



Jakob Lena Knebl, *Joan*, 2019
Photo: Johannes Stoll, Belvedere, Vienna / © Bildrecht, Vienna 2021

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Belvedere 21
Arsenalstraße 1
1030 Vienna

Opening hours:
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11 am - 6 pm
Late Night: Thursday
11 am - 9 pm
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AVANT-GARDE AND THE CONTEMPORARY THE BELVEDERE COLLECTION FROM LASSNIG TO KNEBL

15 September 2021 to 19 February 2023

The exhibition *Avant-Garde and the Contemporary. The Belvedere Collection from Lassnig to Knebl* brings into productive correspondence around 140 historical and contemporary artistic perspectives. Through six narrative strands, the show conveys approaches to art from the 1930s to the present day. It follows both well-known and hidden paths and establishes often unexpected connections. The interplay between the historical avant-garde and the contemporary allows viewers to experience the Belvedere's collection as a dynamic construct.

The works of Toni Schmale and Fritz Wotruba, Maria Lassnig and Sarah Lucas, Ashley Hans Scheirl, and Rudolf Hausner, Carola Dertnig, Rudolf Schwarzkogler, Jakob Lena Knebl, Robert Zeppel-Sperl, Melanie Ebenhoch, and Bruno Gironcoli and many other Austrian artists are an integral part of and account for the allure of the Belvedere's twentieth and twenty-first century holdings. Many of the featured works originate from the collection of the Artothek des Bundes (Art Library of the Federal Government), which continuously acquires Austrian contemporary art and is administered by the Belvedere.

CEO Stella Rollig explains: "*The Belvedere's collection forms the beating heart of the museum. To present the works in a contemporary context – as a multifaceted tapestry of relations between actors, layers of time, approaches, new ideas, and alternative concepts – is important to us. With this collection exhibition, we illuminate and spotlight significant developments in Austrian art.*"

Through six narrative strands, the Belvedere's collection can be experienced as a dynamic structure. The exhibition showcases works by around 140 artists. The resulting interplay between the avant-garde and contemporary is sometimes obvious, sometimes surprising – a testament to dynamics and urgencies, continuities and ruptures.

Curator Luisa Ziaja says: "*Based on the museum's holdings from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, this collection presentation does not imagine the frequently cited "zero hour" as the beginning of the Austrian postwar avant-gardes, nor does it chart their linear development. Rather, it attempts to make tangible parallels and crossovers, but also counter-models in art since the 1930s, through six narrative strands.*"

The exhibition opens with **Collections and Fractured Realities** and tells of collections as accumulations of objects that emerge from various contexts and layers of time. They are, however, always viewed from the perspective of our immediate present. In their encounter, such as in *Eclipse* (2012) by Agnieszka Polska, they interact in a quasi-animistic, magical manner. This part of the show is dedicated to the historical-political distortions that continue to impact the present, which have essentially determined the development of modernist currents. In the words of Walter Benjamin – which can be applied to collections – "There is no document of civilization that is not at the same time a document of barbarism." Lisl Ponger's *Horror Vacui* (2008) depicts the unsettling scene of a ravaged apartment, which, in a wealth of references, takes as its subjects the looting of Jewish property during the Nazi era, the entanglement of museums, and oft-belated restitutions. Ponger's work is juxtaposed with the equally disturbing *Still Life with Two Heads* (1932) by Rudolf Wacker: the affirmed anti-fascist once prophetically described himself as a portraitist of objects depicting the wreckage of bourgeois life.

Abstractions assembles historical and contemporary approaches to nonrepresentational art. In the Austrian context, these approaches are marked by nonconcurrences and ruptures. With its design principles, the constructed form of Jugendstil in Vienna around 1900 had already anticipated geometric abstraction. International currents such as Cubism, Futurism, and Constructivism, on the other hand, were adopted selectively and somewhat late in the early 1920s. One key protagonist was Erika Giovanna Klien with her work *Diving Bird* (1939). Abstract tendencies emerged only after 1945; then, however, with unprecedented intensity: Curt Stenvert's *Violin Player in Four Phases of Movement* (1947) or Maria Lassnig's *Head* (c. 1954 or 1957) are but two examples. Fritz Wotruba (*Large Seated Figure – Human Cathedral*, 1949) shaped an entire generation of artists with his influential school of sculpture.

