



# **VIENNA ART WEEK 2023**

**INCITING PASSION**

**10-17 NOV 2023**

# VIENNA ART WEEK

## 10-17 NOV 2023

VIENNA ART WEEK was founded in 2005 and shines a spotlight on Vienna's vibrant art scene every November. Together with around 70 program partners, the festival offers a week of inspiring art from the Baroque to the present with free admission at all its events and has become one of the most important art events in the Danube region, attracting around 30,000 visitors each year.



The festival program showcases the city's **high-profile art scene** and includes **over 100 events with free admission**. The wide range of events ranges from guided tours and visits to artists' studios to expert talks, performances, workshops, exhibition openings as well as lectures, symposia and interventions in public space.

VIENNA ART WEEK is a joint **platform of the Viennese art community** and is based on a **cooperation** of Viennese art institutions, art universities, galleries, and independent art spaces that is **unique worldwide**.

### THE THEME 2023

From **November 10 to 17, 2023**, VIENNA ART WEEK will turn all spotlights on Vienna as a city of arts for the 19th consecutive year. VIENNA ART WEEK 2023 revolves around a strong and barely controllable emotion with its **theme "INCITING PASSION"**.

"Is the pursuit of art conceivable without passion? I don't think so. A pinch of irrationality turns the good artist, the resourceful collector into people who make a difference," says Stella Rollig, General Director of the Belvedere Museum, which will once again enrich the VIENNA ART WEEK with various program contributions.

Whether in **love and relationships, work, politics**, or even **religion**, passion can be a driving force that inspires and motivates people to pursue their goals and desires with a radical level of commitment and dedication. But it can also be potentially destructive and dangerous.

VIENNA ART WEEK 2023 aims to capture this **ambiguity in all its facets**, reflecting the emotional state of our time **from private to public spaces**.

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS 2023



### Exhibition at the [HOUSE OF INCITING PASSION](#)

Rosinagasse 19, 1150 Vienna

10-17 NOV

A condemned building with former workshops, business premises and apartments becomes the exhibition venue and festival headquarters of the VIENNA ART WEEK. On three floors with a total of 1,000m<sup>2</sup>, a unique creative experimental space will be created together with Austrian and international artists and performers under the motto INCITING PASSION.

**It will feature works by** Tracey Emin, Ashley Hans Scheirl, Mona Hatoum, Bill Viola, Ursula Biemann, Ramiro Wong, Anna Witt and many more.

**Curated by** Robert Punkenhofer and Julia Hartmann.

**The exhibition venue** will be provided for interim use by real estate developer [AVORIS](#) - after the VIENNA ART WEEK "[Rosina Brick](#)" will be created here.



### Open Studio Days

11 & 12 NOV, 1-6 pm

This year's expert jury – Robert Punkenhofer (Artistic Director VIENNA ART WEEK), Ramesch Daha (artist and President of the Vienna Secession), Julia Hartmann (Associate Curator VIENNA ART WEEK), Verena Kaspar-Eisert (Chief Curator MuseumsQuartier Vienna), Tina Sauerlaender (Co-Founder & Head Curator peer to space) and Klaus Speidel (philosopher, art critic and curator), – has selected **50 artists** out of 160 submissions that will open their studios throughout Vienna to visitors on two afternoons.

This year, under the motto "**Pass on your passion**", artists are invited to share their artistic practice with visitors through activities such as workshops and performances.

Six guided tours, the **Open Studio Days Walking Tours**, take visitors to many of the studios.

### [Open Studio Days artists 2023](#)

Alfredo Barsuglia • Kerstin Bennier • Asta Cink • Leslie De Melo • Sophie Dvořák • Georg Eckmayr • Karin Fisslthaler • Jari Genser • Sattva Giacosa • Aldo Giannotti • Anne Glassner • Silke Grabinger • Elodie Grethen • Julia Maria Gruber • Maria Grün • Miriam Hamann • Maria Hanl • Gerhard Himmer • Jochen Höller • Christoph Höschele • Ronald Kodritsch • Danylo Kovach • Sara Lanner • Claudia Larcher • Lena Violetta Leitner • Ina Loitzl • Ana Loureiro • Jia Ma • Sami Mandee • Maaijke Middelbeek • David Muth • Nayeun Park • Christiane Peschek • Karin Maria Pfeifer • Heathers Production • Rainer Prohaska • Andrea Ressi • Christian Rothwangl • Alfred Rottensteiner • Lena Lieselotte Schuster • Hannah Stippl • Alberto Storari • Nita Tandon • Alexandra Tatar • Rychél Thérin • Ozan Turkkan • Janine Weger • Marit Wolters • Ramiro Wong • Sula Zimmerberger • Beatrix Zobl



