

MEDIA INFORMATION

Sara Lanner

Wins the H13 Lower Austria Prize for Performance 2021

Prize-winner: Sara Lanner

Jury: Madeleine Amsler (curator, lecturer, and coordinator of the Swiss Performance Art Award), Katharina Brandl (Kunstraum Niederoesterreich artistic director), Kira Kirsch (artistic director and CEO brut Vienna), and Petra Poelzl (artistic director and managing director Kunstpavillon and Neue Galerie, Innsbruck).

Press talk: TU 31 08 2021, 10:00 am

Performance and

prize presentation: WE 01 09 2021, 7:00 pm

Exhibition: TH 02 09 – SA 11 09 2021

Artist Talk: SA 04 09 2021, 1:00 pm

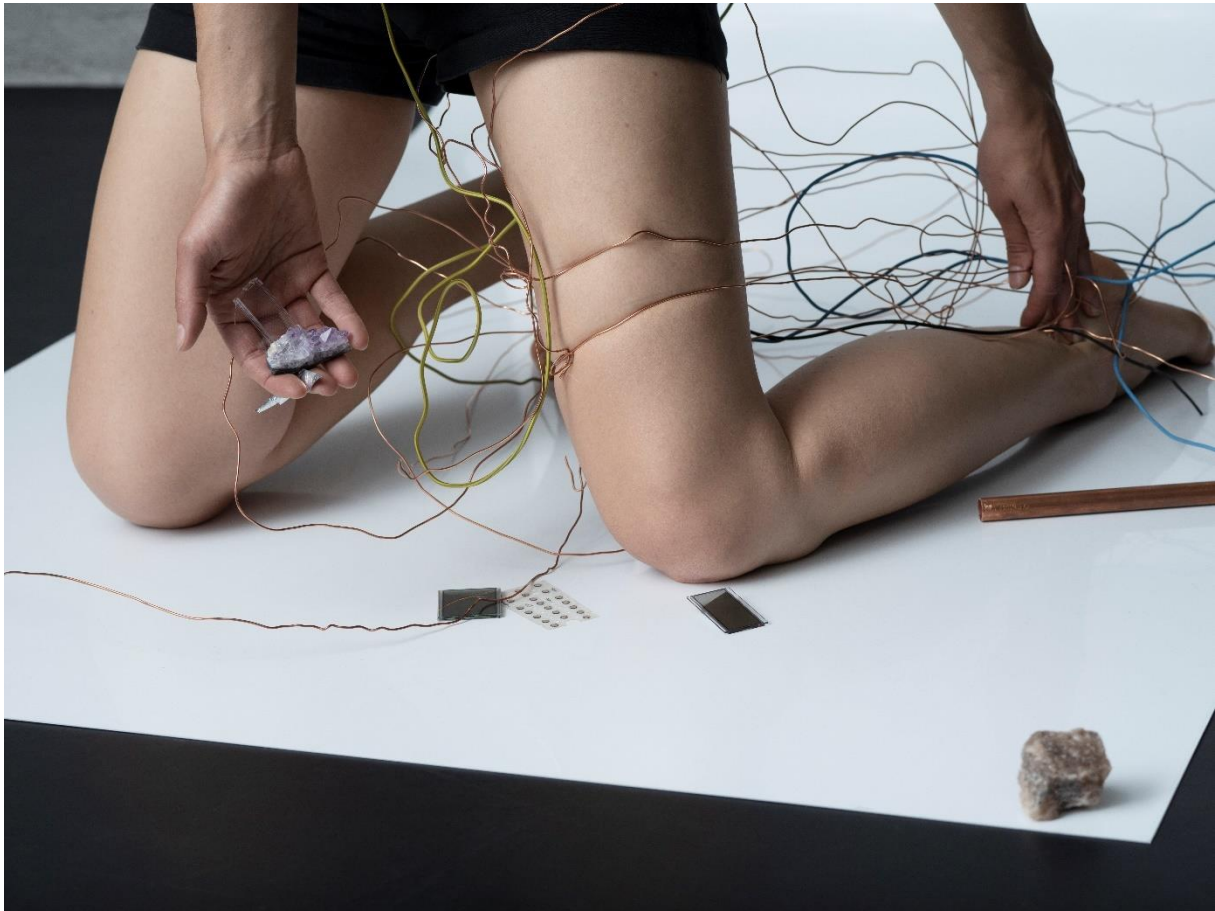
PRESS AND

IMAGE MATERIAL: www.kunstraum.net/en/press

The artist Sara Lanner is this year's winner of the H13 Lower Austria Prize for Performance. She won over the four-member jury around Katharina Brandl with her project MINE. The performance and festive H13 award ceremony will take place on September 1, 2021, at the Kunstraum Niederoesterreich. The accompanying exhibition will be on display from Thursday, September 2 to Saturday, September 11, 2021.

