

HALLE FÜR KUNST Steiermark

Burgring 2, 8010 Graz (AT)

Launching 22 April 2021 in Graz, Austria

On April 22, 2021, the Künstlerhaus, Halle für Kunst & Medien will open its doors as the newly transformed HALLE FÜR KUNST Steiermark.



HALLE FÜR KUNST Steiermark



MK, Peter Eder, FONDAZIONE Europa

Lead by artistic director Sandro Droschl, the institution will place a new international focus on contemporary art and multidisciplinary practices. Complementing its existing reputation for outstanding regional production, this new direction will open further visual spaces and alternative conceptual spaces to represent HALLE FÜR KUNST Steiermark's strong and progressive cultural commitment and contribution to a common Europe.

“Art should be a language everyone can understand. A language which creates the new, describes the unfamiliar, and undermines habitual connections. At the heart of the institution's values is the intense desire to initiate critical discourse and public debate, and foster openness in communication, curiosity, and discovery. This commitment to openness is also reflected in the decision to offer free admission to all, and thanks to increased cooperation with international players, the HALLE FÜR KUNST Steiermark is now a beacon that shines beyond Austria's borders.” – Artistic Director, Sandro Droschl

The Inaugural Exhibition

The HALLE FÜR KUNST Steiermark will launch with an extensive thematic group exhibition curated by Sandro Droschl, titled, *Europe: Ancient Future* (April 23 – August 15, 2021). The exhibition will present a wealth of artistic ideas about a common Europe and go beyond the usual practical constraints. The project represents a Europe without the restraints of the nation-state and populism, and searches for new response to an “ancient” and yet astonishingly topical past that could define our future notions of modernity.

The Exhibition Program

Experimenting with art as a medium to understand a fiercely debated and fragile present day, HALLE FÜR KUNST Steiermark's exhibition program will engage with today's complex and

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Kunstverein Medienturm in der „HALLE FÜR KUNST Steiermark“, Burgring 2, 8010 Graz, Austria, ZVR: 542738445

challenging global issues and impositions, in order to counter them with a significant, critical, and stimulating response that is open to public discussion.

The institution has appointed Cathrin Mayer as its new curator, who will share responsibility for the exhibition program with artistic director, Sandro Droschl. Mayer studied art history in Vienna from 2018 to 2020 and was (most recently) curator at the KW Institute for Contemporary Art in Berlin.

A series of performances comprising three new production commissions each year will provide an exhilarating series of events to occupy the periods between exhibitions. In 2021 the newly commissioned performative pieces will take on queer perspectives on the history, the resources and diverse population groups and surroundings of Graz.

Each exhibition will be accompanied by a supporting educational program that encourages a broader exchange about art and its socially and culturally relevant themes. In addition, an online magazine with audio, video, and text contributions will extend the program's reach beyond Graz. Another notable extension of the program will be a publication series in collaboration with renowned publishing houses.

The Residency Program

To encourage a lasting dialogue between Graz's local art community and international protagonists, the HALLE FÜR KUNST Steiermark is also introducing a residency program. This program aims to invite artists to Graz for a period of several months to prepare a project for the institution. It will encourage interchange between the resident artist and the diverse local art scene, offering both sides new impulses and inspiration.

The Building and Brand Identity

Several architectural adaptations have also been made to the institution itself. In addition to several changes to its outward appearance, spatial access inside has been improved. The enhanced building boasts a renovated reception area, and a restored floor throughout.

A new brand identity and website for the institution, designed by FONDAZIONE Europa, will launch on February 25, 2021. Creative director of the firm, Alexander Nussbaumer, also works with organisations such as Frieze, Belvedere, and Hatje Cantz, among others. In 2022 FONDAZIONE Europa will design the catalogue for the Austrian Pavilion at the Venice Biennale.

The "branding" efforts of the State of Styria demonstrate a connection to the region and its reputation as a centre of contemporary art, its commitment and its confidence, and its responsibility for progressive and critical presentation and reflection. Federal support from the Austrian government, as well as from the City of Graz, heighten expectations that the institution be forward-looking, ensuring the HALLE FÜR KUNST Steiermark's unquestionable support for contemporary art contribute to a cosmopolitan Europe.

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HALLE FÜR KUNST Steiermark
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Admission is free

halle-fuer-kunst.at/press

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2 / 2