### Inciting Passion Line-up 2023

DOROTHEUM. Dorotheergasse 17, 1010 Vienna

16 NOV, 3.30-6 pm

This year's line-up is all about passion - top-class guests will shed light on this year's theme from different perspectives:

#### The passion of curating

- SoYeon Ahn (Artistic Director, Atelier Hermès, Seoul)
- Noam Segal (Associate Curator, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, NYC)
- Valentina Peri (Independent Curator, Paris)

#### The passion of collecting

- Lindsay Dewar (Head of Analytics, ArtTactic)
- Konrad Breznik (Executive Director, Hauser-Wirth)
- Ursula Krinzinger (Founder, Galerie Krinzinger)
- Harald Spengler (Private collector, Munich)
- Lukas Amacher (Managing Director, Collectors Club 10F1)



### 100 events by 70 program partners

10-17 NOV

Around 100 events in institutions, off-spaces, exhibition spaces, galleries and in public spaces ensure a varied, exciting program throughout the week. Among them are the curator tours "Passion Stories - With Passion Against the Suffering of Society" at the mumok and "Four Stations of Pure Passion" at the Leopold Museum, a guided tour of the KHM special exhibition "Raphael" under the title "Love, lust & passions", an artist talk with GELATIN on the anniversary fountain "WirWasser" at the Sonnwend neighborhood and with Joonas Lahtinen on his exhibition "Love Letters" at Kunstzelle, a communal lunch with the MQ Artists-in-Residence at MuseumsQuartier, an interactive installation and discussion on Cuban protest culture at ENTRE, a panel on "Passion for Art, Ecology and Community" at the Kunst Haus Wien, or the anniversary celebration of the Secession, which celebrates its 125th anniversary during the VIENNA ART WEEK.



### NEW: Inclusive program under the motto o

„VIENNA ART WEEK for all “

10-17 NOV

In order to make Vienna's diverse art scene accessible to as many people as possible, this year for the first time the festival offers an **inclusive program with events**

- for people with visual impairments
- for people with hearing impairments
- for people with dementia
- for people with limited mobility
- in easy or simple language

at the **program partners** Albertina, Architekturzentrum Wien, Belvedere, Kunsthalle Wien, Kunsthistorisches Museum and STRABAG Kunstforum. All program details to be found at <https://www.viennaartweek.at/de/fueralle/> (only available in German).



### Artist Residency powered by Superbude Wien

In cooperation with its partner [Superbude Wien](#), this year VIENNA ART WEEK invites the Chinese artist **Li Xinmo** for a **3-week artist residency**. The residency studio will be part of the Open Studio Days program, the artist will also participate in the exhibition at the House of Inciting Passion.



### Gallery partners 2023: Intensive outreach program 10 & 11 NOV

Four **Gallery Tours** take participants to selected top Viennese galleries, additionally the galleries offer their own events:

Charim Galerie	Fotogalerie Wien
Galerie Elisabeth und Klaus Thoman	Galerie Ernst Hilger
Galerie Eva Presenhuber	Galerie Krinzinger
Galerie Nächst St. Stephan - Rosemarie Schwarzwälder	
Galerie Peter Gaugy	Gregor Podnar
Lukas Feichtner Galerie	Projektraum Viktor Bucher
Smolka Contemporary	Suppan

### Contemporary art on four wheels

The three Vienna-based artists Onka Allmayer Beck, Daniel Ferstl and Melanie Thoeni have designed three Art Cars in collaboration with Uber, the platform for mobility, and the art media house TheArtGorgeous. This means that their art will be visible and tangible on Vienna's streets in the future. The launch will take place during the VIENNA ART WEEK, following similar initiatives in collaboration with the National College of Art and Design in Dublin and with the Berlinale.

