

Kunsthalle Wien

Press release

Annual Programme 2026

Kunsthalle Wien is pleased to announce the programme of exhibitions for 2026.

It includes a series of solo exhibitions by artists that are presented for the first time in Austria; beginning with Guglielmo Castelli and Chalisée Naamani who will both present bodies of new work during the first part of the year and followed by Tiffany Sia and Magali Reus who have solo exhibitions at the end of 2026. Each of these has been co-produced with at least one other institutional partner in Europe, enabling us to further our institutional goals of being resourceful with our budgets and environmentally sustainable in our approach to realizing ambitious new commissions.

The programme for 2026 continues Kunsthalle Wien's commitment to commissioning and producing new works by contemporary artists. While it remains broadly international in scope, it takes Vienna as its key focus, surveying the city's vibrant artistic scene and taking the opportunity to explore the condition of life and work in Vienna in 2026. A major highlight is the return of the large group survey Lebt und arbeitet in Wien: Contemporary Art from Vienna. First realised in 2000, the exhibition was repeated at regular intervals until 2015 (latterly under the title *Destination Wien*). The 2026 iteration will begin with a public programme running through the year, followed by an exhibition across all spaces at the Kunsthalle Wien Museumsquartier and Karlsplatz. It will also include a new commission for the 62-metre vitrine on the exterior of the Museumsquartier building. Some new commissions for the exhibition will be supported by the Kunsthalle Wien Club.

2026 will also see the 23rd edition of the Kunsthalle Wien Preis, presenting the work of two artists, one from the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna and one from the University of Applied Arts Vienna.

By focusing on local artistic and community-based partnerships, Kunsthalle Wien will also seek to engage new audiences and widen participation via a range of new projects and initiatives. These include cooperations with *neunerhaus – Hilfe für obdachlose Menschen* [Help for Homeless People] and *Ohrenschmaus* as well as a series of workshops for neurodivergent children.

From January onwards, Kunsthalle Wien will also offer free admission to its exhibitions on the last Sunday of each month as part of a new initiative sponsored by Dorotheum.

Chalisée Naamani: *Octogone*

29 January–6 April 2026

Kunsthalle Wien Museumsquartier

In collaboration with Palais de Tokyo, Paris

An exhibition of new and recent sculpture, print and textile-based work by French-Iranian artist Chalisée Naamani (b. 1995, Paris) will open in January. Naamani has referred to her sculpture as 'image-garments': These are produced via a process of layering and collaging imagery and text. Drawing from different ornamental traditions within decorative and fine arts, fashion and popular culture, she quotes details from fabrics, paintings, personal photographs, images and archival documents sourced from the internet to produce soft sculpture that often takes the form of clothing or accessories. Works frequently refer to leisure activities including a range of fitness pursuits (from boxing to equestrian sports). Acts of protest and political resistance are another recurrent theme, for example the 'Woman, Life, Freedom' movement that arose in Iran in 2022 in response to the death of Mahsa Amini. The exhibition title, *Octogone*, refers to a geometrical figure that connects Renaissance baptisteries to wrestling, boxing and martial arts. Naamani reimagines the exhibition space as an Iranian *zurkhaneh* or gymnasium for *Varzesh-e Pahlavani* (traditional athletics and martial arts). Such ritualistic practices are rooted in the Zoroastrian belief that mental and physical strength could be used to enhance spirituality. The artist's first solo exhibition outside of France addresses questions of migration, motherhood, feminism, resistance and concepts of *Heimat*.

