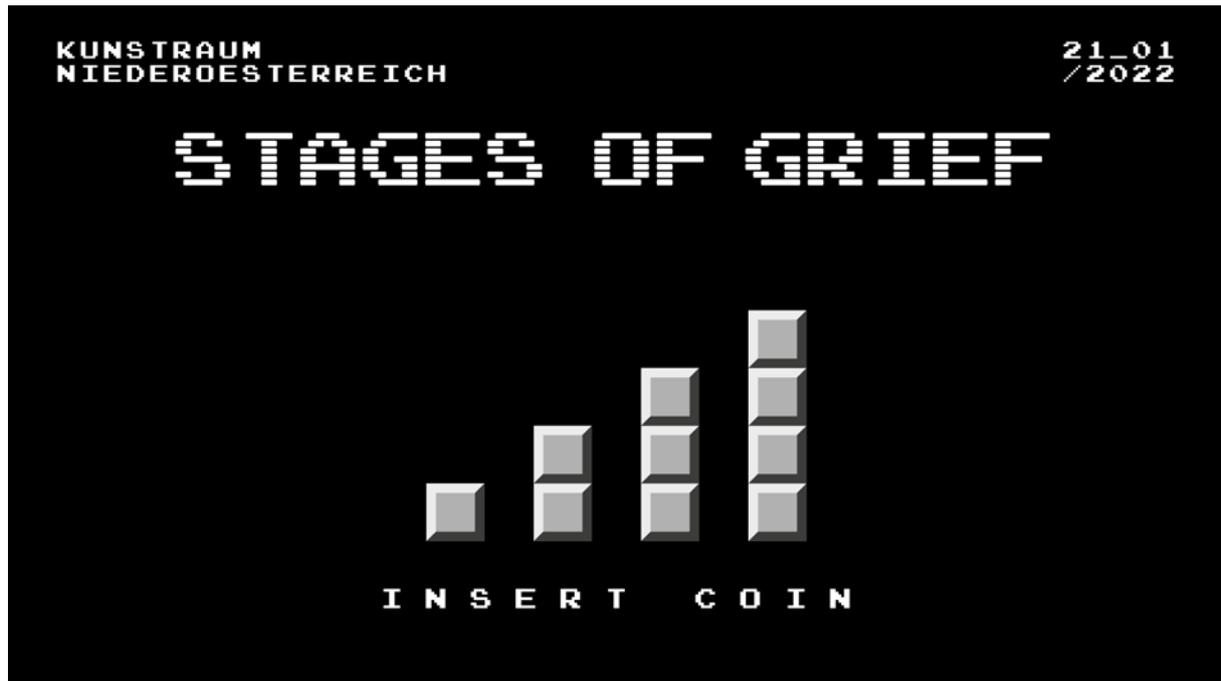


Media Information



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Stages of Grief

Entering the third year of the pandemic, Kunstraum Niederoesterreich strives to mitigate the wounds that the ongoing health crisis has left in all of our lives. Although more time still must pass before we can speak reflectively about the traumatic experiences and changes that the past two years have provoked in our society, it is already worthwhile to take a closer look at how we are dealing with this crisis. Therefore, Kunstraum Niederoesterreich rings in 2022 with *Stages of Grief*.

The exhibition programme opens in spring 2022 with the show *Oh, make your fingernails into spades, Your palms into shovels* (opening on March 31, 2022). Not so much individual grief, but collective practices of mourning inform the first institutional solo show in Austria of the Polish-Lithuanian duo Dorota Gawędas and Eglė Kulbokaitė. In their multilayered references to Slavic-Baltic traditions, the artists open gates between the living and the dead and invite us to a communal mourning of the great losses of our present times.