## INCITING PASSION

Curatorial text 2023



by Robert Punkenhofer, Julia Hartmann and Theresia Nickl

All is fair in love and war? Passion can be a driving force that inspires and motivates people to pursue their goals and desires with a radical level of commitment and dedication. Igniting this powerful feeling of enthusiasm or excitement for someone or something can be pleasurable and exhilarating, but it can also be potentially destructive and dangerous—after all, the word passion derives from the Latin word for suffering. With this year’s theme, “Inciting Passion,” VIENNA ART WEEK aims to capture this ambiguity in all its different shades and reflect the emotional state of our time, from the private to the public sphere.

Plato believed that human beings have two souls, one rational, the other irrational: the former is associated with reason and logic, while the latter is driven by desire and bodily sensations. It was along these lines that the ancient Greek philosopher suggested excluding all artists from the *pólis*, or political decision-making, on account of their being too uncontrollable, emotional, and passion-driven. Artists have undoubtedly been seismographs of their times, evoking an emotional response in viewers through their artwork—whether through overwhelming aesthetics or stirring imagery ranging from romantic passion to nationalism. Expressions of compassion, care, and devotion have been a cultural mainstay for thousands of years—apparently the first love letter can be found in the Old Testament’s *Book of Solomon*, a series of poems organized as a lengthy dialogue between a young woman and her lover. This year’s VIENNA ART WEEK, however, aims to explore the power and complexity of emotions beyond heteronormative sexual identities and conservative notions of love, sex, romance, eroticism, lust and relationships. Şeyda Kurt’s book *Radikale Zärtlichkeit. Warum Liebe Politisch Ist* (2021, *Radical Tenderness: Why Love is Political*) challenges the notion that love is a private, personal matter. The author notes that romantic love relationships are often spaces for the abuse of power because they take place in the realm of the private. Kurt argues that relationships are political, which is why stronger laws and regulations are needed to protect the vulnerable party in a relationship from toxic power dynamics and a conservative reading of gender roles. Similarly, in her book *The End of Love: A Sociology of Negative Relations* (2018), the sociologist Eva Illouz propagates “the right to be let alone,” an early legal concept from the mid-19th century that guaranteed sexual freedom and sexuality as an individual’s choice. Yet same-sex couples and non-conforming sexual identities are still not treated equally in society and politics—a power play that artist Nan Goldin has been documenting since the 1980s. Goldin’s photo series *The Ballad of Sexual Dependency*, for instance, is comprised of over one hundred snapshots of relationships between men and women, men and men, women and women, and women and themselves as they play out in bedrooms, bars, boarding houses, brothels, and so on. We get an intimate glimpse into the private recesses of human relationships at a time when the HIV/AIDS pandemic wreaked havoc. This is also what Félix González-Torres intimately suggests in his photographs of empty beds left behind by those who died of the virus.

More contemporarily, artist and activist Zanele Muholi captures intense moments of love and intimacy through images that allude to the traumatic and violent events facing the South African LGBTQIA+ community. Muholi’s photographs bear witness to a community of people who risk their lives by living their passion authentically in the face of oppression and discrimination. Meanwhile, Tracey Emin explores private acts of passion in her autobiographical artworks. In the 1990s, Emin made headlines with works such as *Everyone I Have Ever Slept With 1963–1995*, a tent documenting the names of everyone with whom the artist had ever

shared a bed; more recently, she has documented her battle with cancer in raw and frank paintings of “love, passion, jealousy, fear and death—everything all of us have to live through,” as the artist herself has put it. This same cathartic power is also evident in Louise Bourgeois’s artistic practice, which was heavily influenced by traumatic psychological events in her childhood.

