

**VIENNA ART WEEK 2020
HOUSE OF RITUALS
13 – 20 NOVEMBER 2020**

Online at www.viennaartweek.at/en/program/house-of-rituals/

A virtual tour of the House of Rituals with Robert Punkenhofer, artistic director VIENNA ART WEEK will be available online from Monday, 16 November 2020 on.

Curated by Robert Punkenhofer and Angela Stief

Artists: Marina Abramović, Vito Acconci, Paul McCarthy, Scott Clifford Evans, Hanakam & Schuller, Regina José Galindo, Thomas Gänzler, Hanakam & Schuller, Oliver Hangl, Emiko Kasahara, Mike Kelley, Iwajla Klinke, Rudolf Molacek and Maria Serebriakova, Hermann Nitsch, Elisabeth von Samsonow, Nives Widauer, Erwin Wurm and Mia Zabelka

A VIENNA ART WEEK 2020 exhibition supported by JP Immobilien and Bernhard Audio-Visual Systems

Today, rituals seem like messengers from other times and faraway places – in fact, they are deeply rooted in our society, serve social cohesion, structure everyday life and time sequences. In our present day, rituals are in danger of disappearing: the economy around narcissistic attention values, the compulsion to perform and productive acceleration increasingly displaces the modes of ritual and the rhythms of intuition.

The HOUSE OF RITUALS is an abandoned house (Simmeringer Hauptstraße 155, 1110 Vienna) that has been taken over by international and Viennese artists. The exhibition brings old and new rituals to life and thus proves that contemporary art contributes to rehabilitation rituals.

- A sound installation by Mia Zabelka provides a backdrop and accompanies the visitor throughout the house
- Vito Acconci's video Excerpts (1972) plays alongside Regina Jose Galindo and Marina Abramović. In The Celebration (2019) Galindo's points to the repressed origins of Vienna's traditional bourgeois New Year's Concert and Marina Abramović explores social norms in her performances through repetitive, laborious and often painful actions, in The Current (2017).
- Iwajla Klinkes photographs portrays people dressed in ritual garments whose ceremonial origins are often no longer clearly identifiable.
- Oliver Hangl's seesaw 'unface to unface' breaks through the walls. The user swings on it with an unknown counterpart and thus, as it were, with himself.
- "Ghosts of empty spaces" populate Nives Widauer's 'Villa I-XIX', where the artist tries to capture ritual incantations.
- Philosopher and artist Elisabeth von Samsonow observes the literary and liturgical models for great rituals and translates them into a present that can be experienced in the form of a performance.
- A photograph, adorned with feathers, serves as a reminiscence of a trip through Mexico undertaken by Rudi Molacek and Maria Serebriakova in search of pyote, a type of cactus with hallucinogenic effects.
- Scott Clifford Evans, known for his episodic art-trash-horror installation project Murderkino, will live stream a traditional Mormon Thanksgiving dinner with his family at the house.

- Absurd cleansing and healing rituals will be performed using various artifacts in film installation 'Crystal Healing' by Hanakam & Schuller.
- Emiko Kasahara uses the bathroom to explore cleansing as a ritual
- A cube dominates the room in the attic from which black sheets emerge. Thomas Gänzler's work is flanked by Paul McCarthy and Mike Kelley's Heidi (1972) and Oliver Hangl's Krampfhaftes Grinsen (2018) - two works that have an uncanny, ritualistic quality.
- Finally, in the garden Erwin Wurm's 'Pickle Bar' invites visitors to drink, a ritual that artistic director Robert Punkenhofer will have to perform alone in this exhibition.
- The only way out is to walk into Reinhold Zisser's "Notgalerie", whose numbered individual parts wait to be kept by borrowers.

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LIVING RITUALS
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Visitor information	www.viennaartweek.at www.facebook.com/VIENNAARTWEEK www.instagram.com/VIENNAARTWEEK/
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