

PRESS

Curatorial statement

WHW, directors of **kunsthalle wien**, on the exhibition program 2022:

Our exhibition program for 2022 is driven by the conviction that art is not a luxury item for a supposed elite but a communicative space for testing a free society's possibilities of thought and action with artistic means. Given a society that is becoming increasingly complex and at the same time polarizing, art can be a medium for gaining new perspectives and discussing issues that go beyond a specific work of art. With our new program, which we have developed together with the curatorial team of **kunsthalle wien**, we therefore once again focus on art's critical-reflexive potential.

The 2022 program encompasses a range of local and international artistic positions with which we want to tie in with the city of Vienna's historical as well as contemporary cosmopolitan character—for which not least migration and transcultural phenomena constitute significant starting points. Alongside the exhibitions, our program again comprises numerous events, intergenerational educational programs (such as a new edition of our popular interactive format *Space for Kids*), and digital formats, and aims at a broad and diverse public.

In 2022, we will continue our collaboration with local institutions and initiatives such as the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, the University of Applied Arts Vienna, Brunnenpassage, Gemeindebau Wien, and wohnpartner - Gemeinsam für eine gute Nachbarschaft / Wohnservice Wien in the context of exhibitions and selected events. A vivid example of this cooperative approach is the *Kunsthalle Wien Prize*, which we realize together with the two local art academies. The new edition of the corresponding group exhibition in an expanded format will launch our new program in February 2022.

For 2022, we have planned thematic group exhibitions as well as solo presentations of contemporary artists that will continue to lend our institution a unique profile within Vienna's dense art and cultural scenes. **Katrina Daschner**, **Sanja Iveković**, and **Rajkamal Kahlon** will each present their work in solo shows. Like the extensive group exhibitions *Defiant Muses: Delphine Seyrig and the Feminist Video*

Collectives in 1970s and 1980s France and *On Work and Its Absence*, they address feminist, anti-colonial, anti-fascist, and/or ecological discourses. By questioning the familiar (Western) canon of art and pushing its disruption, these artistic positions open up spaces for new voices and visions: making other narratives visible and audible is—as it was in the two previous years—a special concern for us and guides our exhibition program as a common thread.

Another focus of the new exhibition year is the collaboration with prominent, internationally active guest curators: **Nataša Petrešin-Bachelez** and **Giovanna Zapperi** (both from Paris) are responsible for the extensive show on **Delphine Seyrig** and her network of creative and political actors in France after 1968; **Övül Durmuşoğlu** (Istanbul/Berlin) is in charge of the presentation of **Katrina Daschner**; and **Zdenka Badovinac** (Ljubljana) is preparing the first critical retrospective of **Sanja Iveković**, internationally acclaimed pioneer of feminist art and one of the best-known artists from former Yugoslavia, in the region.

With our program for 2022, we see **kunsthalle wien** as a cultural institution that takes a stance on current questions and issues of social policy and as a place of lively debate and dialogue. We look forward to our exchange of ideas and your interest in our program in this spirit.

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