

Akademie der Künste Postfach 210250, 10502 Berlin

Society of Felix Meritis
For attention of Mrs. Linda Bouws
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Der Präsident

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25 June 2014

**To the board of Felix Meritis Foundation
For attention of Mrs. Linda Bouws, Vice-President**

Dear Mrs. Bouws,

We would like to congratulate you on the confirmation of the Felix Meritis Foundation. For us and many European colleagues the continuation of your activities is very important for the notion of independent thinking, networking and co-production in Europe.

We welcome this acknowledgement of the value that is represented by Felix Meritis, as expressed in the letter from the Mayor Eberhard Van der Laan of January 9th, 2014, with the firm intention of the city of Amsterdam to secure the continuation of your institution.

The erection of the newly initiated Genootschap/Felix Meritis Foundation is of course essential to secure and guarantee the continuation of innovative European ideas and the implementation in various high quality projects.

We are happy that the Akademie der Künste was connected and involved in the activities of the Felix Meritis Foundation since its inception in 1987.

Günter Grass (Nobel Prize in Literature in 1999), at the time president of the Akademie der Künste, played a central role in defining the policy and ambition of Felix Meritis, as likewise his successors Heiner Müller and György Konrad in numerous activities after 1987, such as international events, meetings and festivals in Amsterdam and abroad.

In 2004 you joined Richard von Weizsäcker's initiative „A Soul for Europe“ and could, with your „People Network“ involve the younger European generation, long way before the internet experience.

Moreover you succeeded to find and connect a growing network of young professionals through the „Gulliver Connect“ placement programme and the Amsterdam Summer University courses and workshops.

With these activities you established very successfully a unique transgenerational practice in Europe.

We are delighted to know about the recently launched Dutch KNAW Akademie van Kunsten and welcome the suggestion to contact this counterpart of the Akademie der Künste in Berlin, especially as some of their members also belong to our institution.

We are confident, that you, as our „ambassador“ in the Netherlands will be able to develop joint activities including our artists in various ways.

We are looking forward in cultivating an intensified collaboration with Felix Meritis Foundation, with you, Linda, in particular and wish you, your fellow board members and the city of Amsterdam a successful acceleration of activities in the years to come! We would appreciate you bringing this letter to attention of the appropriate personalities, politicians and the media.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Klaus Staeck". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Prof. Klaus Staeck, President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Nele Hertling". The signature is cursive, with the first name "Nele" and the last name "Hertling" clearly distinguishable.

Nele Hertling, Vice President