

## Art of Today for a New Fair

A new fair needs contemporary art!

Rising to this challenge, **ART VIENNA** opens its doors for the first time from February 23 to 26. But not only that, next to its main areas of focus, contemporary art, it also creates a place for classical modernism. Without exception, the most important criterion is quality. And when the mixture is right, this opens up and unfolds a field of tension for the viewer – in analogy to the artistic concept of the fair's venue, the Leopold Museum, where the curators take the central pillar of the collection, Austrian classical modernism, as the point of departure for exploring advanced modernism and contemporary artworks.

**ART VIENNA** assembles outstanding Austrian gallery owners and dealers as well as selected international exhibitors.

The thrill of viewing old art through contemporary eyes and giving it a fresh interpretation is what characterizes the 51-centimeter bust *Dama del dit al Nas* (2014), made of polychromized polyester resin by Gerard Mas (b. 1976). A beautiful noblewoman who might have sprung from a Holbein portrait is caught here with a finger in her nose. **Galerie Robert Drees** from Hanover exhibits this ironic sculpture by Mas, who lives in Barcelona.

Not only the format of the triptych which Claudia Rogge invokes in her photographic work, shown by **Galerie Frey** under the title *PerSe VII* (2013-2015), is reminiscent of old masters. The figures emerging from the darkness seem inspired by Caravaggio's *chiaroscuro*. And yet the work's technique and aesthetic are contemporary – Rogge, who achieved international renown as a performance artist and with installations, but mainly as a photographer, explores issues such as cloning and questions of individuality.

The drawing by Georg Bernsteiner, to be found at the booth of **Galerie Florian Sundheimer** from Munich, seems like an archaeological cross-section through layers of soil of bygone times. In the black and grey traces of this charcoal drawing from 2012, objects of daily life seem to have only recently been unearthed, like submerged relicts. Bernsteiner was born in the Pinzgau in 1969 and studied with the great Arnulf Rainer at the Academy in Vienna.

Like Rainer, Rudolf Goessel (b. 1929 in the Weinviertel) also exhibited his works at the Galerie nächst St. Stephan. The museum 21er Haus in Vienna recently devoted a focus to the fascinating work of this maverick. **Galerie Jünger** from Vienna makes a powerful argument for his standing within recent Austrian art history, showing his oil painting *Northern Light* dated 1975.

On the other hand, Damien Hirst, born in Bristol in 1965, has long been a superlative star. The most prominent protagonist of the Young British Artists and winner of the 1995 Turner Prize hardly needs an introduction among art lovers. From his native country, the London-based gallery **Other Criteria** participates in the first **ART VIENNA** with the serigraph *Psalm Miserere mei Deus*, one of 25 copies printed in 2015.

### Looking beyond one's own horizon

Anyone looking for turn-of-the-century art in Vienna is sure to visit the Leopold Museum, where many of the works that provoked, polarized and inspired audiences around 1900 can be found. Good contemporary art has always had these effects. Furthermore, this art produced during the departure for modernism also contributed significantly to Austria's reputation as a country that is home to the arts.

Departing, looking beyond one's own horizon – this too is an art fair's mission.

And **ART VIENNA** offers many opportunities to expand horizons.

The Berlin-based **Galerie Martin Mertens** has dedicated its program to young international art. This broad outlook is reflected in the choice of artistic genres and media offered: figurative and abstract paintings, photo art, object art and installations. The untitled homage to Vermeer by Italian artist

Robert Bosisio of 2015 balances between the abstract and the concrete: from the swirling colors on the canvas, the Girl with the Pearl Earring seems to emerge.

Florian Fausch, born in Zurich in 1981, also seems to flourish on the borderline between figurative and abstract art. There, he generates utopian architectural landscapes which seem to function by their own rules. Places and non-places surround the concept of the image here. Specialized in contemporary artists, the gallery **2CforART** from Salzburg presents his works at the Leopold Museum. A mixture of hyperrealism and images from a dream characterizes the pictures in the series *View from above* by Francisc Chiuariu, a native of Sibiu. Concrete silhouettes of persons emerge here from surroundings that dissolve into dynamic surfaces of color. The Viennese **Five Plus Art Gallery** presents this position in cooperation with AnnArt Gallery from Romania.

