

RE SILLY ENCE

PROGRAMMPRÄSENTATION 2021

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Re_silly_ence

The neologism re_silly_ence is the motto at Kunstraum Niederoesterreich in 2021. In light of all of the challenges in the past year, resilience has become a word that is on everyone's lips. It describes an individual or a system's ability to deal with crises, that its basic functioning – be it physical health during a lockdown or the resilience of an infrastructural system during flooding – can either withstand crises or be restored in a timely manner. We want technically “smart”, resilient systems, which can temper every form of crisis. But isn't a resilient system merely one that perpetually reproduces itself and is barred from any type of further development? The title re_silly_ence contrasts society's thirst for resilience and indestructibility, which is accompanied by ever more innovations and technological achievements to maintain this system.

This theme runs through our annual programme like a red thread. The group exhibition **Life constantly escapes** (opening on February 25, 2021), which rings in the 2021 programme, investigates the idea of resistant life introduced by theorists of the *Black Radical Tradition*. It subverts the notion of resilience by posing the question of the radical new. The duo exhibition **puzzled** (opening on June 10, 2021) presents the artistic positions of Susanna Flock and Xénia Laffely, which pursue the motif of the predetermined (digital) breaking point. Both artists explore these gaps and fractures on the basis of their respective approaches to digital imagery. The exhibition by the collective The Golden Pixel Cooperative, **Wake Words** (opening on September 30, 2021) concludes the 2021 annual programme with different perspectives on the term “voice recognition”: on the one hand, in the sense of language assistance systems in the Internet of Things; on the other, politically, as vocal recognition in society.

Furthermore, the Kunstraum is throwing its 16th birthday party in 2021. We celebrate this jubilee with a performance series called **Sweet Sixteen**, which consists of three different productions with performances by Fanni Futterknecht, Claudia Lomoschitz, and Elisabeth Bakambamba Tambwe. And like every year, there is our engaged, low-threshold art education programme, including guided tours, workshops, and performances, which takes place both on location in the Kunstraum as well as in online formats.

QUOTE:

“re_silly_ence, the title of the annual programme at Kunstraum Niederoesterreich, refers to a term that has become all the more relevant in these present times, for individuals but also on a collective-systemic level. The orthographic misspelling that slips the word “silly” into resilience should contrast technological “smartness”, which is used time and again to justify the augmentation of systems to increase their resilience – be it in urban planning or smart homes. But when resilience is the set goal, when the familiar rhetoric of “bouncing back” is the order of the day: Aren’t these systems just reproducing themselves? Doesn’t the desired norm of a resilient system prevent fundamental changes of systems altogether? These questions will be explored in our exhibition projects in the year 2021.”

— Katharina Brandl, artistic director of Kunstraum Niederoesterreich

Exhibition Programme

Life constantly escapes

Opening: TH, 25 02 2021, 7:00 pm
Duration: FR, 26 02 2021 – SA, 03 04 2021
Artists: Amiri Baraka, Mei-Mei Berssenbrugge, Sean Bonney, Octavia E. Butler, Luna Ghisetti, James Goodwin, Grant Jonathon / HTMLflowers, Rohini Kapil, Kashif Sharma-Patel & Anuka Ramischwili-Schäfer, Ahya Simone, Bri Williams a.o.
Guest curator: Andrea Popelka

Can we imagine a different world? Can we create it? The exhibition **Life constantly escapes** invites us to rethink our understanding of and relationship to the modern world and to play with the new possibilities that rise to the surface. The world as we know it is a specific historical construct that has evolved over the centuries. Originating in the dominant centres, it has covered life on Earth like a blanket, divided and declared its properties to be traded. At its heart resides a specific white, patriarchal idea of a human, an individual, a subject.