Departing from the new digital modes of life and work the pandemic has bestowed – or loaded upon – us, the following exhibition project *LIMINAL SPACE RECORDS* (opening on Jun. 3, 2022) investigates the shifting definition of spatiality in relation to corporeality. For this group exhibition guest curator Frederike Sperling finds inspiration in Legacy Russell's 2020 manifesto *Glitch Feminism*, a much-discussed, intersectionally rooted contribution on the potential of the glitch with regard to emancipatory practices.

September 2022 awaits with the *H13 Lower Austria Prize for Performance 2022*, along with the premiere of the award-winning performance (Sept. 1, 2022). It will be accompanied by a one-week exhibition in the Kunstraum that contextualizes the prize-winner's work and a corresponding publication.

The annual programme of grief work is concluded with *HIIIIIIIT* (opening on Sept. 29, 2022), a duo exhibition by Stefan Panhans and Andrea Winkler. HIIT is the acronym for the fitness trend "high-intensity interval training". The workout regimen promises explosive exercises that efficiently – maximum output in little time – deliver the best results. The exhibition interprets this training as an allegorical negative example of a society, which relegates systemic failures to the inadequacy of the individual. The mantra of this society is self-optimisation and resilience at the same time: albeit, not against but within a brutal system that demands these forms of behaviour from us. Drawing from Stefan Panhans and Andrea Winkler's defiant aesthetic language, which they apply, above all, in collaborative video installation works, the question arises: How can we personally safeguard ourselves against the systemic crises of our times

and what if it becomes a Sisyphus task?

The exhibition *HIIIIIIIT* will be accompanied by a side programme by Austrian artist Sunny Pfalzer, who will hold two performance workshops.

Like every year, the Kunstraum also offers an intensive, low-threshold art mediation programme comprised of guided tours, workshops, and performances. Furthermore, we will catch up on events from the 16th jubilee performance series Sweet Sixteen, which began in 2021 but could not take place as planned due to the lockdowns. This includes the public screening of Fanni Futterknecht's film *Power to the Unspoken* (Jan. 21, 2022), which was shot in Kunstraum Niederoesterreich, and the world premiere of Elisabeth Bakambamba Tambwe's performance *Le Boudoir* (March 17, 2022).

QUOTE

“Following traumatic events – and the abrupt changes in our lives since mid-March 2020 can hardly be described otherwise – individuals and collectives alike have been enduring various stages of grief. Where do we currently stand in our personal but also collective process of surmounting the crisis? Not only in terms of personal, painful losses but also in light of the collective loss of a life we once called the everyday?

In English the word *grief* relates to the personal level, whereas the collective dimension is more often subsumed under *mourning*. With the theme *Stages of Grief*, we place collective as well as personal coping strategies in the spotlight of our annual programme.”

Katharina Brandl,
Kunstraum Niederoesterreich artistic director

Exhibition Programme

Oh, make your fingernails into spades, Your palms into shovels

Opening: TH, 31 03 2022, 7:00 pm
Duration: FR, 01 04 2022 – SA, 14 05 2022
Artists: Dorota Gawęda and Eglė Kulbokaitė
Curator: Katharina Brandl

Long fingernails digging into the ground as spades and palms shovelling earth – these images express direct, unmediated contact between humans and nature, but in Gawęda and Kulbokaitė's practice they also stand for an understanding of relationality that unsettles obvious dichotomies.

Titled *Stages of Grief*, the annual programme of Kunstraum Niederoesterreich 2022 is dedicated to the liminal shape of our present – the collective trauma of the health crisis of recent years is not yet over, but our mourning for all that we have lost is becoming all the more evident. Gawęda and Kulbokaitė's solo exhibition connects to this sentiment, while still maintaining its own aesthetic and theoretical universe.

After meeting during studies at the Royal College of Art in London, Dorota Gawęda and Eglė Kulbokaitė have been working as a duo since 2013. Their multimedia practice – which includes performances, videos, sculptural and installation works, but perfumes, too – draws from extensive historical and theoretical research processes, a high sensitivity towards materials, and intellectual openness. They founded the YOUNG GIRL READING GROUP, a nomadic reading circle, in 2013, received the Swiss Performance Art Award in 2021 along with the Collide Residency Award, which will support their residencies at CERN (Geneva) and at Hangar in Barcelona in 2022.