Things are more concrete at the booth of the **Gallery Alessandro Casciari** from Bolzano. The gallery's program features not only young talents, but also established contemporary artists such as Arnold M. Dall'O, Andrea Facco, Hubert Kostner, Urs Lüthi, Kinki Texas and the South Tyrolean Lois Anvidalfarei, whose bronze entitled *Expecto* (2015) will be on view at **ART VIENNA**.

Franco Costalonga created his three-dimensional object *Oggetto Cromocinetico* from acrylic and metal in 1972. Born in Venice in 1933, the artist is one of the proponents of kinetic art. **Panarte / Galerie Leonhard** dedicates its exhibition to this movement, showing not only Costalonga, but also works by Alberto Biasi and Milan Dobes and the Austrian multi-talent Hans Bischoffshausen.

### **Not to forget the classics!**

What would art be without its predecessors, its role models, its sources of inspiration? Thus, at **ART VIENNA** contemporary art is juxtaposed with selected works of classical modernism. Some of the names and works are long-established, but there are also artists worth (re-) discovering. For example, **Kunsthandel Giese & Schweiger** offers late works by the Austrian Hans Boehler – whose mature period is marked by a fascinatingly expressive, dynamic colorfulness – next to the contemporary Oswald Oberhuber. These are flanked by great names such as Leo Putz, Wilhelm Thöny and Alfons Walde.

The latter can also be sampled with his *Ascent to the Mountain Farm*, a signed oil painting executed on carton, at the booth of **Kolhammer & Mahringer Fine Arts**, whose program is dedicated entirely to classical modernism.

One artist who definitely falls into that category is Werner Berg, whose works are popular collector's items and who created his unique paintings at his Rutarhof in Carinthia. **Schütz Fine Art** focuses on his oeuvre, showing his work alongside an intriguing contemporary position: selected works by Zeng Liang, shown by its own **Chinese Department**.

Another singular artist is the center of attention at **Galerie Magnet's ART VIENNA** debut: Zoran Music (1909 – 2005) is the featured artist. A special presentation is dedicated exclusively to the great painter from Görz in Cisleithania, who is known for his painted horses in the karst landscape, but also the landscapes of Dalmatia and the hills of Tuscany and Umbria.

With his philosophical and moral works and montage paintings (a combination of painting and collage), André Verlon (1917- 1994) also occupies his very own space in art history. **Kunsthandel Hieke** commemorates Verlon's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

### **Still wild at heart**

And then there are the classics which have not quite entered the classical canon yet – **ART VIENNA** has some glowing examples of these artists as well. For example, **Galerie Ernst Hilger** reveals the great Austrian sculptor Alfred Hrdlicka, who passed away in 2009, as a football fan. His bronze *Football Player* was created in 1998 in an edition of 30 casts.

Hilger has this sculpture pass the ball back and forth with an early work by Oswald Oberhuber from 1949.

Oberhuber, however, also enters the game at the booth of **Galerie Klaus & Elisabeth Thoman**. The Innsbruck gallery with a branch at Vienna's Seilerstätte shows works by Oberhuber, who was born in

Merano in 1931, next to Gunter Damisch. The latter was born in Steyr in 1958 and is considered part of the group of the neo-expressionist "Neue Wilde"; he was appointed professor at the Academy of Fine Arts in 1998 and died far too early last year. His distinctive and consequently formulated repertoire of color and form is also present at **Galerie 422 Margund Lössl**, showing the oil painting *Weißortweltweg* (2012), and at **Kunsthandel Freller**, where Damisch's amorphous forms can be admired in *Blue Field Worlds* (1999/2000).

One of Damisch's most important and renowned companions in his striking out for new methods of painting is Herbert Brandl. **Rheinisch Contemporary** from Graz has long represented the Graz-based artist, showing an untitled work created in 2016 – China ink on wood, epoxy resin, 50 x 70 cm.