The division of this world, which relates to humans in terms of their use, is present in art as well. Hence, it is natural to assume individual artists, artworks, and viewers. The exhibition **Life constantly escapes** refuses this practice of separation. Inspired by theorists of the *Black Radical Tradition* such as Fred Moten and Denise Ferreira da Silva, guest curator Andrea Popelka brings together artists and poets who deconstruct the modern logic and its violence. Here, artists, art objects, and viewers are not seen as separate from one another – they become one on a sensual level.

puzzled

Opening: TH, 10 06 2021, 7:00 pm
Duration: FR, 11 06 2021 – SA, 31 07 2021
Artists: Susanna Flock & Xénia Laffely
Curator: Katharina Brandl

In the exhibition project **puzzled** the artistic practice of Austrian artist Susanna Flock, who is active, above all, in the medium of video installation, convenes with that of the Montréal-based Swiss artist Xénia Laffely. Laffely works with digital imagery, which she primarily translates into textiles. It will be her first exhibition in Austria. While the subtext of the works of the two artists attests that a clear dividing line between the analogue and digital world does not exist, the transition zones between the analogue and the digital become tangible in this exhibition.

For example, the essayistic video work “I don’t exist yet” by Susanna Flock investigates placeholder objects used in the production of computer generated imagery (CGI). In her new video installation, which will be shown for the first time in the context of this exhibition, Flock focuses on the predetermined breaking points of digital technologies and speculates on the Frankenstein monster of our time: a synthetic copy&paste creature.

Xénia Laffely’s textile art practice links up with Susanna Flock’s explorations of the digital in different ways. For instance, by making digital drawings in Photoshop and printing the individual image layers on fabrics to arrive, in turn, at an “analogue” composition of visual layers, she refers to the “digital” history of the weaving loom, which was already under attack by the machine-breaking forces of the 18th century, while also depicting visual syntheses between previously separated individual entities.

H13 Lower Austria Prize for Performance Presentation and Exhibition

Award ceremony: TH, 02 09 2021, 7:00 pm
Exhibition: FR, 03 09 2021 – SA, 11 09 2021
Curator: Katharina Brandl

In autumn 2021 Kunstraum Niederoesterreich will award the H13 Lower Austria Prize for Performance for the 15th time. The only award in Austria for performance as a medium of the fine arts is announced annually, and the decision is made by an alternating international jury consisting of theorists, artists, and the Kunstraum team. In order to showcase the award-winning performance for a broader audience and reflect the relevance and presentation conditions of young performance art, in 2021 the performance of the award-winning project will again be flanked by a week-long exhibition starting on the evening of the prize presentation. Details about the exhibition are developed in cooperation with the H13 winner during the course of the year.

Wake Words

Opening: TH, 30 09 2021, 7:00 pm
Duration: FR, 01 10 2021 – SA, 27 11 2021
Artists: Iris Blauensteiner, Mirjam Bromundt, Enar de Dios Rodríguez, Nathalie Koger, Luiza Margan, Lydia Nsiah, Olena Newkryta, Simona Obholzer, Bárbara Palomino Ruiz, Christiana Perschon, Marlies Poeschl, Mona Schwitzer, Miae Son, Viktoria Schmid, Katharina Swoboda, Lisa Truttmann, and Agnes Wazola

An exhibition by and with **The Golden Pixel Cooperative**

Conceived by Enar de Dios Rodríguez, Olena Newkryta, and Marlies Poeschl

The departure point for the exhibition is the term “voice recognition”: It refers, on the one hand, to technological systems for language assistance and detection, which are silently creeping into many parts of our everyday lives. On the other, the second part of the formulation – recognition – indicates that this phenomenon already assumes a certain concept of a voice that is to be recognised. What is the basis of this (re)cognition? Which voices are heard, and which not? And isn't there a potential in remaining incognito and acting in a more impervious realm?

The Golden Pixel Cooperative conceives the exhibition as a space in which different scripts run parallel and make the terms “voice recognition” and “opacity” tangible. Accordingly, there is an encoded pattern that reveals the latent tracks behind this show. The exhibition will be accompanied with an audio book that brings together the artists, visitors, the exhibition space, and playback devices in a fictional discussion.

