

Press Release

MAK Annual Program 2021 Defined by CLIMATE CARE and Viennese Modernism

VIENNA BIENNALE FOR CHANGE, *WOMEN ARTISTS OF THE WIENER WERKSTÄTTE*, and *JOSEF HOFFMANN: Progress Through Beauty* as Highlights

The MAK's program for 2021 is defined by pioneering projects on Viennese Modernism and the contribution that artists and creatives can make to combat the climate and environmental crisis. In the context of the fourth edition of the MAK-initiated VIENNA BIENNALE FOR CHANGE, five exhibitions shown at the MAK react to the stimulating motto *PLANET LOVE. Climate Care in the Digital Age*. At its center is a new mindset called, in the fullest sense, CLIMATE CARE, which is intended to serve as a guiding principle for the ecologically and socially sustainable further development of Digital Modernity. As such, the MAK's multidisciplinary main contribution to the Biennale—the exhibition *CLIMATE CARE: Reimagining Shared Planetary Futures*—demonstrates approaches for implementing a radical civilizational change. CLIMATE CARE is also the focus of Austria's contribution to the London Design Biennale, which was commissioned by the MAK and developed and designed by Process Studio: *TOKENS FOR CLIMATE CARE*. With the major exhibitions *WOMEN ARTISTS OF THE WIENER WERKSTÄTTE* and *JOSEF HOFFMANN: Progress Through Beauty*, as well as the permanent dedication of an exhibition space to topics related to the Wiener Werkstätte, the MAK is also committed to continuing its systematic re-analysis of Viennese Modernism.

“The MAK's program for 2021 shows the visionary potential of applied and fine art—from the still tangible inspirational force of Viennese Modernism to CLIMATE CARE as the main task of the 21st century. We are looking forward to a vibrant year at the MAK in 2021 and hope to get our visitors enthusiastic about these key issues,” according to Christoph Thun-Hohenstein, General Director and Artistic Director, and Teresa Mitterlehner-Marchesani, Managing Director of the MAK.

VIENNA BIENNALE FOR CHANGE 2021

Realized for the fourth time by the MAK, the University of Applied Arts Vienna, the Kunsthalle Wien, the Architekturzentrum Wien, and the Vienna Business Agency, as well as the KUNST HAUS WIEN as a new partner and the AIT Austrian Institute of Technology as a non-university research partner, the **VIENNA BIENNALE FOR CHANGE 2021: *PLANET LOVE. Climate Care in the Digital Age*** (28 May – 3 October 2021)

demands that all sociopolitical forces take resolute action to sustainably address the massive challenge of our age: CLIMATE CARE.

The MAK's main contribution to the Biennale is the exhibition **CLIMATE CARE: Reimagining Shared Planetary Futures** (MAK Exhibition Hall, ground floor). Based on the idea that Planet Love is not an one-way street, but that the Earth is capable of loving us back in many different ways, the exhibition explores a range of encouraging approaches for achieving radical civilizational change: a Great Transformation of society, economy, and politics, inspired by multifaceted contributions from design, arts, architecture, urbanism, technology, as well as social and cultural initiatives. Here, shaping our environment and our climate is understood as a vital contribution to a new "climate society." In the context of this exhibition, an immersive installation by **Superflux** transports visitors to a more-than-human vision of a post-anthropocentric future (MAK Exhibition Hall, ground floor, central hall). This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under grant agreement no. 870759.

What and where we will eat in the future is the focus of the Biennale project **EAT LOVE: Tomorrow's Food and Food Spaces** (MAK Exhibition Hall, ground floor, and other venues in Vienna), a joint project by the Vienna Business Agency and the MAK.

The exhibition **FOSTER: The Soil and Water Residency** (MAK DESIGN LAB, central room) presents new works by the artists who took part in the project initiated by the artist Angelika Loderer during the coronavirus crisis in a self-harvest garden in Vienna. The garden is a symbol of a "real utopia," a fragile ecosystem whose paradisiacal condition must be hard fought for.

In **CLIMATE PANDEMICS** (CREATIVE CLIMATE CARE GALLERY), fine artists explore the possible impact of the climate crisis and pandemic outbreaks from the perspective of science fiction ("climate fiction").

OTHER PROJECTS ON CLIMATE CARE

In addition to the exhibitions in the context of the VIENNA BIENNALE FOR CHANGE 2021, the MAK is also exploring CLIMATE CARE in other projects:

For the exhibition **ANDREAS DUSCHA: SKY GLOW** (CREATIVE CLIMATE CARE GALLERY, 10 February – 28 March 2021) displayed in the context of *FOTO WIEN 2021: Rethinking Nature / Rethinking Landscape*, the artist Andreas Duscha explores the phenomenon of light pollution and the disappearing night sky. Nocturnal darkness is increasingly being viewed as a natural and cultural asset that is worth protecting for its

great significance for many species' way of life.

