

belvedere

**CARLONE CONTEMPORARY**  
**VOLKMAR KLIEN**  
**ANSCHWELLEN - ABSCHWELLEN**

Upper Belvedere

29 September 2021 to 6 February 2022



Volkmar Klien, *Anschwellen - Abschwellen*, 2019/21  
Photo: Johannes Stoll / Belvedere, Vienna © Bildrecht, Vienna, 2021

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## CARLONE CONTEMPORARY VOLKMAR KLIEN ANSCHWELLEN - ABSCHWELLEN

Upper Belvedere

29 September 2021 to 6. February 2022

**As part of the *Carlone Contemporary* series, Austrian artist Volkmar Klien presents his performance apparatus *Anschwellen – Abschwellen* in dynamic interplay with the Baroque setting of the Carlone Hall at the Upper Belvedere. The ticking of a pendulum clock slowly swells to produce an all-pervading sound, accompanied by the gradual unfolding of a peacock fan. Klien's robotic installation strives for beauty, magnitude, volume, and dominance.**

Stella Rollig, CEO and project curator says:

*„This object brings together palatial and bourgeois displays of social standing and taste and commands your undivided attention. An irresistible feast for the eyes and ears!“*

The performance apparatus *Anschwellen – Abschwellen* blends sculptural, performative, and musical elements: the spatial presence, the sound of time, and a steadfast Sisyphian push for presence come together in this impressively decadent object made from a neo-Gothic pendulum clock and peacock feathers. Steadily the clock's sounds – the ticking coupled with feedback and resonance – swell to an imposing crescendo, all the while accompanied by the gradual unfurling of a peacock fan. At climax, an all-pervasive sound fills the Baroque Hall of Grottesques. Then, the peacock feathers subside and the sound ebbs away: back to the beginning, back to the monotonous ticking, an order imposed by humanity on the flow of time.

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Linking different artistic styles and oeuvres accounts for the artist's fundamental design approach, which is also apparent from his resume. Drawing on his very early musical education, he strives to extend traditional practices of composing, music producing, and listening far beyond the established setting of concert music, and now works at the intersections of contemporary music, performance art, and interactive media formats.

Volkmar Klien:

*„Anschwellen – Abschwellen“ is an experimental arrangement about human forms of representation and excitation patterns. As such, the work is both showmanship and artistic deconstruction, a reflection of and joyful devotion to the regal display of splendor. What better venue for this than the Belvedere?“*

In the Carlone Hall, the contemporary object *Anschwellen – Abschwellen* enters into dialogue with historical painting. Floating above its mechanically-operated, robotic illusion of art and grandeur is the illusionistic architecture of the frescoes, supported by faux columns. Carlo Innocenzo Carlone's painting on the ceiling of the hall is dedicated to the transition between day and night, and thus to the passage of time, which is shown here as a change in nature. In *Anschwellen – Abschwellen*, actions are directed by the movement of the pendulum in the grandfather clock. Time appears in the form of the constantly ticking clockwork mechanism designed by man.

Born in 1971 in Hollabrunn and raised in Vienna, Volkmar Klien has been fascinated by his native city's world of music and rituals since childhood. He completed his studies in electroacoustic composition at City University London. Among other honors, he was awarded the Max Brand Prize for Electronic Music and the Gustav Mahler Prize for Composition, and his works are performed and presented worldwide. In his artistic work, Volkmar Klien also draws

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on his experience with academic research. After studying in Vienna and London, he worked on research projects at the Royal College of Arts in London, the Austrian Research Institute for Artificial Intelligence, and the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna. He is a regular guest lecturer at international institutions such as Columbia University (NY), Duke University (NC), London College of Communication, and the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM).

## **CARLONE CONTEMPORARY**

*CARLONE CONTEMPORARY* is a biannual series featuring contemporary works in the Carlone Hall at the Upper Belvedere. Artists develop their perspectives in harmony with the frescoed hall's Baroque aesthetic, bridging the world of the gods of antiquity like Apollo and Diana with the present day.

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## VOLKMAR KLIEN BIOGRAPHY

**Born 28 July 1971 in Hollabrunn; freelance composer and artist**

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 1997      | Composition studies (instrumental composition) at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna; graduated with a Master of Arts  |
| 1999-2001 | External lecturer for Sound Arts at London College of Printing (today: London College of Communication, University of the Arts London) |
| 2000      | Research Fellow at the Royal College of Arts (London) in the fields of interactive sound design and generative composition             |
| 2001-2003 | Developer in the field of interactive sound design and generative composition, FutureAcoustic (London)                                 |
| 2005      | Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in electroacoustic composition, University of London  |
| 2009-2011 | Research Fellow at the Austrian Institute for Artificial Intelligence  |
| 2002-2015 | Teaching position at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna   |
| 2009-2020 | Curator, Kunstverein Wien – Alte Schmiede  |
| Seit 2015 | Professor of Composition (media composition and computer music) at the Anton Bruckner Private University (ABPU) in Linz                |
| Seit 2016 | Director of the Institute for Composition, Conducting and Computer Music at ABPU   |

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## **Selected Media and Compositional Works:**