Performance Programme

In 2021 Kunstraum Niederoesterreich celebrates its 16th anniversary. In the spirit of this jubilee, we will launch a performance series called **Sweet Sixteen**, which consists of three different productions. Their thematic focus is experimental, cross-disciplinary formats and projects that deal with contemporary aesthetic and sociopolitical discourses.

Sweet Sixteen Performance Series

Power to the Unspoken (Fanni Futterknecht): April 14–16, 2021 (3 performances)

PARTUS GYNO BITCH TITS (Claudia Lomoschitz): May 12, 2021 (2 performances)

Trans-formation (Elisabeth Bakambamba Tambwe): December 7, 2021

H13 Lower Austria Prize for Performance

Open to a broad thematic spectrum as always, the H13 Lower Austria Prize for Performance will be awarded in 2021 for the 15th time. The presentation of the award-winning performance will take place on September 2, 2021. The aim is to showcase the diversity of performative works by young artists. The H13 serves as a springboard for performers: The list of renowned winners in the last years includes Helena Eribenne, Roberta Lima, Jakob Lena Knebl, Christian Falsnaes, and many others.

Prize presentation: TH, 02 09 2020, 7:00 pm

Exhibition: FR, 03 09 2020 – SA, 11 09 2020

Art Education Programme

In 2021, we will continue to meet different needs in a low-threshold and free-of-charge way with 'Vermittlung á la carte'. In addition to various performance workshops that accompany the exhibitions, there is a fixed workshop program. In the following, some workshops are presented as examples, which show the diversity of our art education.

Burrowing into the Archive (Marlies Surtmann & Olivia Jaques)

Performance Workshop

Since the beginning of 2019 Marlies Surtmann has been conducting research on the possibilities of archiving and passing on knowledge about performance art for future generations on the basis of the Kunstraum Niederoesterreich archive. In two performance workshops headed by Surtmann together with Olivia Jaques the bodies of participants become living archives.

Dates: July 26 and November 2021

Fake Therapy & Political Therapy (Beata Absalon & Matís D'Arc)

Performance Workshop in the framework of **Life constantly escapes**

Fake Therapy and Political Therapy are practices between two people that stimulate and reactivate one's sometimes hidden talents, that heal someone. They are independent of disciplinary origin and reject expertise or any form of knowledge hegemony. Artist Valentina Desideri invented these therapies, which she views as open source and can be applied by practitioners in diverse contexts. Fake Therapy tackles problems on a personal level, whereas Political Therapy deals with structural problems. Neither a solution nor healing are intended. Through playing with the therapeutic institution, the concept of (self-) care is reimaged.

Dates: March 11, 2021, 4 – 7 pm

SÖÖT/ZEYRINGER

Performance workshop, in cooperation with brut all over Vienna

In cooperation with brut Wien in the framework of their programme "brut all over

Vienna”, the artist duo SÖÖT/Zeyringer will develop a special performance workshop for Kunstraum Niederoesterreich based on their piece “More or Less”. Informed by their interest in “degrowth” and as a critique of progress-obsessed growth, SÖÖT/Zeyringer’s contribution focuses on laziness, the refusal of productivity, and the spheres of (self-) care.

Dates: March 19, 2021, 2 – 7 pm

Guerilla Girls Workshops

The GUERILLA GIRLS workshop series at Kunstraum Niederoesterreich provides a special programme for girls to discuss topics running parallel to the exhibitions, such as emancipation and self-determination. In these artistic workshops Guerilla Girls 2021 encourages direct exchange between the girls and the participating artists. This year we will establish a long-term cooperation with three associations in the field of social work for girls and three artists from the field of performance.

Dates: Regularly between February to December 2021

Podcast Im Kunstraum

Initiated in 2019, the podcast continues in 2021, making the contents of the Kunstraum accessible with or without a visit to the place. As an audio guide on site, at home, or on the go, you can listen to background information about our exhibitions, interviews with curators and artists, or discussion rounds at any time.

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Image material: www.kunstraum.net/en/press

Opening hours: Tuesday–Friday, 11:00 am – 7:00 pm, and Saturday 11:00 am – 3:00 pm

Free entrance