

# Press Release



BERTHOLD LEIBINGER  
STIFTUNG

## **The first fellows of the Thomas Mann House have been announced:**

**Jutta Allmendinger (Berlin), Heinrich Detering (Göttingen), Burghart Klaußner (Hamburg), Yiannos Manoli (Freiburg), and Sylke Tempel (Berlin) are the first German intellectual ambassadors to be sent to California.**

**Berthold Leibinger Stiftung gives more than 3 million euros.**

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The Thomas Mann House, situated in 1550 San Remo Drive, Pacific Palisades, California, is still being renovated; the first fellows will likely move in early summer 2018. The fellows, outstanding personalities, who come from the fields of culture, politics, business, media, and science, will live in Mann's former exile home from three up to ten months in order to engage in an intensive exchange with US-American institutions and personalities. These fellowships are supported by the Berthold Leibinger Stiftung for a period of at least five years with 1.5 million euros.

Berthold Leibinger emphasized his strong commitment to the United States of America which, together with his affection for Thomas Mann as a writer with a critical political mind, constitutes the firm involvement of the Berthold Leibinger Stiftung to assist with the refurbishment of Thomas Mann's exile home as well as to financially support the fellowships.

The Berthold Leibinger Stiftung aims to foster the memory of Thomas Mann, his life, his time in exile, his intellectual environment and his family, as well as his literary and political work created in his Californian home. A catalogue will be published in German and English and will be made available for both fellows and guests. The Berthold Leibinger Stiftung is providing between 0.5 to 1 million euros for this purpose.

An additional million is provided by the Berthold Leibinger Stiftung in order to furnish and equip the house. In this regard, the classical modern German design aims to convey an actual image of Germany.

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All in all, the Berthold Leibinger Stiftung gives 3 to 3.5 million euros for this project. While this dedication is partly based on the heritage of Thomas Mann, it also represents a strong commitment to vivid transatlantic relations between Germany and the United States of America.

Berthold Leibinger has committed himself to endorse the acquisition of the exile domicile of Thomas Mann as early as November 2016. This commitment helped the German Federal Foreign Office to also get the budget committee to finance the project.

The property is run by the Villa Aurora & Thomas Mann House e.V., an institution which already supervises a cultural residence in the former home of Marta and Lion Feuchtwanger in Pacific Palisades, only ten minutes away from the Thomas Mann House.