LIMINAL SPACE RECORDS

Opening: FR, 03 06 2022, 7:00 pm

Duration: SA, 04 06 2022 – SA, 30 07 2022

Artists: Monika Grabuschnigg, Eva Papamargariti, Louise Sparre, Rowdy SS, amongst others

Guest curator: Frederike Sperling

The global health crisis has forced large parts of the world population to experience and define their bodies in relation to indoor spaces. In this context, the digital realm has occasionally afforded new, virtual mobilities and welcome “changes of scenery”. Where the confines of the analogue become banalized by the digital, new poetic in-between spaces emerge, which have been settled and animated by hybrid (post-) identities. They rend conventional, anatomical definitions asunder and call for new, flexible *locationabilities*. The exhibition **LIMINAL SPACE RECORDS** strives to deterritorialize spatiality and thus corporeality, and to explore it as a fluid and flexible formation. It invites Austria-based and international artists to performatively appropriate Kunstraum Niederoesterreich as a symbol of “spatial heaviness”.

Guest curator **Frederike Sperling** is a curator and author. In her practice she primarily deals with topics like relationality and corporeality, while investigating, in particular, the potential of performance and presence for deviant socialities. In addition to independent projects such as *love and other rhythms* (Kunsthalle Exnergasse) and *Star(s) Speak* (VBKÖ Austrian Association of Women Artists), she has been guiding the programme at das weisse haus in Vienna since September 2021.

H13 Lower Austria Prize for Performance Presentation and Exhibition

Award ceremony: TH, 01 09 2022, 7:00 pm

Exhibition: FR, 02 09 2022 – SA, 10 09 2022

Curator: Katharina Brandl

In autumn 2022 Kunstraum Niederoesterreich will award the H13 Lower Austria Prize for Performance for the 16th time. The only award in Austria for performance as a medium of the fine arts is announced annually. The aim is to showcase the relevance of young performance art for a broader audience and to reflect on the conditions of its presentation. In addition to the award evening when the winning performance is celebrated with its world premiere, the Kunstraum organizes an exhibition by the artist as well as an accompanying publication. Details about the exhibition will be developed in cooperation with the H13 winner. The call for proposals starts on February 16, 2022, the deadline for submissions is April 15, 2022.

HIIT

Opening: TH, 29 09 2022, 7:00 pm
Duration: FR, 30 09 2022 – SA, 26 11 2022
Artists: Stefan Panhans & Andrea Winkler, with an accompanying programme by Sunny Pfalzer
Curator: Katharina Brandl

We are apparently under fire. If it's not the viruses, it's the refugees that turn into effervescent waves in political rhetoric; if it's not the climate change and the looming end of the world, it's the endless cycle of finance market crises. One flirts with building walls, eagerly peeps up the CV under the keyword "lifelong learning", and stows away every last penny – all in the name of personal risk management in the face of systemic failure.

HIIT is the acronym for the fitness trend "high-intensity interval training". With reference to how we all navigate in times of great uncertainty, the exhibition asks: Is it even possible to train so hard, to adapt so well that we can withstand our crisis-ridden present? The exhibition HIIT by Stefan Panhans and Andrea Winkler testifies to the paradigm of social and individual resilience in our present time (including the associated overexertion), mirrored in the modes of its performance by the individual.

Stefan Panhans and Andrea Winkler's artistic paths have intersected time and again: for instance, Winkler outfitted Panhans' videos, thereby influencing his moving images; in turn, Panhans' cinematic gaze affected Winkler's sculptural and installation works. Since 2017 the two artists have increasingly worked in a more pronounced collaboration, resulting in a series of compelling video installations, which will be presented for the first time in a duo exhibition in Vienna alongside other individual works by the artists.