Surreal Narratives traces the enduring presence of surreal aesthetics. The narrative thread gathers dreamlike, unconscious, absurd, and fantastic pictorial inventions and permeates the entire show. Time and again, artistic processes of alienation, displacement, and transgression of the real seem suited to

capture the problematic relationship of the individual to the world. A highlight of the exhibition is *Nuage articulé II* (1937/40) by Wolfgang Paalen, one of the few surviving Surrealist objects. The artwork was added to the collection in 2020 during the Wolfgang Paalen exhibition. The Vienna School of Fantastic Realism is the specific Viennese version of Surrealism after 1945. *Neoliberal Surrealist* (2019), a self-portrait by Ashley Hans Scheirl of taking a piss amid an apocalyptic scene, is an example of the current presence of Surrealism in a crisis-ridden time.

Taking Art Informel of the 1950s as a point of departure, the narrative strand **Forms of the Informal** is devoted to artistic strategies that operate between subjective-gestural expression and methods of chance. As an alternative approach to the art of National Socialism, the novel abstract-gestural painting was entirely committed to individual subjectivity and dissolved any form. The physical-performative gesture became an expression of the unconscious. *Rouges différents sur noir – Liechtenstein* (1956/57) originates from Markus Prachensky's first expressive-gestural work series.

Performative Bodies points to the use of the human body as an artistic material and the critical confrontation of its representation. Works on this subject can be found in all parts of the exhibition. Günter Brus's work *Self-Painting I* (1964) is considered iconic – in Viennese Actionism, the body itself becomes the primary artistic means of expression. Performative approaches and relatively new media such as photography and video were seized by women artists beginning in the late 1960s, a feminist reclaiming of the female body as a motif in art. On view are *Homometer* (1973) by VALIE EXPORT, pioneer of feminist action art, and the photo series *Second Sculptures* (1979) by Margot Pilz. Flamboyant identities oscillating between genders are at the center of Jakob Lena Knebl's works (*Joan*, 2019; *John Boy*, 2019).

The final part of the exhibition, **Re-Visions**, takes a look at artistic negotiations of historiography and the social present and reconnects with the beginning of the tour and its narratives on art in Austria. The central conceit of "re-vision" is founded on two perspectives: one backwards-looking and one forward-facing; to see things in the past not only to draw conclusions for the present, but also to imagine a different future. For instance, as when Marcus Geiger ironically updates the heroic self-portrayals of the Secession's founding fathers in the expansive installation *Portraits and Sausage* (2006). Or when Veronika Eberhart – in her video work *9 is 1 and 10 is none* (2017); the title quotes Faust's "the witch's one-times-one" – reclaims the exploited body of the post-machine era in a queer-feminist witch dance.

