

# Kunsthalle Wien

## Press Release

### Jonida Laçi and Luīze Nežberte receive the Kunsthalle Wien Preis 2025

Jonida Laçi (Academy of Fine Arts Vienna) and Luīze Nežberte (University of Applied Arts Vienna) will hold a joint exhibition at Kunsthalle Wien Karlsplatz in November 2025.

The Kunsthalle Wien Preis [Kunsthalle Wien Prize] seeks to support emerging artists living and working in Vienna and to promote discourse on contemporary art via an annual collaboration with Vienna's two renowned art universities. Jointly organised by Kunsthalle Wien together with the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna and the University of Applied Arts Vienna, it is awarded annually by a jury of experts to a graduate of each of the universities. Now in its eleventh year, the prize is intended to support recent graduates, building a bridge between academic study and professional practice, while bringing the work of these artists to a broader public.

The selected artists receive a joint exhibition and publication with texts commissioned from Mirela Baciak and Chris Clarke as well as a prize of € 3,000 each, sponsored by Kunsttrans and smc Steirer Mika & Comp.

#### The Kunsthalle Wien Preis 2025

For this year's prize, the jury reviewed diploma projects from the Institute of Fine Arts at the Academy and from the fields of visual and media art at the Angewandte. Over 100 graduates from the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna and the University of Applied Arts Vienna submitted their work for consideration. Two artists were selected to hold a joint exhibition at Kunsthalle Wien Karlsplatz opening in November 2025:

Jonida Laçi studied Art and Space | Object as well as Art and Time | Media at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna and was awarded the Kunsthalle Wien Preis for her installation Ajar (2025). The work is made up of video projections, sculpture and a readymade. Laçi's discrete sculptural and spatial structures have been employed with moving projected image, in order to play upon the shaping of the image. Similarly, projectors and tripods are approached as sculptural objects with the intention of interrogating the framing, reception and perception of images.

Luīze Nežberte studied Sculpture and Space at the University of Applied Arts Vienna and was awarded the Kunsthalle Wien Preis for her work We could listen much longer, but it is late by now (2025). Nežberte examines found objects and historical forms in order to uncover their material and cultural histories. She reinterprets historical architectural forms to explore how cultural memory is transmitted, erased and transformed through material absence and sculptural interpretation. Nežberte's sculptural interventions describe an overlap between personal memory, traditional architecture and historiography.

### Biographies

Jonida Laçi (b. 1990, Durrës, Albania) studied Art and Space | Object and Art and Time | Media at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna as well as Cultural and Social Anthropology and Theatre, Film and Media Studies at the University of Vienna. She has had solo exhibitions at marais/moeras, Brussels (2025) and CAN, Vienna (2023). Her work has also been exhibited in numerous group exhibitions, including at Forde, Geneva; Courtney Jaeger, Basel; OxfordBerlin, Düsseldorf (all 2025); etta, Düsseldorf (2024); Fondation Tschüss, Karlsruhe; New Jörg, Vienna; Kunstraum Schwaz, Tyrol; Kunstverein Zink, Vienna and Künstlerhaus, Vienna (all 2023). Laçi lives and works in Vienna.

Luīze Nežberte (b. 1998, Riga, Latvia) studied Sculpture and Space at the University of Applied Arts Vienna. She has exhibited her work at the Latvian National Museum of Art, Riga; Chicago, London (both 2025); Kim? Contemporary Art Centre, Riga; Neuer Kunstverein Wien (both 2024); House of Spouse, Vienna; SPOILER, Berlin and 427 Gallery, Riga (all 2023). From 2023 to 2025, she co-curated the exhibition programme at Pech, Vienna together with Bruno Mokross. Nežberte has been selected to participate in the De Ateliers programme in Amsterdam starting in September.



