



## PRESS RELEASE

Essen, 24.10.2022

### **Culture: The Story of Us, from Cave Art to K-Pop** Harvard Professor Martin Puchner at KWI

**09 November 2022, 18 h (CET)**

**Online (ZOOM) & Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities Essen (KWI),  
Gartensaal, Goethestraße 31, 45128 Essen**

**Rapidly sinking enrollments in the humanities across the United States have led to a contraction of distribution requirements and the demand for a single introductory course covering all arts and humanities. Harvard Professor Martin Puchner responds to this phenomenon with his new book project *Introduction to the Arts and Humanities* to be used in schools and colleges, presenting it at KWI in November 2022.**

Developing a new textbook for this type of general education course is an occasion for Puchner to rethink what a basic humanities education should entail. The transmission of cultural objects and practices in institutions such as caves, theaters, and libraries is central to his approach. Since these institutions are always prone to failure, cultural history is marked by different types of interruptions and corresponding attempts at recovery. In this way, cultural history is driven by the interplay of interruptions and attempted recoveries both historically and in the contact among different cultures.

#### **SPEAKER**

Martin Puchner, Byron and Anita Wien Professor of Drama and of English and Comparative Literature at Harvard University

#### **MODERATOR**

Laura Bieger, RUB

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Julika Griem, KWI Director

#### PRESS CONTACT

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## **PARTICIPATION IN PERSON**

Please register with Marion Fiekens at [marion.fiekens@kwi-nrw.de](mailto:marion.fiekens@kwi-nrw.de) with the indication of “Participation in Person – 09.11.2022“, by 3 November 2022.

NOTE: As seating is limited, attendance is only possible after written registration. Likewise, wearing a medical or FFP2 mask is mandatory upon entry to the building.

## **PARTICIPATION VIA ZOOM**

For participation online via ZOOM please register via [henrike.lambrecht@kwi-nrw.de](mailto:henrike.lambrecht@kwi-nrw.de) with the indication of “Participation in Person – 09.11.2022“, until 8 November 2022.

## **ORGANISATION**

Organized by the Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities Essen (KWI) in cooperation with Ruhr-University Bochum (RUB)

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

[Event on the KWI website](#)

**We would appreciate the circulation of this press release.**

### **About the Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities (KWI):**

The Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities (KWI) Essen, Germany, is an interdisciplinary research centre following the tradition of international Institutes for Advanced Study. In its role as an inter-university institution connecting the Ruhr-University Bochum, the Technological University Dortmund and the University of Duisburg-Essen, the institute works together with researchers and scientists from its neighbouring universities as well as other partners from the federal state NRW and places in- and outside of Germany. Within the Ruhr area, the KWI is a place to share and discuss the questions and results of ambitious research with interested parties from the city and the greater region. Currently, work at the KWI focusses on the following areas: “cultural studies of science and science policy making”, “sociology of literature and culture”, “science communication”, and a “teaching lab”. Projects in the established research field “culture of communication”, as well as individual projects, will be continued.

[www.kulturwissenschaften.de](http://www.kulturwissenschaften.de)

**Please note:** If you do not wish to receive any further press releases from the Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities (KWI), please send a short message to [presse@kwi-nrw.de](mailto:presse@kwi-nrw.de). Many thanks.

**New:** The KWI newsletter provides news about the institute twice a semester. Please click [here](#) to register.

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