

**PRESS**

## A statement by WHW, directors of Kunsthalle Wien, on the exhibition program 2021

It is in these times when we have been forcibly kept apart that cherishing the value of communal spaces and experiences is all the more important. At Kunsthalle Wien, we remain committed to exploring meaningful ways of coming together, even in difficult circumstances, and placing artists' works and perspectives at the core of this encounter.

In the year behind us, many of our planned activities had to be postponed (including the group exhibition curated by **Miguel A. López** as well as solo exhibitions by **Ana Hoffner ex-Prvulovic\*** and **Belinda Kazeem-Kamiński**). By rescheduling them for 2021 – and not canceling them – we want to assure our audiences that our commitment to all the artists and cultural workers involved in our programs has not changed. If anything, the challenges of 2020 have reinforced our dedication to the artistic and cultural life of the city of Vienna, in all its many aspects, and we continue our mission of offering programs that can, through a plurality of voices, empower and inspire both our audiences and those who produce Kunsthalle Wien's many exhibitions and events.

The current pandemic situation keeps asking us to care, and it provides an opportunity to reconsider how we think about accessibility. Our program for the coming year reflects this, as it is rooted in an approach that, alongside the exhibitions, incorporates various discursive, performative, and educational elements, which offer different ways of being and thinking together.

A strong emphasis is the line of collaborations with local artists, both through extensive solo exhibitions (**Ines Doujak**, **Ana Hoffner ex-Prvulovic\***, **Belinda Kazeem-Kamiński**) and through supporting various formats of artistic research and production. An example of the latter is a new issue of *Crip Magazine*, which artist **Eva Egermann** will produce as part of the continuation of the project *KISS*, an exhibition series in public space initiated last summer.

In light of the reduced mobility experienced around the globe and increasing nationalistic closures, keeping the internationalism of artistic dialogue strong lies at the heart of our efforts. This is demonstrated through solo exhibitions (**Aver Collective**, **Ho Rui An**) as well as through group shows such as the one curated by **Laura Amann** and **Aziza Harmel**, from the Kunsthalle Wien curatorial department, as well as through the group exhibition organized by guest curator **Miguel A. López**, realized in collaboration with Wiener Festwochen.

Our dedication to the role of art in shaping our understanding of the historical dimension of the contemporary moment is further amplified through Kunsthalle Wien's focus on education. In 2021, we will offer multiple programs linked to exhibitions as well as another iteration of *Space for Kids*, curated by our education department.

We will continue to organize the discursive program in experimental and engaging formats, and to ensure it matches the extensive spectrum of issues that the exhibitions open up: ranging from minority perspectives, to the fight against colonial, imperial, and patriarchal violence, to researching new and forgotten knowledges, to ecological urgencies.

We believe that the notion that art can reconnect us to one another is now more powerful than ever, and we look forward to the coming exchanges we will experience this year.

– What, How & for Whom / WHW, February 2021