

Press Release

SPACE FOR KIDS Footprints in a Sea of Data

An exhibition of Kunsthalle Wien in the context
of Vienna Biennale for Change 2021

Exhibition Venue

Kunsthalle Wien Karlsplatz
Treitlstraße 2, 1040 Vienna

Exhibition Dates

June 10–June 27, 2021

Opening Hours

Tue–Sun 11 a.m.–7 p.m., Thu 11 a.m.–9 p.m.

Space for Kids is a continuously evolving and interactive exhibition format that aims to meet the needs and perspectives of children, while also offering adults a fascinating and participatory frame of reference. For its fourth edition, Kunsthalle Wien Karlsplatz is transformed into an artistic research laboratory. Visitors to the exhibition can playfully discover new perspectives on our environment in different workshops based on various artistic methods together with the invited artists from **The Golden Pixel Cooperative**.

The participatory exhibition project *Footprints in a Sea of Data* commences with images of landscapes. We are constantly surrounded by photos of different environments: depictions of crystal-clear lakes, images of dunes, or even snapshots of traffic congested streets wander across our screens day after day. But where do these images live, and where are they stored? How do they reach us? What is their ecological footprint? A setting that interweaves analog and digital media provides a platform for the joint artistic and discursive development of designs for a more ecological future. Visitors are invited to get to the bottom of these issues in an interactive installation.

Space for Kids, a hands-on format developed by Kunsthalle Wien's art education team in 2018, presents itself as a prototype of a new exhibition practice that takes the needs and ideas of children and young people as the starting point of its approach. Spaces that are normally assigned to "adult" art are opened up and transformed into artistic experimental laboratories situated at the interface of artistic, curatorial, and educational projects. The works on display act as inspiration and reference points based on which visitors can inscribe themselves into the existing structure. The equal treatment of artworks, artifacts, and ideas at the heart of the exhibition ensures that visitors, regardless of age, gender, and background, will have a stimulating time during their stay. The presented works of art are placed in a context that is

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equally understandable for young and adult people. This concern called for the development of a non-closed exhibition for *Footprints in a Sea of Data*: a space that allows and facilitates change to be able to work on the potentials of the human imagination regarding central issues such as climate justice or democratic participation in cultural discourse.

For this year's fourth edition of *Space for Kids*, **The Golden Pixel Cooperative** was invited to create an exhibition together with Kunsthalle Wien's art education team. Founded in 2015 in Vienna, the collective collaboratively and associatively conceives formats that turn exhibitions and film screenings into social and aesthetic production spaces for a broad and diverse public.

Footprints in a Sea of Data is an exhibition project that employs digital technologies to explore and view environments. Considering the subject, **The Golden Pixel Cooperative** develops an installation display linking the individual works like episodes. In her contribution to the exhibition, **Simona Obholzer** questions the "authenticity" and emotional content of pictorially reproduced natural events. **Enar de Dios Rodríguez** looks into artificially made landscapes, fathoming man's insatiable hunger for sand, the (after water) most mined natural resource on our planet. **Lisa Truttmann** examines radio signals and shows how technologies inscribe themselves into every corner of our nature, while **Marlies Pöschl** focuses on plants as data storage devices. In reference to Erich Kästner's *The Animals' Conference* and Donna Haraway's *Staying with the Trouble* (a plea for co-becoming), **Nathalie Koger** involves children to study the encroachments of the human species on the habitat of other living beings, thus threatening their existence. And **Katharina Swoboda** brings back "e-animals" roaming about the internet into the real exhibition space.

Space for Kids. Footprints in a Sea of Data promotes participation in the field of art and presents contemporary artistic positions that provide both children and adults with impulses for critical engagement. It is also intended as a prologue to the exhibition *The Art-Nature Lab or the Mushrooming Cabinet of Wonders*, which will follow in 2022 and explore the ecology of cities.

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Space for Kids. Footprints in a Sea of Data is a project of Kunsthalle Wien's art education team in collaboration with The Golden Pixel Cooperative – an association for moving images, arts and media, active within both exhibition and cinema contexts. It supports anti-racist, queer-feminist, documentary, and essayistic works and their authors.

Artists:

Members of The Golden Pixel Cooperative – Enar de Dios Rodríguez, Nathalie Koger, Marlies Pöschl, Simona Obholzer, Katharina Swoboda, and Lisa Truttmann

Curators:

Kunsthalle Wien's art education team – Wolfgang Brunner, Michaela Schmidlechner, Michael Simku, and Martin Walkner

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Vienna, 27 May 2021

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