Guglielmo Castelli: *Sweet Baby Motel*

Curated by Sarah Crowe

13 February–12 April 2026

Kunsthalle Wien Karlsplatz

In collaboration with Castello di Rivoli Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Rivoli-Turin

Guglielmo Castelli (b. 1987, Turin) will present new and recent paintings and cut paper sculpture. Trained in theatrical scenography, Castelli has developed a distinctive iconography that draws upon the history of painting, architecture and literature. His nocturnal, dream-like canvases are charged with psychological drama. In these new works figures appear suspended in space, falling from furniture or through the air. Glimpses of Pieter Bruegel the Elder's *The Hunters in the Snow* (1565) or patchwork façades that recall the architecture of Friedensreich Hundertwasser add a Viennese accent to compositions that are densely layered with narrative. A series of works on canvas and board will be presented over an eighteen-metre mural inspired by the story of *Hansel and Gretel*. These will be accompanied by small sculptures, preparatory materials and sketchbooks presented in vitrines. Castelli's first solo exhibition in Austria will be accompanied by a new publication featuring texts by Sarah Crowe and Lillian Davies, as well as an interview with the artist by Francesco Manacorda. The book will be published by Lenz, in association with Castello di Rivoli and Kunsthalle Wien. The exhibition is supported by the Italian Cultural Institute in Vienna.

Lebt und arbeitet in Wien: Contemporary Art from Vienna

Curated by Daniel Baumann, Michelle Cotton and Monika Georgieva

1 May–26 October 2026

Kunsthalle Wien Museumsquartier & Karlsplatz

Over six months and throughout all its exhibition spaces, Kunsthalle Wien will present the largest survey of the Viennese contemporary art scene to be organised by the institution in over a decade. Sculpture, installation, drawing, painting, photography, performance and video by over 50 artists will be presented within an exhibition that focuses on new commissions and works that have not previously been exhibited in Vienna. The exhibition takes its title from a survey first presented at the Kunsthalle in 2000, continuing and developing a format that seeks to offer a perspective on the dynamic, transnational and culturally diverse communities of artists living and working in Vienna today. The exhibition will be accompanied by a year-long public programme. A new publication with commissioned texts on each artist and transcripts of conversations between curators, artists and critics living and working in Vienna will be published in German and English.

Artist list:

Brishty Alam (b. 1988, London)	Wolfgang Matuschek (b. 1989, Vienna)
Diana Barbosa Gil (b. 1990, Cali)	Till Megerle (b. 1979, Bayreuth)
Anna-Sophie Berger (b. 1989, Vienna)	Christoph Meier (b. 1980, Vienna)
Henning Bohl (b. 1975, Oldenburg)	Rini Mitra (b. 1984, Jamalpur)
Ramesch Daha (b. 1971, Teheran)	Ute Müller (b. 1978, Graz)
Judith Eisler (b. 1962, Newark)	Michaela Polacek (b. 1972, Vienna)
Scott Clifford Evans (b. 1979, Salt Lake City)	Lukas Posch (b. 1988, Hall in Tirol)
Philipp Fleischmann (b. 1985, Hollabrunn)	Vika Prokopaviciute (b. 1983, Vilnius)
Parastu Gharabaghi (b. 1993, Zurich)	Lucia Elena Průša (b. 1985, Munich)
Birke Gorm (b. 1986, Hamburg)	Liesl Raff (b. 1979, Stuttgart)
Jojo Gronostay (b. 1988, Hamburg)	Shuvo Rafiqul (b. 1982, Dhaka)
Benjamin Hirte (b. 1980, Aschaffenburg)	Hans Schabus (b. 1970, Watschig)
Christine & Irene Hohenbüchler (b. 1964, Vienna)	Anna Schachinger (b. 1990, Vienna)
Emma Hummerhielm Carlén (b. 1991, Stockholm)	Ashley Hans Scheirl (b. 1956, Salzburg)
Iman Issa (b. 1979, Cairo)	Katharina Schilling (b. 1984, Cologne)
Ernst Yohji Jäger (b. 1990, Frankfurt am Main)	Toni Schmale (b. 1980, Hamburg)
Lukas Kaufmann (b. 1993, Klagenfurt)	Nora Schultz (b. 1975, Frankfurt am Main)
Belinda Kazeem-Kaminski (b. 1980, Vienna)	Sergey Spirikhin (b. 1963, Severodvinsk)
Bouchra Khalili (b. 1975, Casablanca)	Lucie Stahl (b. 1977, Berlin)
Ludwig Kittinger (b. 1977, Graz)	Josef Strau (b. 1957, Vienna)
Jakob Lena Knebl (b. 1970, Baden)	Laurence Sturla (b. 1992, Swindon)
Sebastian Koeck (b. 1990, Innsbruck)	Marina Sula (b. 1991, Lezha)
James Lewis (b. 1986, London)	Huda Takriti (b. 1990, Damascus)
Angelika Loderer (b. 1984, Feldbach)	Sergei Tcherepnin (b. 1981, Boston)
Irina Lotarevich (b. 1991, Rybinsk)	Sophie Thun (b. 1985, Frankfurt am Main)
Lazar Lyutakov (b. 1977, Schabla)	Johanna Charlotte Trede (b. 1990, Freiburg im Breisgau)
Harkeerat Mangat (b. 1990, Mississauga)	Emily Wardill (b. 1977, Rugby)
	Dario Wokurka (b. 1988, Vienna)
	Min Yoon (b. 1986, Cheonan)