In 2021 the H13 Lower Austria Prize for Performance will be awarded already for the 15th time by the Kunstraum Niederoesterreich. The aim is to draw greater attention to performative works by young artists and make them accessible to an interested audience. Last year the H13 prize money was raised to 5000 EUR for the first time. It is the only award for performance art as a medium of visual arts in Austria.

The winning project



Sara Lanner, *MINE* © Elsa Okazaki

MINE is a performance project at the interface between choreography and fine arts, which deals with the topic of mining and its global sociopolitical impacts. In the work “mining” is conceived in both a literal and metaphorical sense: on one hand, as a process to extract natural resources; on the other, as the momentum that induces thoughts and memories. *MINE* is an exhibition and a performance, choreography and a sociological study at once. It confronts the audience with the cycle of contemporary extraction processes, while questioning Western society as the end user of a culture intended to serve progress. The project tells of the wasteful use, the devastation and appropriation of ecological diversity, and tackles the violent human-made transformations of the Earth’s surface for the exploitation of natural resources. In cooperation with a second performer, Costas Kekis, Sara Lanner takes her investigations into acts of extraction, digging, and redeployment to an interpersonal level: How can information be extracted from one body to another without being invasive? Which reciprocal dependencies emerge? Hence, the practice of mining becomes the nexus of the work, a convergence point of diverse societal traits: value creation, ethics, and power.

Jury statement

“Sara Lanner’s project *MINE* delves into fundamental questions about our relation to the world. The word ‘mining’ is frequently used in everyday language: Data mining means to source information, cryptocurrencies need to be mined, and not least, in our relationship with our organic and anorganic environment, we mine, excavate, or extract resources. But to what extent are these exploitation processes one-way streets, pure extractivism with drastic consequences for our environment? Can mining also occur from body to body, in a mutual exchange? Sara Lanner’s performance, which will be presented to the public for the first time at the Kunstraum Niederoesterreich on September 1, 2021, appropriates diverse – and presently highly topical – notions of mining, both metaphorically and in concrete material studies. With a background at the interface between performing and visual arts, Lanner’s practice pairs profound knowledge of choreography with a pronounced sensitivity for the representational conventions of visual art, which makes her the ideal candidate to win the 2021 H13 Lower Austria Prize for Performance.”

The artist

Sara Lanner is a choreographer, dancer, and visual artist. Her performances take place in exhibition settings, on stage, and in various interdisciplinary and public spaces. She synthesises diverse performative and choreographic techniques in her attempts to expand the fields of fine arts and contemporary dance in equal measure. In 2020 she was awarded the audience prize in the framework of the “Talentebörse”, a support project by the Austrian radio station Ö1 showcased at Leopold Museum Vienna, where she presented her winning performance *Mother Tongue*. The performance *Volume* (with Jasmin Hoffer and Liv Schellander, 2019) and the solo performance *Guess What* (2018) could be seen at Imagetanz Festival at brut Vienna. In 2021 Sara Lanner participated in Fanni Futterknecht’s performance project *Power to the Unspoken_Echoes of Resistance*, which was featured in the Kunstraum Niederoesterreich’s anniversary series *Sweet Sixteen*.

Sara Lanner studied contemporary dance and dance pedagogy at Anton Bruckner Private University in Linz as well as fine arts and performative arts at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna. Aside from her work as a performance artist, she teaches and leads workshops on contemporary dance, partnering, modern dance, choreography, and composition. Between 2015 and 2018 she was also an invited tutor at the Medical University of Vienna for an interdisciplinary course on anamnesis talks with patients. She is currently studying at the Institute for Art Theory and Cultural Studies at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna.

Sara Lanner, *1991 in Hallein (AT), lives and works in Vienna.

Press contact:

Marina Ninić, marina.ninic@kunstraum.net, +43 664 60 499 194

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