The project ***Breathe Earth Collective: Climate Culture***, initiated by the transdisciplinary Breathe Earth Collective, will open in Graz in 2021 as a prototype for cooling the city. The forest pavilion creates a multisensory space of experience and functions as an agora with a diverse program on discourse and climate culture. In parallel, concrete climate culture visions will be presented at the MAK (CREATIVE CLIMATE CARE GALLERY, 14 April – 2 May 2021), thus building a bridge to Graz.

LONDON DESIGN BIENNALE

The MAK is responsible for **Austria's contribution to the London Design Biennale Resonance** (Somerset House, London, UK, Room 28, 2 – 27 June 2021). Commissioned by the MAK and developed and designed by Process Studio, the contribution ***TOKENS FOR CLIMATE CARE*** concentrates on climate care, which can be set in motion by the transformative potential of design in combination with artificial intelligence. Using AI-based technology and a database of logos, symbols, and glyphs, new graphic symbols emerge. These “Tokens for Climate Care” will be presented in a laser installation, also in the MAK FORUM in the fall (20 October – 21 November 2021).

VIENNESE MODERNISM (“VIENNA AROUND 1900”)

As a competence center for Viennese Modernism, the MAK will again be shining a spotlight on the attempts at reform in art, design, and architecture in Viennese Modernism in 2021—also with an eye to the insights that can be gained for the task of designing a 21st-century ecosocial Digital Modernity. Two major exhibitions that had to be postponed by a year due to the Covid-19 pandemic will take center stage:

WOMEN ARTISTS OF THE WIENER WERKSTÄTTE (MAK Exhibition Hall, 21 April – 3 October 2021) directs visitors' attention to the hitherto underappreciated women designers who significantly broadened the Wiener Werkstätte's creative spectrum. The accomplishments of the male artists of the Wiener Werkstätte (WW, 1903–1932)—principally Josef Hoffmann, Koloman Moser, and Dagobert Peche—enjoy global fame. In contrast, the women artists of the WW have met with only sporadic interest to date. Gudrun Baudisch, Vally Wieselthier, and Mathilde Flögl are well known. But who were Martha Alber, Karoline Fink, and Paula Lustig? Over 600 exhibits provide an insight into the almost unknown and at times radical work of women designers in Vienna between 1900 and 1930, which helped to establish the WW's prominent position between Art Nouveau and Bauhaus.

With the exhibition ***JOSEF HOFFMANN: Progress Through Beauty*** (cooperation partner: University of Applied Arts Vienna, MAK Exhibition Hall, 15 December 2021 – 19

June 2022), the MAK is hosting the most comprehensive retrospective ever realized on the complete works of the architect, designer, professor, exhibition organizer, and co-founder of the Wiener Werkstätte Josef Hoffmann (1870–1956). Hoffmann focused on aesthetics and beauty as the central parameters of modern design. The exhibition revisits every facet of the almost 60-year creative output produced by this influential global pioneer in architecture and design around 1900 and enriches the systematic research into and dissemination of his legacy.

From 2021 the visibility of the Wiener Werkstätte, whose archive is preserved at the MAK, is being increased with the **SHOWROOM WIENER WERKSTÄTTE**: the room above the Permanent Collection Vienna 1900 will shine a spotlight on the famous WW with temporary presentations. In the first exhibition, **A Dialogue with Michael Anastassiades** (SHOWROOM WIENER WERKSTÄTTE, 6 October 2021 – 27 August 2023), the renowned designer investigates the early period of the WW. For this dialogue, the MAK is being supported with loans from the high-quality collection of Ernst Ploil.

TEACHING KLIMT: Studies at the School of Arts and Crafts (MAK DESIGN LAB, central room, 3 November 2021 – 13 March 2022) concentrates on Klimt's studies at the Vienna School of Arts and Crafts, which were of fundamental importance for him and his later creative work. One of his professors, Ferdinand Laufberger, whom Klimt revered throughout his life, takes center stage. The impact of Klimt's time at the School of Arts and Crafts on his entire oeuvre will be demonstrated here by the MAK's rich artistic holdings, with many items being displayed for the first time.

