

Kunsthalle Wien

Press release

Kunsthalle Wien Preis 2024

Rawan Almukhtar and Ida Kammerloch

Kunsthalle Wien's Karlsplatz exhibition space reopens with an exhibition by Rawan Almukhtar (b. 1991, Baghdad) and Ida Kammerloch (b. 1991, Izhevsk), recipients of the Kunsthalle Wien Preis 2024. Established initially in 2002, since 2014 it has been organised via a cooperation with Vienna's University of Applied Arts and the Academy of Fine Arts. The award seeks to support emerging artists living and working in Vienna and to promote discourse in contemporary art, bridging a gap between academic study and professional artistic practice. One graduate from each university receives € 3,000 and a joint exhibition at Kunsthalle Wien. The exhibition is accompanied by a new book published in German and English containing interviews with the artists and specially-commissioned essays by Alicja Melzacka and Rijn Sahakian.

Rawan Almukhtar studied Art and Intervention | Concept at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna. His paintings and drawings take inspiration from his experiences as a refugee and activist. Almukhtar sees his practice as a way to create 'a collective moment of witnessing the stories of those who have been overlooked in the West, while also questioning the ways in which such people should be considered.' One of his most personal paintings – EYEWITNESS (2016) – deals with the artist's brother, Mohammad Almukhtar ('Mukhtar'), who was fourteen years old at the time. Raised during the U.S. occupation of Iraq, subsequent civil war (2006–2008), and the war against ISIS (2013–2017), Mukhtar had never known a stable homeland. The artist captures his brother's changing adolescent body facing the uncertain future of a failed state, while remaining unsure of his own future in Austria. The work is part of a series begun in Baghdad, in the year leading up to Almukhtar's departure from Iraq, and finished while he sought asylum in Vienna.

Ida Kammerloch studied TransArts at the University of Applied Arts Vienna. Her recent video essays draw upon footage recorded by her grandfather in post-Soviet Russia in the 1990s. He made extensive recordings of his daily life as a worker in the so-called shuttle trade, where he would buy goods in China to resell them back home. Kammerloch uses her own family history to explore the complex interrelationships between global capitalism and Russian national identity, against the backdrop of architecture and trade. The film ULTRA ALL INCLUSIVE (2024) explores the interior and exterior spaces of a hotel in Antalya (Turkey) that was built as a replica of the Kremlin in Moscow. Navigating the luxurious complex under the guise of a tourist, Kammerloch considers the uncanny nature of the distinctive architecture of a political superpower appropriated for holidaymaking. The video is mounted on an Alu-Dibond print of a scaled-up souvenir that Kammerloch bought at the hotel in the 'Vladimir' events room. The toy draws a parallel between contemporary Russia and the time in which her grandfather sold such items.

Biographies

Rawan Almkhtar (b. 1991, Baghdad) has exhibited his work at fjk3 – Raum für zeitgenössische Kunst, Vienna (2023); Künstlerhaus Vienna; mumok – Museum of moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig Wien, Vienna; WIENWOCHE – festival for art and activism, Vienna; Dschungel, Vienna; WUK – Werkstätten- und Kulturhaus, Vienna (all 2022); Raumschiff, Linz; Brunnenpassage, Vienna (both 2020). His work has been nominated for various awards, including the Belvedere Art Award, Vienna (2023 and 2022); the Exile Visual Arts Award by the Körber-Stiftung, Berlin (2023); and the Ishtar Award for Young Artists from the Iraqi Fine Arts Association, Baghdad (2015). Almkhtar lives and works in Vienna.

Ida Kammerloch (b. 1991, Izhevsk) has presented her work at ok transit, Vienna (2024); Kunsthalle Düsseldorf; Städtische Galerie Neunkirchen (both 2023); Städtische Galerie Hannover; Kunstmuseum Bonn (both 2021); Hilbertraum, Berlin; Stadtgalerie Saarbrücken; and Kubus Bochum (all 2020). She has been awarded various scholarships by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport (BMKÖES); Neustart Kultur (all 2022); DAAD, Moscow (2020); and she was awarded the Peter and Luise Hager Prize (2017) as well as second place in Ö1 Talentstipendium (2024) and participated in the Cité Internationale des Arts Paris residency in 2024. Kammerloch lives and works in Vienna.

The expert juries

The jury of the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna

For the Academy: Veronika Dirnhofer (Professor for Art and Image | Drawing), Johan F.

Hartle (Rector), Iman Issa (Professor for Art and Space | Spatial Strategies)

For Kunsthalle Wien: Michelle Cotton (Artistic Director), Astrid Peterle (Head of Curatorial),

Nicole Suzuki (Publishing)

External juror: Sarah Johanna Theurer (Curator, Haus der Kunst, Munich)

Chair: Johan F. Hartle

Organisation: Christine Rogi

The jury of the University of Applied Arts Vienna

For the University of Applied Arts Vienna: Cosima Rainer (Head of the art collection and archive), Petra Schaper Rinkel (Rector), Bärbel Vischer (Curator, Museum of Applied Arts, Vienna)

For Kunsthalle Wien: Michelle Cotton (Artistic Director), Astrid Peterle (Head of Curatorial),

Nicole Suzuki (Publishing)

External juror: Sarah Johanna Theurer (Curator, Haus der Kunst, Munich)

Chair: Petra Schaper Rinkel

Organisation: Jasmin Vogl

Press images to download

<https://kunsthallewien.at/en/exhibition/kunsthalle-wien-preis-2024/press>

Notes to Editors

Kunsthalle Wien Preis 2024: Rawan Almukhtar and Ida Kammerloch

23 January–20 April 2025

Kunsthalle Wien Karlsplatz

Exhibition opening: 22 January 2025, 7pm

DJ at Café Kunsthalle am Karlsplatz until 10pm: toned deaf

Artist talk: 6 February 2025, 6pm

Kunsthalle Wien Karlsplatz

Rawan Almukhtar and Ida Kammerloch in conversation with Hannah Marynissen, Curator

Kunsthalle Wien Preis 2024

Publication

The exhibition is accompanied by a new book published in German and English by Kunsthalle Wien. Designed by Theresa Hattinger, it is richly illustrated with images of works by Rawan Almukhtar and Ida Kammerloch, containing interviews between the artists and the exhibition curator Hannah Marynissen, as well as specially-commissioned essays by Alicja Melzacka and Rijn Sahakian.

Editor: Hannah Marynissen

Managing Editor: Nicole Suzuki

Texts by: Michelle Cotton, Johan F. Hartle, Hannah Marynissen, Alicja Melzacka, Petra

Schaper Rinkel, Rijn Sahakian

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About Kunsthalle Wien

Kunsthalle Wien is the City of Vienna's primary institution for contemporary art. At its locations in the MuseumsQuartier and on Karlsplatz, it presents an annual programme of exhibitions alongside public and educational programming that seeks to engage diverse publics. We provide a platform for artists, commissioning new works and partnering with individuals and institutions, both local and international, to develop exhibitions and publications based on original research. Kunsthalle Wien is committed to providing an inclusive space for exchange and debate and furthering the discourse on contemporary art in all its forms.

Kunsthalle Wien thanks

Kunsthalle Wien is financed by Magistratsabteilung Kultur der Stadt Wien (MA 7). The artistic programme is also supported by the members and patrons of the Kunsthalle Wien Club. The *Kunsthalle Wien Preis 2024* is realised with the kind and generous support of Kunsttrans and smc Steirer Mika & Comp.

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#KunsthalleWien @KunsthalleWien

Opening Hours

Tuesday–Sunday: 10:00–18:00

Thursday: 10:00–20:00

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