

What do Museums born at the dawn of the second quarter of the 21st century look like ?

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Hosted by Louvre Abu Dhabi  اللوفر أبوظبي
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Biography of speakers

Session : « New Museums » Case Studies

Manal Ataya, Sharjah Museum Advisor (UAE)

Manal Ataya is a museum professional with two decades of experience in museum development, cultural heritage management, and cultural diplomacy. As the previous Director General, overseeing a network of 17 museums for over 15 years, Ataya pioneered initiatives to enhance learning, accessibility, audience engagement, cross-cultural partnerships, international collaborations and social responsibility. In 2023, Ataya was appointed Museums Advisor to His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Ruler of Sharjah and the Sharjah Museums Authority. In this role, she contributes to the development of cultural strategy, policy, and new museum projects. Ataya's contributions to culture have been recognized internationally. She received the Order of Arts and Letters from France in 2018 and the Order of Merit from Germany in 2022. Additionally, she holds degrees from Hamilton College (2001) and Harvard University (2004).

Hanna Forsell, Head of Exhibitions and Events, National Museum of Finland, Finland

Hanna Forsell is the Head of Exhibitions and Events at the National Museum of Finland. She has led the New National operational model project, supporting the museum's renewal and expansion. With twenty years of experience in audience engagement, museum education, exhibitions, and management, she holds a Master's in European Ethnology from the University of Helsinki and has completed the Business of Culture program at Aalto University

Jean-Paul Koudougou, Chair, ICOM Africa, Burkina Faso (TBC)

Jean-Paul Koudougou is president of ICOM-Africa, historian, museum curator and multimedia communicator working for the Burkina Faso Ministry of Culture, Arts and Tourism (MCAT). I trained as a cultural heritage manager at Senghor University in Alexandria (EGYPT) in 2003-2005. He served his country at various levels of cultural administration, notably in the field of museum management, for over fifteen years now. He is currently preparing a doctorate in Museology at the University Ouaga 1 J.K.Z. He has taken part in training courses and meetings around the world, working for major organizations in the fight against TICB, the protection of BCs in the event of conflict, and the promotion of cultural heritage. All of which has given him a wealth of experience that I'm honored to share and pool with African and Western colleagues at meetings, symposia and training courses.

Yuji Kurihara, Vice-chair ICOM Japan, Executive Director, National Museum of Nature and Science

Yuji Kurihara is Executive Director, National Museum of Nature and Science (Japan) and Vice-Chair, ICOM-JAPAN. Mr. Yuji Kurihara specializes in museum policy and museum management. He entered the Ministry of Education, Science, Sports and Culture in 1989; Director for Community Relations, the Japanese School of New York; Director of the Fine Arts Division, Agency for Cultural Affairs; Director of Administration, Tokyo National Museum; Vice-Director of Kyoto National Museum and since April 2023, current position. Now, He is Vice-chair of ICOM-JAPAN, Treasurer of ICOM-DRMC, Board member of the Japanese Association of Museums, Vice president of the Japan Society for Exhibition Studies, Vice president of Japan Museum Management Academy, executive member of the Museological Society of Japan, adjunct lecturer at Kokugakuin University, Gakushuin University and International Christian University.

Antonia Napp, Managing Museum Direction KOLK 17 Puppet Theatre & Museum Director, Germany