Tiffany Sia: *Overt Listening*

13 November 2026–31 January 2027

Kunsthalle Wien Museumsquartier

Co-produced with KW – Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin

A new film entitled *Overt Listening* forms the focus for Tiffany Sia's (b. 1988, Hong Kong) first institutional solo exhibition in Austria. Set on the Kinmen Islands in Taiwan, just a few kilometers off the Chinese coast, the film critically examines the aftermath of the Cold War, highlighting the history of difficult and often imperceptible geopolitical tensions in the region of the Pacific Theater. Sia combines footage of historical sites such as military bunkers with landscape scenes of deserted beaches. This is accompanied by the sound of radio broadcasts and military exercises. Unfolding in a series of chapters in a spatial installation across the ground floor of Kunsthalle Wien Museumsquartier, the work mixes collected oral narratives, official histories and popular culture in an expansive, filmic essay.

Magali Reus

27 November–2 May 2027

Kunsthalle Wien Museumsquartier

In collaboration with CAPC Musée d'art contemporain de Bordeaux

Magali Reus' (b. 1981, Den Haag) meticulously fabricated sculptures incorporate diverse materials and artisanal techniques such as casting, forging, wicker weaving and embroidery alongside machine processes including plating, laser cutting and 3D printing. Her works often take the form of vessels that combine historical and contemporary references from fine arts, graphic and industrial design alongside the artist's personal motifs. Examples include wall-mounted works that take the form of over-sized jam jars or objects that hybridise display vitrines with sections of tiled roofing or larger than life sardine tins that house mouse traps and dog baskets. The new works that the artist is preparing for her first solo exhibition in Austria make specific reference to the history of applied arts in Vienna by taking inspiration from different eras of street furniture, signage and other architectural details from the city.

Kunsthalle Wien Preis 2026

3 December 2026–7 February 2027

Kunsthalle Wien Karlsplatz

Kunsthalle Wien will host the 23rd edition of the *Kunsthalle Wien Preis* exhibition. This seeks to both recognise and support the practices of emerging artists in Vienna by providing a bridge between academic study and professional practice. Organised by Kunsthalle Wien, the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna and the University of Applied Arts Vienna, the prize is awarded annually by a jury of experts to a graduate from each of the universities. The artists receive a joint exhibition at Kunsthalle Wien Karlsplatz accompanied by a richly illustrated exhibition catalogue featuring commissioned texts in German and English. The jury for the 2026 edition comprises the directors and representatives from the Kunsthalle and the two academies as well as Frederike Sperling Artistic Director, Kunstraum Niederoesterreich. The exhibition is sponsored by smc Steirer Mika & Comp.

Public Programmes, Inclusion & Participation

What makes Vienna special? What challenges does the city face? What objects do people associate with Vienna? These questions will form the basis for a series of talks programmed to anticipate and accompany the exhibition *Lebt und arbeitet in Wien: Contemporary Art from Vienna*. Leading thinkers from the arts and sciences, public figures and local personalities are invited to address the condition of life in 21st century Vienna via a single topic. Other projects conceived especially for the exhibition include the series of events *Gather – Infrastructures of Care* curated by Kùltür Gemma scholar Viviane Lê Tanzmeister. This series of events consider care as a curatorial and social practice and reimagine institutional spaces as spaces for care, tranquility and community.

