

## **ELIGIUS AWARD 2022: Jewelry Art in Austria**

An exhibition of the MAK in cooperation with Kunst im  
Traklhaus, Salzburg

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MAK – Press and  
PR

### **Press Release**

Vienna, 26.7.2022

presse@MAK.at

### **Opening**

Tuesday, 30 August 2022, 7 pm

Free admission from 6 pm

The *ELIGIUS AWARD 2022: Jewelry Art in Austria* exhibition will mark the fifth time that the MAK has partnered with Kunst im Traklhaus, Salzburg, to present the finalists of the “Eligius Award for body jewelry and jewelry objects.” In a condensed showcase at the MAK Forum, visitors can view the works of the ten artists shortlisted by the jury. This year’s winner is Austrian-born, Italy-based artist Lilian Naomi Mattuschka, who impressed the jury with her body sculptures carved from wood. The other shortlisted artists are: Andrea Auer, Andreas Eberharter, Benedikt Fischer, Andrea MAXA Halmschlager, Ulrike Johannsen, Michelle Kraemer, Gerti Machacek, Izabella Petrut, and Konstanze Prechtl.

The Eligius Award was created by the Federal State of Salzburg in 2005 and is presented every three years. It remains Austria’s only award for contemporary jewelry. This year a total of 35 submissions were made and the winning artist received a € 7,000 prize. The jury comprised Christian Hoedl (jewelry artist and curator), Paul Iby (2019 Eligius Award winner), and Anne-Katrin Rossberg (Curator, MAK Metal Collection and Wiener Werkstätte Archive).

Lilian Naomi Mattuschka was announced as the winning artist at the beginning of May during an exhibition of nominees’ work at the Traklhaus. In its announcement, the jury explained its decision to recognize Mattuschka’s carved body sculptures: “We are awarding the Eligius Jewelry Award to Lilian Naomi Mattuschka for her original and unconventional style with considerable potential. Apart from the natural world, her work draws on no obvious influence and thus offers a significant contribution to international jewelry art.”

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Named after the patron saint of goldsmiths, the Eligius Award highlights the important role goldsmithery has historically played in Salzburg. But more than simply acknowledging expert craftsmanship, the prize recognizes innovative approaches to artistic design; ideally, winning artists are accomplished in both. It is neither a lifetime achievement award nor a newcomer prize: The Eligius Award is aimed at artists whose experimental practice has already gained recognition.

The artists nominated for the 2022 Eligius Award cover an impressively wide range of artistic disciplines:

**Andrea Auer**, known for making pieces from electrical cables and Bakelite, takes a much more personal approach to jewelry design here, with works such as a horseradish necklace inspired by old home remedies to combat fever.

**Andreas Eberharter** is the creator behind AND\_i and has already caused a furor globally with his aluminum masks and eye patches.

**Benedikt Fischer** won the Eligius Award in 2013 and so is out of this year's competition. Since 2017 he has been working on his *Pearly Whites* series, featuring quirky shell brooches that may bite.

For her *Anthozoa* series, **Andrea MAXA Halmshlager** frayed fabrics until the pattern disintegrated. She then used the threads to make delicate necklaces and brooches that resemble sea anemones and sea pens.

**Ulrike Johannsen** creates feminist statements, such as the series *Love in the Age of its Technical Simulability*, which features designs based on forms "found" in nature that resemble human genitalia.

**Michelle Kraemer** takes inspiration from clouds, natural phenomena, and the universe. Her jewelry designs made of lacquered ultra-light balsa wood bring the natural world within our grasp.

**Gerti Machacek** molded silicone into stones for her *Skin Stones* series, using the designs to create not only brooches, necklaces, and rings, but wearable sculptures.

Eligius Award winner **Lilian Naomi Mattuschka** goes in search of wood's life force. The links in her chains are carved out of a single piece, with one emerging from the next. In the words of the artist: "Whether as an adornment embracing the body or as a sculpture, chains symbolize both restraint and liberation."

For her series *We Become One*, **Izabella Petrut** designed brooches out of paper, which she dyed and hardened with epoxy resin, creating fragile, transparent shapes that conjure up perfectly captured moments.



**Konstanze Prechtl** describes her style as being characterized by rigid shapes, clear lines, and sharp borders. She uses subtle color combinations and fabrics to imbue each design with poetry.

The exhibition is accompanied by a catalog published by Kunst im Traklhaus, Salzburg.

Press images are available for download at [MAK.at/en/press](https://www.mak.at/en/press).



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Tuesday, 30 August 2022, 7 pm  
Free admission from 6 pm

**Exhibition Venue**

MAK Forum  
MAK, Stubenring 5, 1010 Vienna

**Exhibition Dates**

31 August – 25 September 2022

**Opening Hours**

Tue 10 am–9 pm, Wed to Sun 10 am–6 pm

**Curator**

Anne-Katrin Rossberg, Curator, MAK Metal Collection and Wiener Werkstätte Archive

**MAK Admission**

€ 15, reduced € 12, every Tuesday 6–9 pm: admission € 7  
Free admission for children and teens under 19

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