### **Art within space**

Paintings may open up unexpected dimensions – but art conquers the third dimension mainly through sculpture. **Konzett Gallery** demonstrates this via *Deformation Folding* of 2010 by Rudolf Polanszky, an artist active in many media. The work is embedded within a representative sample of the Konzett Collection featuring works by Günter Brus, Christian Eisenberger, Otto Muehl, Rita Nowak and Franz West. **ZS art** conquers space with basic colors, including a formation of pillars by Roland Goeschl, who passed away only this past December. He was one of the most important Austrian avant-garde sculptors after 1945, dedicating himself entirely to abstract geometry. Using color, he explores perception in space, giving his sculptures additional dynamics.

A dash of Hollywood and a good dose of humor is in evidence at **Kún Kelemen Fine Arts**. Here the legendary cartoon pinup *Betty Boop* shows a lot of leg, thanks to Sam Havadtoy, who created the sculpture (140 cm, 2016).

Pop Art also makes a concrete, three-dimensional appearance at **ART VIENNA**. In the case of Keith Haring it is bright red and black – as in his *Dog* (1986, multiple sculpture, screen-print on wood, No. 6 in an edition of 10). **Gerald Hartinger Fine Arts** sets the animal loose at the Fair, also capturing the audience's attention with works by the graffiti artist Mr. Brainwash.

Silvano Rubino's photo work *Gabbia* (2000/2001), a fine art Giclée print on Silver Rag baryta paper mounted on a Dibond panel, shows a birdcage which is reflected, and lost, in its black surroundings.

### **Austrian contemporary art of all kinds**

The fascinating thing about contemporary art and young artists is that there is so much to discover. One example is the program of the **Gallery Aa Collections**, which was originally founded as a collection of European 20<sup>th</sup>-century paintings, but has focused on contemporary art for the past five years. A work by Genoveva Kriechbaum is a perfect example. The artist, the daughter of Austrian diplomats who grew up in many places around the world, has followed the construction of the Abu Dhabi Oil Pipeline since 2008. One of the results is *Top of an oil tank – Constructing the UAE* (2009-2011), a photograph on translucent acrylic measuring 120 x 90 cm.

For more than 20 years, **Galerie3** has been one of the most important addresses for contemporary art in Carinthia and beyond. Together with **flux23**, the focus is on support for young Austrian art and international Art Brut. At the Leopold Museum, they show works by Maria Legat. Born in Villach in 1980, the artist lives and works in Vienna, where she studies at the Academy of Fine Arts with Ashley Hans Scheirl and Daniel Richter.

Austrian and contemporary is also the motto at **Galerie Frey**: examples include Harald Gangl with his fascinatingly subtle color fields and Herbert Golser's wooden sculptures, which undergo a lengthy process of humidifying and drying in order to achieve their final appearance.

Ulrike Jakob and her **Galerie Ulrike Hrobsky** offer a current cross-section of her program: paintings by Maria Temnitschka and Ulrich Plieschnig, sculptures by Armin Göhringer, as well as drawings – a medium that is Jakobs' special passion – by Ramona Schnekenburger, Soli Kiani, Bettina Paschke and Martina Tscherni. Walter Weer's cardboard objects act as a link between works on paper and sculpture.

**Antiquitäten und Bildergalerie Anton Figl**, on the other hand, is all about one concentrated single

position at this **ART VIENNA** edition. For over a decade, the gallery has represented the painter Josef Winkler. Born in 1925 in Vienna, Winkler had the calling to be a painter only late in life, although he began studying with Dobrowsky and Boeckl at the Vienna Academy in 1946. Starting this past year, Bildergalerie Figl has represented him exclusively, dedicating its entire booth to this intriguing and fascinating protagonist of abstract painting.

### **Mavericks and group dynamics**

One great international artist is on view at **Galerie Kaiblinger**, where Gottfried Helnwein has his Mickey Mouse grin realistically and sinisterly from the painting *Annunciation – Mouse 12* (2010, 200 x 295.5 cm). This is only one highlight among Kaiblinger's offerings, which range from Informel to abstraction to realism, featuring artists such as Friedensreich Hundertwasser, Maria Lassnig, Arnulf Rainer, Hermann Nitsch, Markus Prachensky, Hans Staudacher and many others.

**Kro Art Contemporary** focuses on the poignant, the unexpected and the unusual. One example is the combination of works by Ina Loitzl and Robert Mittringer with a piece by Elfriede Mejchar from her series *Püppi* (1999, baryta paper, 50.5 x 40.5 cm).