Kunsthalle Wien's inclusion programmes will be expanded upon in 2026. In addition to continuing the successful cooperations with Job-TransFair, Vereinigung für Frauenintegration, gabarage ChancenZUKUNFT Wien, Prosa Bildung für Alle, Question Me & Answer, WITAFF and Integration Wien, new partnerships with neunerhaus – Hilfe für obdachlose Menschen [Help for Homeless People] and Ohrenschmaus association are planned.

Work with schools and academic institutions remains a key focus, promoting exchange between artistic practice and scientific research through interdisciplinary collaborations. In 2026, programmes will be developed and implemented in cooperation with the Institute for Art Education at the Academy of Fine Arts and the Modular Middle School Aspern, the MUK Music and Arts University of the City of Vienna and the TUForMath initiative at the Faculty of Mathematics at TU Wien. These programmes will be developed with the various cooperation partners and will be related to different exhibitions.

Collaboration with artists from a wide range of disciplines and media remains at the heart of the workshops for adults held at the Kunsthalle Wien Atelier. Artists including Ege Kökel (textile dyeing), Maë Schwinghammer (creative writing), Ju Aichinger (ceramics) and İklım Doğan (embroidery) have been invited to lead workshops in the first term of 2026. The creative workshops for children and families every Saturday and during school holidays and the Kunsthalle's popular children's disco *I like it loud!* will continue. New programmes in development include special activities for parents with babies and toddlers and a special programme for neurodivergent children.

Free Sundays

From Sunday 25 January, Dorotheum will sponsor a new initiative offering free admission to Kunsthalle Wien's exhibitions on the last Sunday of each month throughout 2026. The support comprises a total of 11 free days, with the exception of 26 April when the exhibition spaces are closed for the installation of *Lebt und arbeitet in Wien*. This new year-long partnership supports Kunsthalle Wien's institutional goal of widening participation in its programmes and increasing accessibility to contemporary art for all.

Biographies

Guglielmo Castelli (b. 1987, Turin) has held solo exhibitions at Castello di Rivoli Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Rivoli-Turin (2025); Fondazione Bevilacqua La Masa, Venice; Villa Medici, Rome (both 2024); Aspen Museum, Colorado (2023); Fondazione Coppola, Vicenza (2019) and Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin (2018). His work has been presented at significant surveys including Triennale Milano, Milan; Maxxi L'Aquila (both 2023); the 17th Quadriennale di Roma, Rome (2020) and Biennale Internazionale d'Art Contemporain de Melle (2018). It has also been exhibited at Galleria Civica d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Turin (2020); The Parkview Museum, Singapore; Fondation Louis Vuitton, Paris (both 2018); Musée d'art moderne et contemporain, Saint-Étienne and Museo d'Arte Contemporanea, Lissone (both 2016). Castelli lives and works in Turin.

Chalisée Naamani (b. 1995, Paris) has held solo exhibitions at Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2025); Pinacoteca Agnelli, Turin (2024) and La Galerie – Centre d'art contemporain de Noisy-le-Sec (2021). Her work has also been exhibited at institutions including Le Delta, Namur (2025); Hangar Y, Meudon; FRAC Champagne-Ardenne, Reims (both 2024); MUDAM Luxembourg; Ateliers du Centre Technique du Tapis & du Tissage (C3T), Denden, Tunis; La Friche La Belle de Mai, Marseille (all 2023) and the Biennale de Nice (2022). Naamani received the Pista 500 Prize from the Pinacoteca Agnelli in 2023 and the Fondations Prize for Sculpture and Installation in 2021. Naamani lives and works in Paris.

