

Kunsthalle Wien

Press Release

Lotti Brockmann and Valentino Skarwan receive the Kunsthalle Wien Preis 2026

Lotti Brockmann (Academy of Fine Arts Vienna) and Valentino Skarwan (University of Applied Arts Vienna) will hold a joint exhibition at Kunsthalle Wien Karlsplatz in December 2026.

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 23rd 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 commissioned texts as well as a prize of € 3,000 each, sponsored by Kunsttrans and smc Steirer Mika & Comp.

The Kunsthalle Wien Preis 2026

For this year's prize, the jury reviewed diploma projects from the Institute of Fine Arts at the Academy and from the Institute of Fine Arts 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 are selected to hold a joint exhibition at Kunsthalle Wien Karlsplatz opening in December 2026:

Lotti Brockmann studied Art and Space | Spatial Strategies and Sculpture at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna and was awarded the Kunsthalle Wien Preis for her performance and installation *Ten Agents of Deterioration* (2026). Guided by the proposition 'form follows conditions', the work understands form not as fixed but as emerging through the climatic, bodily, technical, economic and institutional conditions of its production. In the work, performers continuously measure humidity and temperature using analogue and digital devices as well as their own bodily perception. These measurements inform choreographed movement derived from the artist's background in cheerleading, while visitors, weather, time, materials and the performers' own needs continually reshape the work. Texts distributed throughout the space make visible the conditions of production – personal, economic, institutional and emotional – as well as the infrastructures and labour that make the work possible.

Valentino Skarwan studied Painting and Animated Film at the University of Applied Arts Vienna and was awarded the Kunsthalle Wien Preis for their performance and installation *There is nothing new under the sun, but there are new suns* (2026). The work reconstructs architectural fragments of a demolished gas station in Guatemala, which the artist reconstructed from a photograph. Sculptural elements evoke petrol hoses and jerry cans, while a recording of their resonant ambient sounds augments the exhibition architecture, which also serves as a setting for the performance. The installation unfolds as a *Gesamtkunstwerk*, exploring disused infrastructures and their continuing role in shaping everyday life. Skarwan considers the often-hidden systems that support both human and non-human life, while reflecting on how knowledge, objects and histories endure through circulation, collaboration and repeated encounters.

Biographies

Lotti Brockmann (b. 1995, Cuxhaven, Germany) studied Art and Space | Spatial Strategies and Sculpture at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna. She has exhibited at the Austrian Cultural Forum, London (2026); das weiße haus, Vienna; Burg Galerie im Volkspark, Halle (Saale); Austrian Cultural Forum, Prague; Kunsthalle Wilhelmshaven (all 2025); Austrian Cultural Forum, Budapest (2024) and Kunsthalle Exnergasse, Vienna (2022). Brockmann lives and works in Vienna.

Valentino Skarwan (b. 1998, Vienna, Austria) studied Painting and Animated Film at the University of Applied Arts Vienna. They have exhibited and performed at QWien, Vienna; Tanzhaus Düsseldorf (both 2026); Steirischer Herbst, Graz; Museum of Modern Art, Warsaw; Neuer Kunstverein Wien; Künstlerhaus, Vienna (all 2024); Belvedere 21, Vienna (2023); WUK, Vienna (2022) and mumok, Vienna (2021). Skarwan lives and works in Vienna and Guatemala City.



Valentino Skarwan (l.) und Lotti Brockmann (r.), Photo: Kunsthalle Wien

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<https://kunsthallewien.at/en/press/2026/08/11/kunsthalle-wien-preis-2026>

Voices on the Kunsthalle Wien Preis 2026

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 Vienna and the University of Applied Arts Vienna play in contemporary art in discourse in the city. The jury saw outstanding presentations this year, reflecting the energy, intellect and dynamism that draws so many artists to study, live and work in Vienna. They unanimously chose the performance and installation work of Lotti Brockmann and Valentino Skarwan. We are now working intensively towards their exhibition in December.'

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

'The partnership with Kunsthalle Wien is one of the Academy's most important collaborations. The Kunsthalle Wien Prize, this special honour, offers graduates a unique opportunity to exhibit their work in the heart of Vienna. This year, Lotti Brockmann, a graduate who uses a variety of media to reflect on the contexts and conditions of artistic practice, was selected. Her performative, sculptural and installation-based works explore the transience of materials and fragile artistic infrastructures. Through her institutional-theoretical perspective, she raises questions about strategies of canonisation, climate change and the units of measurement and criteria that provide orientation within the artistic field. The Academy congratulates Lotti Brockmann warmly and thanks the Kunsthalle and the jury for her commitment!'

Ulrike Kuch, Rector, University of Applied Arts Vienna:

'The relationship with time – with movement, with history, as transience, through movable and immovable property – characterises Valentino Skarwan's final-year project, *There is nothing new under the sun, but there are new suns* (2026). Oscillating between sculpture and performance, the work takes up this theme and impressively demonstrates an intense exploration of almost metaphysical relationships. The work offers a deep insight into Skarwan's artistic approach and encapsulates their multidisciplinary studies at the University of Applied Arts Vienna. The Kunsthalle Wien Prize now honours both the work and the artist. The prize provides outstanding support for young artists following graduation and gives them the opportunity to present their works to a wide audience as part of the exhibition at Kunsthalle Wien. On behalf of the University of Applied Arts Vienna, I would like to thank the jury and offer my warmest congratulations to Valentino Skarwan on this award.'

Kunsthalle Wien Preis 2026 Juries

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

Michelle Cotton (Artistic Director, Kunsthalle Wien), Carina Bukuts (Chief Curator, Kunsthalle Wien), Sarah Crowe (Assistant Curator, Kunsthalle Wien), Veronika Dirnhofer (Professor, Art and Image | Drawing, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna), Julian Göthe (Professor, Art and Space | Object, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna), Johan F. Hartle (Rector, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna), Frederike Sperling (Artistic Director, Kunstraum Niederösterreich)

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

Michelle Cotton (Artistic Director, Kunsthalle Wien), Carina Bukuts (Chief Curator, Kunsthalle Wien), Sarah Crowe (Assistant Curator, Kunsthalle Wien), Ulla Rossek (Senior Artist, Painting, University of Applied Arts Vienna), Liddy Scheffknecht (Lecturer, Cultural Studies, University of Applied Arts Vienna), Frederike Sperling (Artistic Director, Kunstraum Niederösterreich), Stefan Wirnsperger (Senior Artist, Painting and Animation, University of Applied Arts Vienna)

Notes to Editors

Kunsthalle Wien Preis 2026: Lotti Brockmann and Valentino Skarwan

3 December 2026–7 February 2027

Kunsthalle Wien Karlsplatz

Press preview: 2 December 2026, 11 am

Exhibition opening: 2 December 2026, 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 2026 is realised with the kind and generous support of Kunsttrans and smc Steirer Mika & Comp.

Address and Information

Kunsthalle Wien Karlsplatz

Treitlstraße 2, 1040 Vienna

www.kunsthallewien.at

+43-1-52189-0

office@kunsthallewien.at

Opening Hours

Tuesday–Sunday: 10:00–18:00

Thursday: 10:00–20:00

Press Contact

Iseult Grandjean

+43-1-52189-221

presse@kunsthallewien.at