

Press release

## Alistair Hudson starts as scientific-artistic Chairman at the ZKM | Karlsruhe

*Today Alistair Hudson is beginning his work at the ZKM | Center for Art and Media Karlsruhe as the new scientific-artistic Chairman. The staff await him with a long breakfast table in the foyer of the ZKM. The Briton Hudson has been elected by the ZKM Foundation Board in July 2022. He succeeds Peter Weibel, whose unique work shaped the ZKM | Karlsruhe beyond all measure until his death on March 1, 2023. Alistair Hudson recently served as director of two museums in Manchester: the Manchester Art Gallery and the Whitworth. Hudson is a member of many panels. For example, he was on the jury for the »Turner Prize« and a member of the selection committee for the British pavilion of the Venice Biennale 2022. Alistair Hudson's concept of a useful museum envisions artistic institutions and cultural institutions as centres of social responsibility and transformation. Together with the artist Tania Bruguera he heads the »Asociación de Arte Útil«, a growing international network which collaborates with other institutions.*

On April 1, after more than 24 years, the scientific-artistic direction of the ZKM | Center for Art and Media Karlsruhe changes. The media artist and theorist Peter Weibel will be succeeded by the Briton Alistair Hudson. Under the direction of Peter Weibel, the ZKM | Karlsruhe has developed into an institution that is unique worldwide.

Founded in 1989 by Heinrich Klotz as an »electronic Bauhaus«, today it is a place for the theoretical discourses of philosophy, science, technology, politics and economics from a contemporary artistic perspective. With its collection, publications, archives and artistic-scientific research on the electronic arts, the ZKM | Karlsruhe stands for a program of interdisciplinary projects and international collaborations.

**The new chairman Alistair Hudson declares:** »With the passing of Peter Weibel, we look back fondly on and pay homage to a significant life and chapter in the story of the institution. Yet we also look forward to continuing his work and the work of all the 'fellow travellers' who have made it what it is: one of the world's most influential and pioneering centres of culture.«

The 54-year-old Briton Alistair Hudson was appointed as successor by the ZKM Foundation Board in July 2022. Together with the managing

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Founders of the ZKM



Baden-Württemberg  
MINISTERIUM FÜR WISSENSCHAFT, FORSCHUNG UND KUNST

Premium partner of the ZKM

— EnBW

director Dr. Helga Huskamp, he forms the two-member board of ZKM | Karlsruhe. His tasks include the scientific-artistic management including the conceptual development of the foundation. In addition, he is the spokesperson for ZKM | Karlsruhe, which is supported by the City of Karlsruhe and the State of Baden-Württemberg as the founders.

**Petra Olschowski, Minister of Science, Research and Arts Baden-Württemberg said about the appointment of Mr. Hudson:** »Alistair Hudson has an impressive international reputation as an excellent curator and knowledgeable museum director. His expertise in the field of contemporary art is outstanding. At the same time, he has a strong understanding of the interaction between art and society. I think his plan to further open up the ZKM and to make it more accessible to people who are not particularly interested in art is especially important. It aligns well with the cultural policy strategy of the State of Baden-Württemberg, which places a special focus on cultural education and participation. I am convinced that Alistair Hudson will succeed in leading the ZKM in these times of change.«

**Dr. Frank Mentrup, Mayor of Karlsruhe and Chairman of the Foundation Board, stated:** »In these times of dramatic social and technological upheaval, we need new visions for the future. I am convinced that Alistair Hudson is the right person to set the future course for ZKM. His goal is to continue ZKM's growth as a socially relevant and internationally important institution. At the same time, he wants to open the centre to all of urban society.«

Although Alistair Hudson's career has taken him to many stations in England, he sees himself as a true European. European culture and philosophy have shaped him profoundly, inspiring him to collaborate with many institutions in Europe and beyond. His methods have focused on the relationships between culture, society, politics and technical progress – originally in the context of Britain's industrial revolution and Empire, but today extending to interactions with our digitalised environment.

### **Save the Date: Press conference on May 12, 2023**

On the occasion of the start of Alistair Hudson at the ZKM | Karlsruhe, the City and State represented by Lord Mayor Dr. Frank Mentrup and State Secretary Arne Braun invite you to a press talk with Alistair Hudson at the ZKM | Karlsruhe on May 12, 2023, starting at 13:00. A separate invitation will follow.

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