Luīze Nežberte (l.) and Jonida Laçi (r.), photo: Kunsthalle Wien

[Press images to download](#)

<https://kunsthallewien.at/exhibition/kunsthalle-wien-preis-2025/press>

## Voices on the Kunsthalle Wien Preis 2025

Michelle Cotton, Artistic Director, Kunsthalle Wien:

‘The Kunsthalle Wien Prize is an important platform, providing young artists in Vienna the opportunity to make their first institutional solo exhibition and publication. It also highlights the dynamic ‘junge Szene’ of Vienna while underscoring the central role that the Academy of Fine Arts and the University of Applied Arts play in contemporary art in discourse in the city. We had an overwhelming response to the call this year, providing the juries with the difficult task of selecting just two artists from over one hundred diploma presentations. They chose outstanding presentations by Jonida Laçi and Luīze Nežberte, two artists who engage differently with the nature of space and the built environment. We are now working intensively towards their exhibition in November where we plan to include some new commissions.’

Johan F. Hartle, Rector, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna:

‘It is a special occasion for the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna to see one of its graduates presenting her own exhibition at Kunsthalle Wien. Starting an artistic career on such a big stage is a great opportunity. We are very proud to be able to showcase the developments at the Academy and demonstrate what inspires our students as part of this collaboration. Jonida Laçi is an artist who creates disturbingly idiosyncratic scenarios with moving images. Her sensitive spatial installation *Ajar* impressed and surprised the jury alike. Her strong artistic position and precise use of media left a lasting impression.’

Peter Kozek, Artistic Director Angewandte Performance Lab, University of Applied Arts Vienna:

‘Luīze Nežberte's works are arrangements of sculptural compositions that open up complex scenarios of interpretation and meaning. With almost poetic conciseness and a material and form selection that is always based on research, her components—often consisting of common industrial building materials—appear unpretentious and arbitrarily brought together. They stand individually on their own, but also form a whole whose internal lines of reference are not immediately apparent, which is precisely why we are tempted to get to the bottom of things. ‘Gentle, quiet to me, hidden from prying eyes by a large crooked pine tree in the middle of a field,’ Luīze Nežberte quotes from Raimonds Ķirķis' *Manuscript about an encounter with time* from 2024 in her project description. References to texts of this kind, as well as other art and architectural history content, seem programmatic for the young artist's astonishingly elaborate sculptural method: ‘This is the way eyes travel.’

### Kunsthalle Wien Preis 2025 Juries

For the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, organised by Christine Rogi:

Michelle Cotton (Artistic Director, Kunsthalle Wien), Sarah Crowe (Assistant Curator, Kunsthalle Wien), Johan F. Hartle (Rector, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna), Judith Huemer (Associate Professor Art and Intervention | Environment, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna), Maximilian Lehner (Press/PR, Kunsthalle Wien), Gina Merz (Assistant Curator, Kunsthalle Wien), Carolina Nöbauer (Programme Curator, Tanzquartier Wien) and Christian Schwarzwald (Professor Art and Image | Graphics, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna)

For the University of Applied Arts Vienna, organised by Jasmin Vogl:

Michelle Cotton (Artistic Director, Kunsthalle Wien), Peter Kozek (Artistic Director Angewandte Performance Lab, Prize Winner Kunsthalle Wien Preis 2002), Maximilian Lehner (Press/PR, Kunsthalle Wien), Gina Merz (Assistant Curator, Kunsthalle Wien), Carolina Nöbauer (Programme Curator, Tanzquartier Wien), Cornelia Offergeld (Curatorial Director, KÖR Kunst im Öffentlichen Raum Wien), Astrid Peterle (Head of Curatorial and Programming, Kunsthalle Wien) and Lisa Truttmann (Visual Artist and Filmmaker, Prize Winner Kunsthalle Wien Preis 2009)

Mirela Baciak is the Director of Salzburger Kunstverein.

Chris Clarke is a freelance critic, writer and curator.

### Notes to Editors

Kunsthalle Wien Preis 2025: Jonida Laçi and Luíze Nežberte

7 November 2025–6 January 2026

Kunsthalle Wien Karlsplatz

Press conference: 5 November 2025, 11 am

Opening: 6 November 2025, 7 pm

### 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 the 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 Prize 2025 is realised with the kind and generous support of Kunsttrans and smc Steirer Mika & Comp.

### Address and Information

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### Opening Hours

Tuesday–Sunday: 10:00–18:00

Thursday: 10:00–20:00

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