ARTISTS

Marc Adrian

1930 Vienna – 2008 Vienna

Anna Artaker

1976 Vienna; lives in Vienna

Christian Ludwig Attersee

1940 Bratislava, the Slovak Republic; lives in Vienna and on the Semmering

Josef Bauer

1934 Wels – 2022 Linz

Herbert Bayer

1900 Haag am Hausruck – 1985 Montecito, USA

Gustav Kurt Beck

1902 Vienna – 1983 Wolfsburg, Germany

Walter Behrens

1911 Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain – 1999 Vienna

Anna-Sophie Berger

1989 Vienna; lives in Vienna

Renate Bertlmann

1943 Vienna; lives in Vienna

Wander Bertoni

1925 Codisotto, Italy – 2019 Vienna

Liselott Beschorner

1927 Vienna; lives in Vienna

Linda Bilda

1963 Vienna – 2019 Vienna

Maria Biljan Bilger

1912 Radstadt – 1997 Munich, Germany

Kamilla Bischof

1986 Graz; lives in Berlin, Germany

Herbert Brandl
1959 Graz; lives in Vienna

Arik Brauer
1929 Vienna – 2021 Vienna

Günter Brus
1938 Ardning; lives in Graz

Linda Christanell
1939 Vienna; lives in Vienna

Canan Dagdelen
1960 Istanbul, Turkey; lives in Vienna

Gunter Damisch
1958 Steyr – 2016 Vienna

Svenja Deininger
1974 Vienna; lives in Vienna and Berlin, Germany

Verena Dengler
1981 Vienna; lives in Vienna

Carola Dertnig
1962 Innsbruck; lives in Vienna

Heinrich Dunst
1955 Hallein; lives in Vienna

Melanie Ebenhoch
1985 Feldkirch; lives in Vienna

Veronika Eberhart
1982 Bad Radkersburg; lives in Vienna

VALIE EXPORT
1940 Linz; lives in Vienna

Adolf Frankl
1903 Bratislava, Slovakia – 1983 Vienna

Greta Freist

1904 Weikersdorf – 1993 Paris, France

Padhi Frieberger

1931 Meidling im Tal – 2016 Vienna

Adolf Frohner

1934 Groß Inzersdorf – 2007 Vienna

Ernst Fuchs

1930 Vienna – 2015 Vienna

Marcus Geiger

1957 Muri, Switzerland; lives in Vienna

Bruno Gironcoli

1936 Villach – 2010 Vienna

Gottfried Goebel

1906 Vienna – 1975 Paris, France

Roland Goeschl

1932 Salzburg – 2016 in Vienna

Ingeborg G. Pluhar

1944 Vienna; lives in Vienna

Lily Greenham

1924 Vienna – 2001 London, UK

Eva Grubinger

1970 Salzburg; lives in Berlin, Germany

Nilbar Güres

1977 Istanbul, Turkey; lives in Vienna and Istanbul

Albert Paris Gütersloh

1887 Vienna – 1973 Baden

H+H Joos

Hildegard Joos: 1909 Sieghartskirchen – 2005 Vienna

Harold Joos: 1913 Geneva, Switzerland – 2004 Vienna

Maria Hahnenkamp

1959 Eisenstadt; lives in Vienna

Rudolf Hausner
1914 Vienna – 1995 Mödling

Matthias Herrmann
1963 Munich, Germany; lives in Vienna

Wolfgang Herzig
1941 Judenburg; lives in Vienna

Laura Hinrichsmeyer
1986 Sindelfingen, Germany; lives in Vienna

Friedensreich Hundertwasser
1928 Vienna – 2000 aboard the Queen Elisabeth II.

Wolfgang Hutter
1982 Vienna – 2014 Vienna

Tess Jaray
1937 Vienna; lives in London, UK

Nicolas Jasmin
1967 Toulouse, France; lives in Vienna

Anna Jermolaewa
1970 St. Petersburg, Russia; lives in Vienna

Martha Jungwirth
1940 Vienna; lives in Vienna and Neumarkt an der Raab

Birgit Jürgenssen
1949 Vienna – 2003 Vienna

Tillman Kaiser
1972 Graz; lives in Vienna

Johanna Kandler
1954 Vienna; lives in Vienna and Berlin, Germany

Barbara Kapusta
1983 Lilienfeld; lives in Vienna

Friedrich Kiesler
1890 Czernowitz, Ukraine – 1965 New York City, USA

Erika Giovanna Klien
1900 Borgo Valsugana, Italy – 1957 New York City, USA

Alfred Klinkan
1950 Judenburg – 1994 Vienna

Jakob Lena Knebl
1970 Baden; lives in Vienna

Kiki Kogelnik
1935 Bleiburg – 1997 Vienna

Cornelius Kolig
1942 Vorderberg; lives in Vorderberg

Joseph Kosuth
1945 Toledo, USA; lives in New York City, USA, and London, UK

Brigitte Kowanz / Franz Graf
1957 Vienna – 2022 Vienna
1954 Tulln; lives in Vienna and the Waldviertel