Antonia Napp studied art history, Russian literature and ancient Greek literature at the universities of Freiburg and Vienna. From 1999 to 2003 she worked as part of the collaborative research centre "Identitäten und Alteritäten. Die Funktion von Alterität für die Konstitution und Konstruktion von Identität » at the University of Freiburg. In the following year she completed her doctorate at the University of Freiburg on the subject of "Gender and portraiture in Russia around 1800". Subsequently she worked for the Lübecker Museen and the Hamburger Kunsthalle. At this time her work focused mainly on contemporary art. During her academic traineeship from 2010 to 2012, she helped to set up the Duchamp Research Centre at the Staatliches Museum Schwerin. In 2015 she became head of the Theaterfigurenmuseum in Lübeck, which since 2018 has been undergoing extensive construction work and remodelling in the historic and partially listed Kolk. In 2021, under her and Stephan Schlafke's leadership, the Theaterfigurenmuseum and the Figurentheater merged into one joint institution: KOLK 17 Figurentheater & Museum. Since then, the expertise of both institutions has been incorporated into the development of the new KOLK 17 exhibition and the institutional development. Napp is also engaging in networking within the puppet theatre community in Germany and internationally. The latest project in which she participates is KompleXX Figurentheater. This involves the far-reaching networking of the entire puppet, figure and object theatre scene in Germany as well as further research into the genre of puppet theatre as an independent, transdisciplinary art form. Furthermore she regularly takes part in conferences on puppet theatre, latest in Salzburg (2020) and Munich (2023). She has published extensively on gender theory in art history, Russian art, body and representation, contemporary art, and curated numerous exhibitions on puppetry. Beyond that she is a member of the editorial team of UNIMA Germany's official magazine "DaT - Das andere Theater", which provides news about the association and the puppet theatre scene in general.

Lourdes Ramos, President and CEO, Museum of Latin American Art (MOLAA), USA

Lourdes Ramos is the President and CEO of the Museum of Latin American Art (MOLAA) in Long Beach, California, and a distinguished museum leader with over three decades of experience in arts administration, museology, and cultural development. Formerly the Executive Director of the Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico and the Museo de San Juan, she has led major institutional transformations, curated nationally and internationally recognized exhibitions, and secured significant funding and accreditation milestones. A Fulbright Scholar with a Ph.D. in Arts Management, Dr. Ramos has also served as a Museum Accreditation Commissioner and Site Visit Accreditation Professional for the American Alliance of Museums (AAM). She is widely recognized for her strategic vision, commitment to community engagement, and dedication to advancing Latin American and Latino art on a global scale

Stéphanie Rosenthal, Director, Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi

Eduardo Santana Castellon, Director, Museo de Ciencias Ambientales Centro Cultural Universitario-Universidad de Guadalajara, Mexico

Eduardo Santana Castellon is Emeritus professor & founding director of the Museum of Environmental Sciences (Univ. Guadalajara, Mexico). Mission "understanding the city and inspiring the conservation of the nature that sustains it, to catalyze ecological and social transformations for the benefit of our community." Coordinates Socio-Environmental Film Award & the City and Nature Literature Prize. Adjunct professor Department of Forest & Wildlife Ecology (Univ. Wisconsin-Madison). Research, conservation, teaching & guest speaker experience +130 institutions (18 countries). Collaborates defending sacred sites and natural resources of Mexican indigenous communities. Designed WWF's Cuba Conservation Program. Elected to governing boards: Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Soc. Conservation Biology, Assn. Tropical Biology, & Aldo Leopold Found. +188 publications; +35 theses advisees; +50 distinctions.

Zsolt Sári, Chair ICOM Hungray, Deputy director general Skanzen Open-Air Museum, Hungary

Zsolt Sári is the deputy Director General of the Hungarian Open Air Museum. I studied ethnography and political science at university, and obtained my PhD in 2004. I work in the central open air museum of Hungary since 2001. In the past two decades, I participated in the design and construction of the building units of the museum. I conducted ethnographic research in Hungary, Romania, Argentina and Israel. I have organized several exhibitions, including the topic of rural architecture and way of life.

Klaus Staubermann, Founding director of the German Port Museum in Hamburg, Germany

Klaus Staubermann is the founding director of the German Port Museum in Hamburg, Germany. Earlier, he was a Principal Curator at National Museums Scotland and an Honorary Fellow at the Institute for Science, Technology and Innovation Studies of the University of Edinburgh. He teaches cultural anthropology and has been a visiting professor at the Universities of Gothenburg, Sweden, and Bengaluru, India. He has been active within ICOM in several roles for a long time and currently acts on their Strategic Planning Committee. Session 2: Strengthening Local Roots: Museums in Their Communities.