

Dear all, friends and colleagues,

Welcome!

Thank you all for being here. We have all travelled to Berlin to celebrate Nan Hoover's oeuvre and legacy. A special welcome to Slaven Tolj, Director, and Sabina Salomon, Curator, of the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art in Rijeka, Croatia.

Nan was and is a great artist, a teacher, a colleague and dear friend to us, missed by many. Already ten years have passed since she passed away. And today we are meeting here in honour of Nan and her legacy.

I would like to highlight Nan Hoover's work. We all know her work: wonderful paintings, drawings, sculptures, photography, performances, light installations, videos and more. With an emphasis on light, time, body and silence. An impressive body of work created from the 1960s until 2008. She was one of the real female pioneers of contemporary art - and her influence was worldwide. Mixing media, materials and disciplines, operating in a global, international, worldwide network, working at so many places all over the world, Nan Hoover was an inspiration to many.

My name is Gaby Wijers and I am chair of the Nan Hoover Foundation. Since 2008 the Foundation has been dedicated to preserving the artistic work and legacy of Nan Hoover and making it accessible to the public at large. This includes archiving, digitizing, documenting and coordinating exhibitions of Nan Hoover's work.

A lot of work has been done over the last 10 years.

Nan Hoover's immense archive was moved from Berlin to NIMK in Amsterdam (I remember the 30 boxes in my office and this was only the audiovisual material and related equipment) and the Art Academy of Dusseldorf's large Nan Hoover archive is now also located at LIMA. Legal issues were clarified. A special DVD edition with selected Nan Hoover works as well as texts was published, a Nan Hoover Foundation website was set up and a newsletter was established. Exhibitions were planned and concepts for an accessible archive were made. And over the last few years more and more exhibitions and archival work have been realised in the USA, Russia and Germany. Nan Hoover's work is being researched and reinterpreted. Nan's legacy continues on through the efforts of so many.

The Nan Hoover Foundation was founded by Heiner Holtappels, Volker Hagemeyer, Renate Petzinger, Ulrike Buschlinger and Mary Carroll in 2008. The latter two continued until recently as members of the Board and in 2012 Dawn Leach and I joined the Board. The work we have done has only been possible through the help of Sandro Dukic,

Sebastian Fath, Schahrzad Derakhsan, Kathy Rae Huffman and Rob Perree. Currently our Board members are Sandro Dukic, Thibaut de Ruyter, Barbara Könches and I. We continue to receive much help from Ulrike Buschlinger, Dawn Leach, Sebastian Fath and Myriam Thyès. Thank you all for your efforts! At this point I would like to mention that we - Sandro, Thibault, Barbara and I - wish to increase our current four-member Board by two additional members. We feel sure that one or two people present here this evening might be interested in becoming active members of the Board of the Nan Hoover Foundation.

We are currently conducting research on the Nan Hoover archive and a *Catalogue Raisonné* has been painstakingly compiled by Dawn Leach. A huge thank you to Dawn for this enormous work. It is Volume One - and Dawn will tell you more about it a little later this evening.

Last but not least, we are planning exhibitions and events together with the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art in Rijeka, Croatia, as part of their events during their year as European Capital of Culture in 2020. Curator Sabina Salomon will tell us more about these plans later this evening as well.

To round off my short welcome words to this dinner, a dinner to remember and commemorate Nan Hoover and to celebrate art and life in her spirit, I would like to read her words to you from

night letters:

**We come we go we reach
to open the door we hesitate
we go through these thoughts
weave in and out of my body
of work my life**

I wish you all a very pleasant memorial dinner. Let's share anecdotes and thoughts, inspired by Nan Hoover

Let's celebrate

And toast

Dear Nan, thank you for your inspiration!

Gaby Wijers

2nd June 2018