DEUTSCHER TANZPREIS

AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING DEVELOPMENT IN DANCE

as part of the German Dance Award 2026

Gabriele Brandstetter

Gabriele Brandstetter ©privat

Biografie – Gabriele Brandstetter

Univ.-Prof. Dr Dr h.c. Gabriele Brandstetter was appointed to the Institute of Theatre Studies at the Free University of Berlin in 2003, where she set up the first Master's degree course in dance studies at a German university. She gained her doctorate in Munich in 1984, habilitated at the University of Bayreuth in 1993 and was awarded a teaching license in the subjects of modern German literature and theatre studies. In the same year she was appointed to the Institute for Applied Theatre Studies at the Justus Liebig University in Giessen, and in 1997 she became a full professor of Modern German Literature at the German Department of the University of Basel.

She has been involved in numerous DFG research projects, including as co-director of the International Research College ‘Interweaving Theatre Cultures’. She is a member of the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina. She has been invited to international guest professorships, including in Melbourne, Tokyo, New York, Princeton, Tel Aviv and São Paulo. - Brandstetter's research has been honoured with numerous awards, including the Aby Warburg Foundation Hamburg (1996), the Alexander Clavel Foundation Riehen Cultural Award (1998); in 2004 she received the Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize of the DFG, and in 2011 the Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany. - Her research focuses on the history and aesthetics of dance, theatre and literature from the 18th century to the present day. She has led DFG projects on virtuosity in art and culture and on the relationship between body, image and movement. In the Cluster of Excellence at the FU Berlin on ‘Languages of Emotion’, she investigated the connection between touch and being touched, emotion and movement in dance. Her recent publications deal with political and aesthetic investigations into fragile bodies and the ‘aging body in dance’ as well as questions of border crossings, migration and movement in public space. Since 2021, she has been involved in a project on ‘Intervening Choreographies’ in the FU's Collaborative Research Centre 1512 on ‘Intervening Arts’.

His most important publications include: ‘Tanz-Lektüren - Körperbilder und Raumfiguren der Avantgarde’, 1995 / (2013 2nd expanded edition); English: ‘Poetics of Dance’ (2015); "Moving (Across) Borders. Performing Translation, Intervention, Participation" (2017).
Most recently, she published her book on the representation and perception of time in dance, ‘ZEITgestalten’ (Nomos 2024), and - as a movement dialogue with the dancer Anna Huber - the book ‘Tanz sehen - Fragen zur choreographischen Praxis’ (Schwabe 2025).

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