building – to us, they appear to be highly appropriate. Especially in this specific proximity to the Mies and Scharoun buildings, the building asserts itself – matter-of-factly, without boasting and without hiding. We carefully planned and calculated costs and deadlines with the builders, Bundesbau Baden-Württemberg, and SPK. All of us want to be judged on the basis of the plans we presented here.”

Current calculations set the construction costs at €364.2 million with an additional €52.2 million for future construction index increases and €33.8 million for risk costs. The building is expected to be completed in 2026.

Udo Kittelmann, director of the Nationalgalerie, emphasized the day’s importance: “A long-cherished dream is coming true. The collection of the Nationalgalerie will finally be housed in a suitable building and be able to present its important collection to the world. This is a great step for the Nationalgalerie and for Berlin as a cultural location – and a clear, future-oriented commitment to Germany as a nation of culture.”

The project will proceed with the following steps: The design plan presented here is currently being reviewed. The implementation planning that follows will carry out further revisions and detailed planning. Construction preparation measures will be carried out at the building site before the construction pit is dug.