In our day and age, a lifestyle of hedonism puts pleasure and happiness above all other aspects of life, while excess and self-indulgence increasingly become a means of escapism and self-protection. As a result, courtship has undergone a massive transformation, from passionately staged love sonnets to emotionally detached dating apps—a trend that has led to the commodification of dating and relationships. Cultural theorist Byung-Chul Han has called this “emotional capitalism”: feelings are co-opted by market forces, leading to a rapid exchange of passion that has hollowed out relationships and led to selfish or narcissistic forms of behavior. This increasingly alienated and individualistic society and diminishing levels of interaction fuel a desire for emotionally intelligent robots and chatbots with the ability to replace “real human intimacy” with artificially generated passion for good. The company Replika AI, for example, already offers the “perfect” AI partner, one that is “always ready to chat when you need an empathetic friend.”

As far as the public sphere is concerned, both religion and politics have been stirring passions for centuries. Throughout (art) history we find a close interrelationship between the two, which in its extreme form has culminated in cults, ecstasy, or mysticism. Jeremy Shaw’s investigations into the transcendental experience show organizations that exhibit extreme devotion or reverence for a particular person, idea, or object. His photo and film series shows groups of people engaging in an ecstatic act that provides relief through the collective expression of strong emotions. Artworks exploring the religious theme of passion can themselves become highly controversial; prominent examples include Hermann Nitsch’s *Orgien Mysterien Theater*, through which he stages a suffering typical of the Middle Ages—a gory reenactment of bodily transcendence and orgiastic relief. In contrast, Bill Viola’s multi-channel film work *The Passions* addresses spirituality in a secular age by restaging Renaissance paintings using only facial expressions. The result is a calm yet riveting expression of religious devotion.

Last but not least, this year’s VIENNA ART WEEK theme also explores the emotions that fuel nationalisms, revolutions and wars. It’s not just since Donald Trump that we’ve known that “stirring the pot” can become a dangerous group dynamic, capable of propagating a certain kind of togetherness and national identity that can lead to the storming of capitals. In works such as *POINT & SHOOT, a mourning thought (though I am more enraged than in mourning)*, artist Martha Rosler exposes the phenomenon whereby one person or group instrumentalizes the passionate loyalty of their supporters to trump all rules and order for their own personal gain.

Going back to the beginning, Plato’s idea of passionate artists being expelled from the political sphere takes on a whole new and very contemporary meaning when we look at what is happening in totalitarian regimes like Iran, Russia, Cuba, Turkey or China. There, artists who express their criticism of political oppression are very often persecuted or directly expelled from their *pólis*—like the Iranian artist Shirin Neshat, the Russian feminist collective Pussy Riot, or Cuban artists Tania Bruguera and Hamlet Lavastida, to name just a few.

All in all, this year’s VIENNA ART WEEK questions the manifold aspects of our rational and irrational souls. Perhaps all is not fair in love and war after all. At least it shouldn’t be ...

## VIENNA ART WEEK FACTS AND FIGURES

### ART CLUSTER VIENNA

VIENNA ART WEEK is organized by the association Art Cluster Vienna, which was founded in 2004 to bring Vienna as a city of art into the focus of the national and international public. A year later, the first edition of VIENNA ART WEEK took place. The Art Cluster Vienna is an association of some of the most important art institutions in Vienna. With their high-quality programs and ideas, they contribute significantly to the success of VIENNA ART WEEK.

#### Art Cluster Vienna members:

- Academy of Fine Arts Vienna
- Albertina & Albertina modern
- Architekturzentrum Wien
- Belvedere & Belvedere 21
- Dom Museum Wien
- DOROTHEUM
- KÖR – Kunst im öffentlichen Raum Wien
- Kunsthalle Wien Museumsquartier & Kunsthalle Wien Karlsplatz
- KUNST HAUS WIEN
- Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien & Weltmuseum Wien
- Künstlerhaus Vereinigung
- Leopold Museum
- MAK – Museum of Applied Arts
- mumok Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig Wien
- MuseumsQuartier Wien
- Nitsch Foundation
- Österreichische Friedrich und Lillian Kiesler-Privatstiftung
- Secession
- Sigmund Freud Museum
- STRABAG Kunstforum
- University of Applied Arts Vienna
- Vienna Business Agency Creativity & Business

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VIENNA ART WEEK would like to thank the following partners and sponsors  
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