Magali Reus (b. 1981, Den Haag) has held solo exhibitions at Kunstmuseum, Den Haag (2025); Museum Kurhaus Kleve; Museo del Novecento, Milan (both 2024); Kunsthalle Bratislava; CAC la Synagogue de Delme; Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens, Deurle (all 2023); Nasher Sculpture Center, Texas (2022); South London Gallery (2018); Bergen Kunsthall; Kunstmuseum St. Gallen (both 2017); Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Turin (both 2016); Sculpture Center, Dallas; The Hepworth Wakefield and Westfälischer Kunstverein, Münster (all 2015). Her work has also been presented within significant surveys including the 2022 *FRONT International: Cleveland Triennial* and the *British Art Show 8* (2015-17). She was the recipient of the 2024 Arnaldo Pomodoro Sculpture Prize and the 2025 Prix de Rome. Reus lives and works in London.

Tiffany Sia (b. 1988, Hong Kong) has held solo exhibitions at the Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University; MUDAM Luxembourg (both 2025) and Artists Space, New York (2021). Her work has also been exhibited at CCS Bard Hessel Museum of Art; Annandale-on-Hudson (both 2025); Fondazione Prada, Milan; Museum of Modern Art, New York (both 2023); Seoul Museum of Art and Kunstverein für die Rheinlande und Westfalen, Düsseldorf (both 2022). Her films have been screened at numerous festivals including the Bangkok Experimental Film Festival (2025), the San Diego Asian Film Festival (2024, 2022 and 2021), MoMA Doc Fortnight (2024 and 2020), the TIFF Toronto International Film Festival (2024 and 2022) and the New York Film Festival (2022 and 2021). She was awarded the Baloise Art Prize in 2024 and the George C. Lin Emerging Filmmaker Award in 2022 and is the author of *On and Off-Screen Imaginaries* (Primary Information, 2024). Sia lives and works in New York.

Press images for download and further information:

<https://kunsthallewien.at/en/press/2025/12/12/annual-programme-2026>

Notes to Editors

Exhibition calendar

Chalisée Naamani: *Octogone*

29 January–6 April 2026

Exhibition opening: 28 January 2026, 7:30 pm

Kunsthalle Wien Museumsquartier

Guglielmo Castelli: *Sweet Baby Motel*

13 February–12 April 2026

Exhibition opening: 12 February 2026, 7 pm

Kunsthalle Wien Karlsplatz

Lebt und arbeitet in Wien: Contemporary Art from Vienna

1 May–26 October 2026

Exhibition opening: 30 April 2026, 7 pm

Kunsthalle Wien Museumsquartier and Karlsplatz

Tiffany Sia: *Overt Listening*

13 November 2026–31 January 2027

Exhibition opening: 12 November 2026, 7 pm

Kunsthalle Wien Museumsquartier

Magali Reus

27 November–2 May 2027

Exhibition opening: 26 November 2026, 7 pm

Kunsthalle Wien Museumsquartier

Kunsthalle Wien Preis 2026

3 December 2026–7 February 2027

Exhibition opening: 2 December 2026, 7 pm

Kunsthalle Wien Karlsplatz

Kunsthalle Wien Touring Exhibitions

Aleksandra Domanović: *Canopy Collapse*

9 October 2025–15 February 2026

Kunsthall Charlottenburg, Copenhagen

Richard Hawkins

24 April–26 July 2026

Kestner Gesellschaft, Hannover

Ibrahim Mahama

2027

Venue to be announced

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 of the Kunsthalle Wien Club.

The exhibition *Guglielmo Castelli: Sweet Baby Motel* is supported by the Italian Cultural Institute in Vienna.

The *Kunsthalle Wien Preis 2026* is realised with the kind and generous support of smc Steirer Mika & Comp.

Daniel Baumann's research stay in Vienna was supported by PART International Art Residency Austria.

Free admission to Kunsthalle Wien's exhibitions on the last Sunday of each month in 2026 is made possible through the support of Dorotheum.

Address and Information

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Opening Hours

Tuesday–Sunday: 10:00–18:00
Thursday: 10:00–20:00

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