Performance Programme

Sweet Sixteen Performance Series (sequel)

In 2021 Kunstraum Niederoesterreich conceived the performance series **Sweet Sixteen** to celebrate its 16th anniversary, which was to consist of three different productions. The emphasis was placed on experimental, cross-disciplinary formats and projects that deal with contemporary aesthetic and socio-political discourses. For reasons we all know too well, certain projects could not take place as planned and will therefore be performed in the first half of 2022.

Power to the Unspoken (Fanni Futterknecht): Jan. 21, 2022, 7:00 pm (screening of the video shot in the Kunstraum at the beginning of 2021 with a subsequent discussion)

Le Boudoir (Elisabeth Bakambamba Tambwe): March 17, 2022

Digging into the Archive (Marlies Surtmann & Olivia Jaques)

Performance Workshop

The workshop series *Digging into the Archive*, initiated in 2020 by Marlies Surtmann and Olivia Jacques, investigates the essence of past performances in Kunstraum Niederoesterreich on the basis of archived documentation material and relicts. In the process, the bodies of the participants become living archives. The Performatorium dedicates its 2022 edition to a project by SÖÖT/ZEYRINGER, which took place in the Kunstraum in March 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 2022 for the 16th time. The presentation of the award-winning performance will take place on Sept. 1, 2022. With the H13 prize, the Kunstraum aims to showcase the diversity of performative works by young artists. A veritable springboard for performance artists, the list of distinguished H13 winners over the past years includes Robert Lima, Jakob Lena Knebl, Julischka Stengele, and many others. The open call begins on Febr. 16, the submission deadline is Apr. 15, 2022. The award-winner will be announced two weeks thereafter.

Prize presentation: TH, 01 09 2022, 7:00 pm

Exhibition: FR, 02 09 2022 – SA, 10 09 2022

Teen Spirit Self-Defense (Sunny Pfalzer)

Performance Workshops in the framework of the exhibition *HIIIIIIIT*

Building upon her work *Gangs of Performative Activism*, the performance and visual artist Sunny Pfalzer investigates modes of artistic and collective self-defense through textual and performative strategies. In the first workshop in the framework of the exhibition *HIIIIIIIT* Sunny Pfalzer intends to focus on performative research strategies, the power of anger, and a text by Elsa Dorlin together with the participants. The second workshop is centred around embodied, activist strategies and the power of collective bodies.

Art Mediation Programme

In 2022 Kunstraum Niederoesterreich once again offers a multifaceted yet low-threshold, free of charge art mediation programme. Surefire dates are the guided tours and workshops in the framework of the running exhibitions, workshops during the WienXtra holiday programme, and the workshop series on performance art mediation. The following is an example of a workshop that was conceived in the course of the Guerilla Girls workshop series.

Move along! Body extended!

Performance workshop within the framework of wienXtra-ferienspiel

A central theme of the women's movement was and is the use of space. Women still do not move in space as naturally as their male counterparts do. But taking up space has to be learned. In this Guerilla Girls workshop for girls, the entire exhibition space of Kunstraum Niederoesterreich is to be taken up by the participants in order to lengthen, widen and expand their bodies. For this purpose, objects will be built that can extend the bodies and help to claim space. The participants explore how their perception of space, posture and movement changes through the self-built body objects and how they can confidently conquer space.

Dates:

TH 10 02 2022, 3:00 - 5:00 pm

SEITE 10 VON 10

FR 11 02 2022, 3:00 - 5:00 pm

SA 12 02 2022, 3:00 - 5:00 pm

Audio Programme

Podcast: Im Kunstraum

Initiated in 2019, the podcast *Im Kunstraum* continues in 2022, making the contents of the Kunstraum accessible with or without a visit to our space. 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.

Playlists: Kunstraum to go

Kunstraum to go was conceived in 2021 as a companion for lockdown walks, a series of playlists that sets our programme to music. The playlists are compiled by friends and accomplices of the Kunstraum, artists, and curators.

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