The presentation **FOCUS ON COLLECTING 8: Objects from the André Marcus Collection** (MAK FORUM, 6 September – 10 October 2021) completes the 2021 program on Viennese Modernism. The Prague-based art collector André Marcus bequeathed a series of important objects to the MAK, including decorative-art objects by Otto Wagner, Josef Hoffmann, and the Wiener Werkstätte. The display will feature a selection from this donation with a focus on applied arts from Vienna around 1900.

FINE AND APPLIED ART

The exhibition **SIGN LANGUAGE: Antunes | Bayrle | Brătescu | Castoro | Pichler** (MAK DESIGN LAB, central room, 10 February – 25 April 2021) explores the media of language in fine art that probe a sociopolitical sphere of action. The drawings, sculptures, and installations on display by the internationally renowned artists Leonor Antunes, Thomas Bayrle, Geta Brătescu, Rosemarie Castoro, and Walter Pichler were acquired by the Austrian Ludwig Foundation and given to the MAK as permanent loans.

ALFREDO JAAR: Red Vienna (MAK Permanent Collection Contemporary Art, 9

June – 5 September 2021) shows photographic work on Red Vienna by the artist Alfredo Jaar (born in Santiago de Chile in 1956). Using intensive colors, he visualizes the sociopolitical and urban planning developments by the City of Vienna during the interwar period up to the putsch by the Austrofascists in 1934, which continue to shape the cityscape even today.

To mark the 80th birthday of the Austrian ceramicist **FRANZ JOSEF ALTENBURG** and his receipt of the Austrian State Prize, the MAK is hosting a monographic show—jointly developed with the artist—in the MAK FORUM (17 March – 11 April 2021). During his five-decade career Altenburg, to whom the MAK already dedicated the 2001 exhibition *ELEMENTS OBJECTS: Ceramics by Franz Josef Altenburg*, left his mark on Austrian ceramics.

MAK IN COOPERATION

In 2021 the MAK is continuing its cooperation with the association 100 Beste Plakate e. V., focusing for the 16th year in a row on the wealth of creativity and pioneering graphic design in posters with its presentation of the competition **100 BEST POSTERS 20: Germany Austria Switzerland** (MAK Works on Paper Room, 8 December 2021 – 6 March 2022).

MAK BRANCHES

In May 2021 a **documentation room** will be opened in the MAK Branch **Geymüllerschloß**, which will be devoted to the history of the building from its construction as a summer residence in 1808 at the behest of the Viennese banker Johann Jakob Geymüller (1760–1834) to its administration by the MAK.

Erwin Wurm, one of Austria's most famous artists, has developed the exhibition **Ceramic Sculptures** (8 May – 5 December 2021) for the Geymüllerschloß, with which he inserts various narratives into the classical interior of this Biedermeier jewel. With his oeuvre, Wurm (* 1954) adds gesture and performance, scenic image and action, concept and punch line to the spectrum of the sculptural.

The show **15 YEARS OF THE JOSEF HOFFMANN MUSEUM** (Josef Hoffmann Museum, Brtnice, a joint branch of the MAK and the Moravian Gallery in Brno, 5 May to 1 November 2021) revisits the exhibitions of the past 15 years through documents and individual objects that demonstrate the impact of Josef Hoffmann's work on his contemporaries and subsequent generations.

In 2021 the **MAK Center for Art and Architecture**, Los Angeles, will continue its contribution to cultural exchange between Austria and Los Angeles. Contemporary arts

and crafts and design in Denmark is the focus of the exhibition ***AUTONOMOUS DESIGN*** (Schindler House, 1 May – 5 September 2021), realized in collaboration with the Danish Arts Foundation. Likewise in the Schindler House, the Austrian fine artist Florian Pumhösl and the American sculptor Vincent Fecteau meet in a joint exhibition (2 October 2021 – 20 February 2022).

The series **GARAGE EXCHANGE VIENNA – LOS ANGELES** will continue next year with approaches by Benjamin Hirte & Nancy Lupo and Aleksandra Domanović & Jen Liu. In two exhibitions every year, former Austrian Schindler residents present work in the exhibition space on the converted garage roof of the Mackey Apartments in collaboration with L.A.-based artists and architects. The exhibition series is made possible thanks to the Austrian Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport.

Press photos for the MAK Program 2021 are available for download at [MAK.at/en/press](https://www.mak.at/en/press).

Go to [MAK.at/en](https://www.mak.at/en) for up-to-date information.

Detailed information about the MAK Center's program can be found at [MAKcenter.org](https://www.makcenter.org).

MAK Press and PR

Judith Anna Schwarz-Jungmann (Head)

Cäcilia Barani

Sandra Hell-Ghignone

T +43 1 711 36-233, -229, -212

presse@MAK.at, www.MAK.at/en

Vienna, 23 December 2020