

**Arkadiusz Póltorak**  
**President of AICA Poland**

**Lisbeth Rebollo Gonçalves**  
**President of AICA International**

Kraków, 26 August 2023

**Recommendation for the post of the President of AICA International  
for Małgorzata Kaźmierczak**

Małgorzata Kaźmierczak is an eminent expert in the history of performance art and an accomplished curator in the field; a skilled organizer and dedicated supporter of ephemeral arts in Poland and the United States; above all, however, she is a true advocate for the development of art criticism and its independence across national borders. Her persistence, openness, and awareness of current social and cultural issues on a global scale helped her to become an active intermediary between multiple sections of AICA and a broker of important international projects in her expiring term as Vice President of the association. Meanwhile, her expertise in cultural management makes her an asset to any organisation that deploys its resources for the public benefit. Therefore, based on my long-standing acquaintance and collaboration with Małgorzata, I wholeheartedly support her efforts to become President of AICA International with the approval of the Board of the Polish Section of AICA.

Since 2020, when Małgorzata Kaźmierczak first sat on the board of AICA's Polish Section – only to become a Vice President of AICA International a few months later – her influence on the activities of the International Association of Art Critics has been evident. In the last three years, her voice at AICA International's board meetings has been loud and clear, especially when issues related to freedom of expression and international cooperation were at stake. Notably, Kaźmierczak was among the initiators of the Central and Eastern European Regional Office of AICA, set to act in favour of cultural diversity and against censorship in Europe's "former East". Her efforts have also been instrumental in the conception of an anthology of critical writings from the region, which is about to be published with support from the International Visegrad Funds. Recently, thanks to her robust international network, Kaźmierczak has become an avid supporter of intellectual exchange and cultural cooperation between Poland and South America – in part, through using AICA as a platform for fostering novel partnerships. Last but not least, she has played a key role in organizing the 55<sup>th</sup> Congress of AICA International in Kraków. In all the activities mentioned, her sense of leadership and institutional imagination shines through; they show that Małgorzata thinks of cultural institutions – and the International Association of Art Critics in particular – as living, complex organisms that require constant nurturing and thrive thanks to communication between their constitutive parts.

I met Małgorzata personally in 2019, when we were jointly involved in efforts to protect the Contemporary Art Gallery Bunkier Sztuki in Krakow from dissolution. In defending this important space for development of artistic and activist practices, Małgorzata made an impression as a roving champion for the public good and an acutely critical mind. In the following years, I worked with her

very closely on the board of AICA Poland – where I served as the Secretary during the 2020-2023 term – but also at the Faculty of Art at the Pedagogical University in Krakow. In the academic environment, Małgorzata stood out as a researcher and organiser alike, instigating new projects and taking on the difficult role of research evaluator. Her resilience, versatility and sense of responsibility had certainly been forged in earlier years, when she acted as director of the Municipal Gallery in Kalisz and curated international performance art festivals in New York and many cities in Poland. With the trajectory of her professional development in mind, I have no doubt that as President of AICA International, Małgorzata Kaźmierczak will be guided by professional integrity, attention to the social impact of the organisation and the prospects for its long-term development.

I am convinced that Małgorzata Kaźmierczak is well equipped to become the leader of AICA International, and that her presidency would ensure dynamic development for the organisation. I strongly support her programme for the tenure, and in particular the call for closer cooperation with UNESCO. Together with the Board of the Polish Section of AICA, I strongly support her candidacy and wish her good luck in the upcoming elections.

Yours sincerely,



Arkadiusz Póttorak