Elke Silvia Krystufek
1970 Vienna; lives in Vienna

gelatin
founded in 1990

Maria Lassnig
1919 Kappel am Krappfeld – 2014 Vienna

Anton Lehmden
1929 Nitra, Slovak Republic – 2018 Vienna

Sonia Leimer
1977 Merano, Italy; lives in Vienna

Angelika Loderer

1984 Feldbach; lives in Vienna

Inés Lombardi
1958 Sao Paolo, Brasil; lives in Vienna

Sarah Lucas
1962 London, UK; lives in London

Marko Lulic
1972 Vienna; lives in Vienna

Marcin Maciejowski
1974 Babice, Poland; lives in Kraków, Poland

Dorit Margreiter
1967 Vienna; lives in Vienna

Till Megerle
1979 Bayreuth, Germany; lives in Vienna and Berlin, Germany

Josef Mikl
1929 Vienna – 2008 Vienna

Franziska Mikl Wibmer
1925 Vienna – 1982 Vienna

Marie Louise von Motesiczky
1906 Vienna – 1996 London, UK

Ulrike Müller
1971 Brixlegg; lives in New York City, USA

Mutean/Rosenblum
1962 Graz; lives in Vienna
1962 Haifa, Israel; lives in Vienna

Agnes Muthspiel
1914 Salzburg – 1966 Salzburg

Henrike Naumann
1984 Zwickau, Germany; lives in Berlin, Germany

Hermann Nitsch
1938 Vienna – 2022 Mistelbach

Matthias Noggler
1990 Innsbruck; lives in Vienna and Berlin, Germany

Oswald Oberhuber
1931 Merano, Italy – 2020 Vienna

Walter Obholzer
1953 Ebbs – 2008 Vienna

Silke Otto Knapp
1970 Osnabrück, Germany; lives in Los Angeles, USA

Vevean Oviette
1902 Graz – 1986 Graz

Wolfgang Paalen
1905 Baden – 1959 Taxco, Mexico

Florentina Pakosta
1933 Vienna; lives in Vienna

Vicken Parsons
1957 Hertfordshire, UK; lives in London

Friederike Pezold
1945 Vienna; lives in Salzburg

Helga Philipp
1939 Vienna – 2002 Vienna

Josef Pillhofer
1921 Vienna – 2010 Vienna

Margot Pilz
1936 Haarlem, the Netherlands; lives in Vienna

Agnieszka Polska
1985 Lublin, Poland; lives in Berlin, Germany

Hilda C. Polsterer

1903 Leobersdorf – 1969 Vienna

Lisl Ponger
1947 Nuremberg, Germany; lives in Vienna

Peter Pongratz
1940 Eisenstadt; lives in Vienna

Markus Prachensky
1932 Innsbruck – 2011 Vienna

Karl Prantl
1923 Pötttsching – 2010 Pötttsching

Lotte Profohs Leherb
1934 Vienna – 2012 Vienna

Florian Pumhösl
1971 Vienna; lives in Vienna

Liesl Raff
1979 Stuttgart, Germany; lives in Vienna

Arnulf Rainer
1929 Baden; lives in Enzenkirchen and on Tenerife, Spain

Gerhard Richter
1932 Dresden, Germany; lives in Cologne, Germany

Gerwald Rockenschaub
1952 Linz; lives in Berlin, Germany

Gerhard Rühm
1930 Vienna; lives in Cologne, Germany

Francis Ruyter
1968 Washington D.C., USA; lives in Vienna

Anna Schachinger
1990 Vienna; lives in Vienna

Ashley Hans Scheirl
1956 Salzburg; lives in Vienna

Johanna Schidlo Riedl
1923 Branná, Czech Republic – 1972 Vienna

Alfons Schilling
1934 Basel, Switzerland – 2013 Vienna

Markus Schinwald
1973 Salzburg; lives in Vienna

Toni Schmale
1980 Hamburg, Germany; lives in Vienna

Isa Schmidlehner
1971 Vienna; lives in Vienna

Rudolf Schwarzkogler
1940 Vienna – 1969 Vienna

Anne Speier
1977 Frankfurt am Main, Germany; lives in Vienna

Lilly Steiner
1884 Vienna 1884 – 1961 Paris, France

Curt Stenvert
1920 Vienna – 1992 Cologne, Germany

Alexander Stern
1894 Klosterneuburg – 1970 Graz

Ingeborg Strobl
1949 Schladming – 2017 Vienna

Erwin Thorn
1930 Vienna – 2012 Vienna

Philipp Timischl
1989 Graz; lives in Paris, France

Toyen
1902 Prague, Czech Republic – 1980 Paris, France

Borjana Ventzislavova