- 2021 Wien Modern / Museum of Modern Art Vienna
- 2020 Digital Art Zurich (DA-Z)  
ORF/Ö1 Kunstradio
- 2019 Ars Electronica Festival
- 2018 Lentos Museum (Linz)  
Future of Demonstration/Passion
- 2017 Donaufestival Krems  
Ensemble Kontrapunkte (Vienna)
- 2016 Ars Electronica Festival
- 2015 Martha Graham Company / New Museum (New York) – composition commission,  
State of Lower Austria
- 2014 ORF Musikprotokoll/Steirischer Herbst  
Athens Festival
- 2013 Centro Mexicano para la Música y las Artes Sonoras (Morelia, Mexico)  
Kunst im öffentlichen Raum Niederösterreich (Melk Abbey)
- 2012 paraflows (Vienna)  
The Electroacoustic Project
- 2011 Mantisfestival (Manchester, UK)  
ORF/Ö1 Kunstradio  
PS122(NY, USA)  
Eve Sussman & The Rufuscorporation (NY, USA)
- 2010 The Hayward Gallery (London, UK)  
Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center (EMPAC) (Troy, NY, USA)

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## **Solo exhibitions**

- 2018 Raum Lentos (Linz)
- 2016 Mariendom [New Cathedral], Ars Electronica Festival (Linz)
- 2015 Galerie Schallform (Vienna)  
Ohrenhoch (Berlin)
- 2013 Melk Abbey (Melk, Austria)
- 2011 Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center (Troy, NY)
- 2009 Habitación del Ruido (Universidad del Claustro de Sor Juana, Mexico DF)
- 2008 Klangraum Krems (Krems, Austria)
- 2004 Permanent Breakfast Gallery (Vienna, Austria)
- 2002 IDEA (Manchester, UK)
- 2001 Hoxton Hall (London, UK)

## **Group exhibitions**

- 2020 Digital Arts Zurich DA-Z
- 2019 Ars Electronica (Linz, Austria)
- 2015 Social Glitch (Tonspur, Vienna, Austria)  
Out of phase (Mo.ë, Vienna, Austria)
- 2014 Intime Räume (IMA, Hainburg, Austria)
- 2013 Niederösterreichisches Dokumentationszentrum für zeitgenössische Kunst
- 2012 REHEAT – Kleylehof  
Listening Comprehension – Paraflows 2012
- 2011 Mantisfestival / Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama (Manchester, UK)  
Pushfestival (Gävle, Sweden)

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- 2010 Filament (EMPAC, Troy, NY)
- 2009 Transitio MX (Fonoteca Nacional, Mexico City)  
Ars Electronica (Linz, Austria)
- 2007 Semperdepot / Wien Modern (Vienna, Austria)  
NWEAMO (Morelia, Mx)
- 2004 Eva+ (Limerick, Ireland)
- 2002 TEST Kirklees New Media Centre (Huddersfield, UK)
- 2000 The Lowry (Salford, UK)

## **Grants and Awards**

- 2017 Media Art Award of the City of Vienna
- 2013 Austrian State Scholarship for Composition
- 2009 Ars Electronica – Honorary Mention
- 2005 State Scholarship for Composition of the Republic of Austria
- 2004 Theodor Körner Prize
- 2003 Composition Grant from the Vienna Symphony Orchestra
- 2001 Max Brand Prize for Electronic Music
- 1998 City of Vienna Funding Prize for Composition  
Artist in Residence, Artech, London, UK
- 1997 Alban Berg Foundation Grant
- 1995 Alban Berg Foundation Grant  
City of Klagenfurt Gustav Mahler Composition Prize for “Pàndoras Püchse”  
Lower Austrian Funding Prize for Composition

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| <b>Exhibition Title</b>      | <i>Carlone Contemporary: Volkmar Klien.<br/>Anschwellen - Anschwellen</i>   |
| <b>Exhibition Duration</b>   | 29 September 2021 to 6 February 2022  |
| <b>Exhibition Location</b>   | Upper Belvedere   |
| <b>Works</b>                 | 1   |
| <b>Curator</b>               | Stella Rollig   |
| <b>Exhibition Management</b> | Martina Pfeiffer-Carich   |
| <b>Contact</b>               | Prinz Eugen-Straße 27, 1030 Vienna<br>T +43 1 795 57-0   <a href="http://www.belvedere.at">www.belvedere.at</a>                                       |
| <b>Art Education</b>         | Belvedere Art Education<br>T + 43 1 795 57-134   M <a href="mailto:public@belvedere.at">public@belvedere.at</a>                                       |
| <b>Opening Hours</b>         | Tuesday to Sunday 10am to 6pm<br>Mondays open on public holidays  |
| <b>Regular Admission</b>     | € 18 (Upper Belvedere)  |
| <b>Press Contact</b>         | Belvedere Public Relations<br>Prinz Eugen-Straße 27, 1030 Vienna<br>T +43 1 795 57-177   M <a href="mailto:press@belvedere.at">press@belvedere.at</a> |

*Further information and exhibition press photos are available to download at [belvedere.at/en/press](http://belvedere.at/en/press).*

*#CarloneContemporary*

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