



**Press Release August 2020**

**VIENNA ART WEEK 2020 | LIVING RITUALS  
13–20 NOVEMBER 2020**

## **VIENNA ART WEEK Will Go Ahead with 16th Edition**

**Vienna Art Week announces it will go ahead as planned in November**

In a year that has been marked by cancellations, some good news has arrived for the art world. The popular VIENNA ART WEEK will go ahead as planned throughout the city of Vienna from 13-20 November when contemporary artists, architects, designers, arts and educational institutions will be endowing art collectors, aficionados and professionals with a unique taste of the ever-growing contemporary art scene in the city of Vienna.

Co-curated by Robert Punkenhofer, Director of Vienna Art Week and Founder of Art & Idea, and Angela Stief, Chief Curator of Albertina Modern, this year's festival will focus on the theme of LIVING RITUALS where local contemporary artists have been invited to explore how rituals serve the social cohesion and structures of everyday life.

VIENNA ART WEEK will combine the theme of LIVING RITUALS with a talks programme and events from the city's art and educational institutions. Highlights will include LIVING RITUALS Exhibition Parcours - a guided tour to selected artists studios where work related to the theme will be presented and discussed in the context of artist talks and LIVING RITUALS LINE-UP - where lectures, discussions and screenings will explore the theme artistically and academically.

**This year's line-up will include speakers such as philosopher and artist Elisabeth von Samsonow and South Korean born German philosopher Byung-Chul Han, and artists such as Klaus Moseftig, Robert Schaberl and Borjana Ventzislavova.**

*“Vienna Art Week remains an important stage for local contemporary artists, and the city of Vienna as a growing contemporary art destination. There is no doubt that this year has been challenging for the creative industries around the globe, so that is why it is more important than ever that Vienna Art Week continues to provide a stage for the city’s artists and institutions.” said Robert Punkenhofer - Director of Vienna Art Week*

On the weekend of November 14-15th VIENNA ART WEEK will be celebrating the artistic and creative community that reside in the city with OPEN STUDIO DAYS - 100 artists, carefully selected by a jury consisting of Robert Punkenhofer (co-curator VIENNA ART WEEK), Angela Stief (co-curator), Thomas Trummer (director Kunsthau Bregenz), Rita Vitorelli (artist and editor Spike Art Magazine), and Florian Waldvogel (Director of Art History Collections Tyrolean State Museums), will open their studio doors to the public, providing visitors with the opportunity to look behind the scenes of working artist studios, and discover world class-art from some of Vienna’s top contemporary artists.

In keeping with last year’s event there will also be an exceptional programme organised by the city’s leading museums taking place in exhibition halls, art spaces, educational institutions, galleries and alternative spaces.

A detailed programme will be announced in October.

Strict sanitary measures in line with Austrian government recommendations will be in place to ensure everyone's health and security.

**END**

### **About Vienna Art Week**

Vienna Art Week was founded in 2004 as part of Art Cluster Vienna. It is now Vienna’s leading platform for visual arts, reflecting the importance, substantial depth and great variety of art institutions, academies, galleries, art spaces, and artists based in Vienna. It connects its partners and represents them to the outside world. Each year in November, Vienna Art Week draws a crowd of approximately 35,000 visitors to some 200 events held by 70 program partners. The festival program ranges from exhibition openings to guided studio tours, lectures, panel discussions, symposia, and interventions in public space.

### **About Art Cluster Vienna**

Art Cluster Vienna is made up of the most important exhibition houses, art spaces, educational institutions, and galleries within the City of Vienna. These large and established

institutions identified the need to provide support and a stage for contemporary artists living in Vienna to the attention of the national and international public. With their high-quality programs and ideas, the program partners of Vienna Art Week make a significant contribution to the success of the festival, which has developed into a regular event in the city's autumn of culture since 2005 and recently attracted around 35,000 guests from Austria and abroad.

**Art Cluster Vienna includes the following art institutions:**

Academy of Fine Arts Vienna  
Albertina  
Architekturzentrum Wien  
Austrian Frederick and Lillian Kiesler Private Foundation  
Belvedere, Belvedere 21  
Dom Museum Wien  
DOROTHEUM  
KÖR (Public Art Vienna)  
Kunsthalle Wien Museumsquartier & Kunsthalle Wien Karlsplatz  
KUNST HAUS WIEN  
Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien & Weltmuseum Wien  
Künstlerhaus  
Leopold Museum  
MAK – Museum of Applied Arts  
mumok Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig Wien  
Nitsch Foundation  
Q21/MuseumsQuartier Wien  
Sammlung Friedrichshof Stadtraum  
Secession  
Sigmund Freud Museum  
University of Applied Arts Vienna  
Vienna Business Agency Creativity & Business

**About Robert Punkenhofer**

Robert Punkenhofer is the Director of Vienna Art Week, creative consultant and the founder of Art & Idea - an agency responsible for implementing creative projects at the interface between art, business and the public sector. Together with a diverse partner network, he realizes challenging and inspiring projects in the fields of art, architecture, design and fashion in unusual settings. In addition to spearheading the development and implementation of Vienna Art Week, Robert has also created rapid national and international recognition for Mexican contemporary artists in the 1990s, leading to creation of a professional exhibition space in the centre of Mexico City that hosted the first solo exhibitions by later world-famous artists such as Santiago Sierra, Teresa Margolles and Damian Ortega. Other projects include the curation of a New York exhibition exploring the relationship between fashion and art with works by Hussein Chalayan, Rudi Gernreich, Jenny Marketou and Terence Gower at Apex Art, the development and organisation of a

curatorial programme at The Goethe-Institut in Barcelona with the purpose of strengthening cultural dialogue between Germany and Spain through the representation of young artists, and the realisation of 'Mur Island' an architectural landmark for the City of Graz, Austria during its time as the European City of Culture in 2003. The project designed by Vito Acconci was hugely successful and it is now a permanent international attraction for the city of Graz.

### **About Angela Stief**

Angela Stief is the chief curator at Albertina Modern. Since 2019 Angela has acted as curatorial advisor for Vienna Art Week and regularly writes about contemporary art for monographs, magazines and publications such as Artforum, Kunstforum International, Parnass and Profil. Selected curatorial projects include Suzanne Treister (2020), The Beginning (2020), Anna Zemánková (2019), Betty Tompkins (2019), Evelyne Axell (2018), Rupprecht Geiger (2017), OFF IS (Szenehybrid aus Museum, Galerie und Bar in zwischengenutzten Räumen, 2016), California Dreaming I / II (ed., Kunstforum International, 2016), KINESIS - Eine Studie zur Bewegung im Bild (2015), Serendipität. Kunst zwischen Zufall und Programm (2015), Obsessionen I/II (Hg., Kunstforum International, 2014), Leigh Bowery (2013), Julian Rosefeldt (2012), POWER UP – Female Pop Art (2010), Lebt und arbeitet in Wien (2010), Videorama (2009), Wangechi Mutu (2008), Traum und Trauma. Works from the Dakis Joannou Collection (2007).

Angela is also a visiting professor for the Artwork Practice at the Art University Linz, and from 2002 to 2013 was the curator of the Kunsthalle Vienna. Since 2018 Angela has organised the Outsider Artworks exhibitions at the Austrian Society of the Golden Cross.

### **Visitor information**

[www.viennaartweek.at](http://www.viennaartweek.at)

[www.facebook.com/VIENNAARTWEEK](https://www.facebook.com/VIENNAARTWEEK)

[www.instagram.com/VIENNAARTWEEK](https://www.instagram.com/VIENNAARTWEEK)

Admission to the VIENNA ART WEEK events is free of charge.

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