

Press Release

VIENNA ART WEEK 2016
SEEKING BEAUTY
14 - 20 November 2016

From 14 to 20 November 2016, **VIENNA ART WEEK** will embark on a quest for notions of beauty, guided by the motto of **Seeking Beauty**. Exhibitions, performances, interventions and discussions explore the question of how beauty is perceived today in all its diversity and contradictions, opening new aesthetic, philosophical and socio-political perspectives in the process.

With some 200 events from around 100 program partners, Vienna is all about art during VIENNA ART WEEK. From the start, the festival has been a crowd puller for professional art audiences and the general public alike, with last year's edition drawing some 35,000 visitors from Austria and abroad.

The performative **interview marathon Seeking Beauty** promises several hours of intense engagement with the topic of beauty in art. Top international experts from various disciplines including philosophy, literature, design and culture will conduct question-and-answer sessions. Guests will include French artist **ORLAN**, German literary theorist **Barbara Vinken**, and **Mark Evans**, curator at the Victoria and Albert Museum. The accompanying artistic program features performances by philosopher and artist **Elisabeth von Samsonow** and choreographer and performer **Doris Uhlich**, among others.

„Beauty is more than a question of taste; it is constantly changing and evolves in a dialogue. We are interested in the criteria that define beauty and in the links between the concept of beauty and social developments.“

Robert Punkenhofer, Artistic Director of VIENNA ART WEEK

Popular and highly successful VIENNA ART WEEK formats from past years will be back in 2016, including **Open Studio Day**: on Saturday, 19 November, some 70 studios will open their doors to the public. A number of **Studio Visit tours** will be taking visitors to (partly unknown) spots in the city's lively art scene, with curator talks and other supporting events to round out the day. Introduced in 2015, **Family Art Day** will be held on November 20 this year, with art-related program points for the entire family.

VIENNA ART WEEK 2016 is once again promoting exchange between the Austrian and international art scenes. The thriving **Curators' Picks** format brings to Vienna international curators such as **Julia Peyton-Jones** (Serpentine Galleries) and others with the intention of reinforcing the dialogue across borders.

As if that weren't enough, major Vienna exhibition venues, art spaces, galleries and independent artist-run spaces have a varied program in store, with highlights including a panel discussion with directors of renowned Viennese art institutions on the importance of their houses for the city's creative development.

“With our eclectic calendar of art events, VIENNA ART WEEK speaks to professional audiences and casual art enthusiasts alike. The mix of top-class programs covering everything from the Baroque to the contemporary and experimental give VIENNA ART WEEK a distinct atmosphere all its own.”

Martin Böhm, initiator of the Art Week and President of Art Cluster Vienna

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Visitor information	www.viennaartweek.at
Artistic Director	Robert Punkenhofner
Project Management	Anja Hasenlechner + Barbara Wünsch hasenlechner artconsult GmbH T + 43 1 402 25 24, F + 43 1 402 54 86 E wuensch@viennaartweek.at
Press office	Susanne Haider Sarah Hellwagner art:phalanx, kunst- und kommunikationsagentur T + 43 1 524 98 03 - 11, F + 43 1 524 98 03 - 4 E viennaartweek@artphalanx.at
Press information and photographs	http://presse.artphalanx.at/en/vienna-art-week/

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