



Berlin, 17. September 2019

PRESS RELEASE

Budget and Planning Certainty: Groundbreaking for the Nationalgalerie's Museum des 20. Jahrhunderts this Fall

– Check against original text in German –

**Parzinger: Great opportunity for the Kulturforum – Thanks to Minister of State for Culture Grütters, Minister of Finance Scholz and the budget planners of the German Bundestag: “Following a clear path”
– Herzog: Museum will be the heart of the Kulturforum**

DER PRÄSIDENT
MEDIEN UND KOMMUNIKATION

INGOLF KERN
DR. STEFANIE HEINLEIN (Stv.)

Von-der-Heydt-Straße 16–18
10785 Berlin

Telefon: +49 30 266-41 14 40
Telefax: +49 30 266-41 28 21

pressestelle@hv.spk-berlin.de
www.preussischer-kulturbesitz.de

There will be a groundbreaking ceremony for the Museum des 20. Jahrhunderts (Museum of the 20th Century) of the Nationalgalerie (National Gallery) at Berlin's Kulturforum this fall, with completion expected in 2026. In the words of the Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz (Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation) president, Hermann Parzinger, the Herzog & de Meuron architecture firm has now finished the design planning, creating the basis for a reliable time and cost calculation. Current calculations set the construction costs at €364.2 million for the new building. An additional €52.2 million were added for future construction index increases and €33.8 million for risk costs, making a grand total of €450.2 million. “We are now following a clear path and are looking forward to a spectacular museum building of international magnitude. I am very grateful to the federal government, especially Minister of State for Culture Monika Grütters and Minister of Finance Olaf Scholz, but also to the Budget Committee of the German Bundestag for giving us the necessary support for this extension of the Nationalgalerie. We are aware that this is more than just a new museum building for one of the world's most significant collections. After years of fruitless debate, we are completing the Kulturforum! This connecting element and urban planning power are precisely what give Herzog & de Meuron's design its captivating quality, leading the jury to make its unanimous decision. Everyone will benefit from it: the guests of both the Philharmonie and St. Matthäus-Kirche, users of the Staatsbibliothek, and fans of the Gemäldegalerie.”

Joachim Jäger, the director of the Neue Nationalgalerie, again pointed out why the building is so urgently needed: “Due to the merging of the East and West collections and numerous acquisitions and donations, our collection has more than tripled in size since the 1960s. But it is fragmented – scattered across many locations – and due to limited space, only parts of it can be exhibited. Much of it is hibernating in storage. With the new building, it will be possible to experience twentieth-century art from Max Beckmann and Kurt Schwitters to Bruce Nauman and Jason Rhoades as



Berlin, 17. September 2019

DER PRÄSIDENT
MEDIEN UND KOMMUNIKATION

a continuum. The vision of the Museum des 20. Jahrhunderts is to show art in contexts that reference their political and social historical characteristics and go beyond a history of aesthetics. In this spirit, the new building will also make interdisciplinary platforms possible. Together with the architects, we developed innovative spaces and forms of exhibition especially for the open art forms of the late twentieth century.” The future location for twentieth-century art will connect the Neue Nationalgalerie with the new building and create ideal exhibition space for the works in the Pietzsch, Marx, and Marzona Collections. Painter Gerhard Richter has also agreed to make a large number of his works available to the new museum. Works from the Kupferstichkabinett (Museum of Prints and Drawings) and the Kunstbibliothek (Art Library) will round off the presentation.

Architect Jacques Herzog spoke of a major challenge: “The Museum des 20. Jahrhunderts is a self-contained work of architecture, just like the building by Mies and the works by Scharoun. Apart from its function of presenting art, it has another very important role: connecting the surrounding buildings and outer areas to create an urban unit – a twenty-first century Kulturforum. Together with the general contractor and users, we have made significant progress: large doorways and entrances create a spatial connection between the museum and the surrounding squares and streets. The east-west boulevard is a public street through the building. The museum’s broad tympanum faces the Philharmonie and Kammermusiksaal. The north façade is one large glazed field and affords a direct view from the museum to Scharounplatz and Potsdamer Strasse. At the same time the museum can be experienced from the outside. In short: The museum will be part of life on the square, the heart of the Kulturforum.”