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Zürcher Hochschule der Künste
Zurich University of the Arts

ZHDK INTERNATIONAL DAY

07 May 2026
16:00–19:30

ZHdK, Toni-Areal
3.K01 Hörsaal 1

ZHDK INTERNATIONAL DAY 2026

Cultures of Embodiment in Performance: Collective Bodies, Marginal Bodies, Virtual Bodies in Global Arts Contexts

On **07 May 2026**, the **Department for Performing Arts & Film** and the **International Dossier of Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK)** will jointly be hosting **ZHdK's International Day 2026**, focussing on diverse cultures of embodiment in performance and how international careers and global arts contexts shape these artistic practices today.

For the seventh edition of the event, we will welcome Professor **Lola Arias, Argentine writer, theatre and film director, and newly appointed Artistic Professor of Embodiment in Theatre and Performance at ZHdK**. In her inaugural lecture, Lola Arias will explore the interaction between marginalised bodies, embodied knowledge, memory and history within her boundary-crossing documentary theatre practice and outline her vision of embodiment for her professorship within an interdisciplinary institution like ZHdK.

Approaching embodiment not in the classical meaning but rather as a social body, her work highlights the invisible and exposes mechanisms of inequality, thereby making bodies perceptible and visible that are often denied space in theatre and society. In a follow-on conversation with **Professor Maria Delgado, Vice Principal Research and Knowledge Exchange at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, University of London**, Lola Arias will elaborate on her unique artistic approach to embodiment.

16:00-16:15
3.Ko1 Hörsaal 1

Welcome by Professor Svetlana Heger, Head of the International Dossier and Director of the Department of Fine Arts (ZHdK) and Professor Marijke Hoogenboom, Director of the Department of Performing Arts and Film (ZHdK)

16:15- 17:00
Inaugural Lecture

by Lola Arias, Artistic Professor Embodiment in Theatre and Performance (ZHdK)

17:00-17:45

Lola Arias in conversation with Professor Maria Delgado (Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, University of London)

17:45- 18:00
Break

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Please register here for the event

Artist, poet, and ZHdK Fine Arts alumna Ishita Chakraborty will be joining Lola Arias and Maria Delgado in a subsequent panel discussion on international careers and the potential and challenges inherent in global arts contexts. Working between India and Switzerland, her visual art, performance, and poetry explore questions of displacement, resistance and identity in the face of colonial histories. The panel will be moderated by **Dr Ramona Mosse, Head of Theatre at ZHdK**.

A presentation by the **BA Acting module 'Between Realities', co-taught by Efrat Stempler, Corinne Soland, and Stella Speziali**, exploring the interplay between virtual and actual bodies in the **Immersive Arts Space** will complement the discussion on embodiment. The event will close with a networking Apéro afterwards.

The team of the International Affairs and Mobility Office of ZHdK will be present at the event and can be approached about the international offerings, such as student and staff mobility, at the university.

18:00 – 18:45

Panel: International Careers in Global Arts Contexts with Lola Arias, Maria Delgado, and Ishita Chakraborty, Artist and Poet, ZHdK Fine Arts Alumna, moderated by Ramona Mosse, Head of Theatre and Representative of Department of Performing Arts and Film in the International Affairs Committee (ZHdK)

18:45-19:30
Immersive Arts Space

Presentation of the BA Acting module 'Between Realities' in the Immersive Arts Space by Efrat Stempler, Corinne Soland and Stella Speziali (ZHdK)

19:30
Networking Apéro