Both **OSME Gallery** and **Galerie Jünger** return to individual positions. **OSME Gallery** focuses entirely on the internationally renowned Swiss artist Nives Widauer. Her landscapes with lunar shadows are captured with an analogue camera and not digitally edited. They show a natural phenomenon which cannot be perceived by the unaided eye, engendering an atmosphere which seems equally eerie, mysterious and romantic.

**Galerie Jünger** shows Rudolf Goessl, to whom the Viennese museum 21er Haus dedicated an individual show only last year. The works exhibited are all from the 1970s, when the artist began to develop his special brand of contemplative color field painting. At the time, he was the only artist of his generation to take up the results of the American "Color Field Painting" movement, making him one of the most important Austrian proponents of a non-gestural, abstract form of painting.

For the finale, we return again to the young generation, thanks to **PARALLEL Vienna**, an exhibition platform and curated satellite fair for established and young Austrian artists.

PARALLEL's pop-up exhibition *PARALLEL Empfehlung (PARALLEL Recommendations)* features selected works by Sophie Gogl, Martin Grandits, Begi Guggenheim, Katherina Olschbaur, Rade Petrasevic, Christian Rosa, Alexander Ruthner and Nino Sakandelidze, i.e. important younger protagonists of Vienna's contemporary art scene. Anticipation is running high!

## **FACTS AND FIGURES**

### **ART VIENNA 2017**

International Art Fair

23-26 February 2017

Leopold Museum im MuseumsQuartier, Museumsplatz 1, A-1070 Wien

Opening hours:

23 February 2017, 11 am - 9 pm

24-26 February 2017, 11 am - 7 pm

[www.artvienna.org](http://www.artvienna.org)

### **Ticket prices**

Museum ticket entitles to free admission to the fair 13.00 EUR

further ticket prices --> [www.leopoldmuseum.org](http://www.leopoldmuseum.org)

### **Kinderatelier**

Saturday, 25 and Sunday, 26 February 2017, 2-5 pm Guided tour and workshop Children between 6 and 12 years old; Register at [kunstvermittlung@leopoldmuseum.org](mailto:kunstvermittlung@leopoldmuseum.org)

Price per child: 4.50 EUR

### **Pressekontakt**

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### **Hauptpartner**

UNIQA Versicherungen AG Kunstversicherung, Wien

## EXHIBITORS

GALERIE 2CFORART	Salzburg
AA COLLECTIONS	Wien
GALERIE ALESSANDRO CASCIARO	Bozen
GALERIE ROBERT DREES	Hannover
ANTIQUITÄTEN UND BILDERGALERIE ANTON FIGL	St. Pölten
FIVE PLUS ART GALLERY	Wien
GALERIE3 / FLUX23	Klagenfurt
ANTIQUITÄTEN KUNSTHANDEL FRELLER	Linz
GALERIE FREY	Wien
KUNSTHANDEL GIESE & SCHWEIGER	Wien
GERALD HARTINGER FINE ARTS	Wien
KUNSTHANDEL HIEKE	Wien
GALERIE ERNST HILGER	Wien
GALERIE ULRIKE HROBSKY	Wien
GALERIE JÜNGER	Wien
KAIBLINGER - GALERIE & KUNSTHANDEL	Wien
KOLHAMMER & MAHRINGER FINE ARTS	Wien
KONZETT GALLERY	Wien
KRO ART CONTEMPORARY	Wien
KÚN KELEMEN FINE ARTS	Bratislava
GALERIE 422 MARGUND LÖSSL	Gmunden
GALERIE MAGNET	Wien/Völkermarkt
GALERIE MARTIN MERTENS	Berlin
OSME GALLERY	Wien
OTHER CRITERIA	London
PANARTE / GALERIE LEONHARD	Wien
PARALLEL VIENNA	Wien
REINISCH CONTEMPORARY GRAZ	Graz
SCHÜTZ FINE ART& SCHÜTZ FINE ART - CHINESE DEPARTMENT	Wien
GALERIE FLORIAN SUNDHEIMER	München
GALERIE ELISABETH & KLAUS THOMAN	Innsbruck/Wien
GALERIE WALKER	Weizelsdorf
GALERIE WEIHERGUT	Salzburg
ZS ART GALERIE	Wien