1976 Sofia, Bulgaria; lives in Vienna

Rudolf Wacker
1893 Bregenz – 1939 Bregenz

Trude Waehner
1900 Vienna – 1979 Vienna

Kay Walkowiak
1980 Salzburg; lives in Vienna

Kurt Weber
1893 Weiz – 1964 Leibnitz

Peter Weibel
1944 Odessa, Ukraine; lives in Karlsruhe, Germany

Lois Weinberger
1947 Stams – 2020 Vienna

Susanne Wenger
1915 Graz – 2009 Osogbo, Nigeria

Franz West
1947 Vienna – 2012 Vienna

Ingrid Wiener
1942 Vienna; lives in Kapfenstein

Fritz Wotruba
1907 Vienna – 1975 Vienna

Erwin Wurm
1954 Bruck an der Mur; lives in Vienna and Limberg

Traute Zemb-Wolsegger
1921 Vienna – 2017 Lorient, France

Robert Zeppel-Sperl
1944 Leoben – 2005 Vienna

Heimo Zobernig
1958 Mauthen; lives in Vienna

Feri Zotter
1923 Neumarkt an der Raab – 1987 Neumarkt an der Raab

EXHIBITION PROGRAM

OVERVIEW TOUR

Avant-Garde and the Contemporary

Every Sunday | 3.30 pm

Holidays: Tue, 26 Oct; Wed, 8 Dec; Sun, 26 Dec | 2022: Thu, 6 Jan; Mon, 18 Apr; Sun, 1 May; Thu, 26 May; Mon, 6 June; Thu, 16 June; Mon, 15 Aug; Wed, 26 Oct; Tue, 1 Nov; Thu, 8 Dec; Sun, 25 Dec; Mon, 26 Dec | 2023: Fri, 6 Jan

The exhibition *Avant-Garde and the Contemporary* conveys currents and trends in art from the 1930s to the present. By juxtaposing historical and contemporary artistic perspectives from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, the exhibition reveals continuities, ruptures, and parallels, as well as alternative concepts. In this tour, we will use selected works to explore some evident but also surprising interplays and talk about themes and modes of expression in art.

€ 5 (plus admission) | duration: 1 hour

Free for Friends of the Belvedere and annual ticket holders

Limited number of participants | tickets at: www.belvedere.at/programm

FOCUS TOUR

Surreal Narratives in Avant-Garde and Contemporary Art

Thursday, 11 Nov. | 5.30 pm

Dreamlike, unconscious, absurd, and fantastic pictorial inventions are the hallmarks of numerous historical as well as contemporary artworks in the exhibition. In this tour, curator Luisa Ziaja examines the aesthetics of the surreal and the processes of alienation, displacement, and transgression of the real over time, linking art history to the present day.

€ 5 (plus admission) | duration: 1 hour

Free for Friends of the Belvedere and annual ticket holders

Limited number of participants | tickets at: www.belvedere.at/programm

WITH BABY AT THE MUSEUM

Avant-Garde and the Contemporary

Wednesday, 3 and 5 Nov. | 2.30 pm

Enhance your daily activities with your little one in an artful way – this exhibition tour is especially geared to young parents and their babies. Greta Freist, Friedensreich Hundertwasser, Maria Lassnig, VALIE EXPORT, Heimo Zobernig, Ashley Hans Scheirl, and Jakob Lena Knebl: in this exhibition, artistic approaches from the 1930s to the present day engage in lively dialogue.

€ 8 (admission and guided tour) | duration: 1 hour

€ 6 (admission and guided tour) with Kinderaktiv Card

Free for Friends of the Belvedere and annual ticket holders

Limited number of participants | tickets at: www.belvedere.at/programm

Subject to the current event regulations.

You can find the information on current events and programs at www.belvedere.at/programm.
We are looking forward to your visit!

GENERAL INFORMATION

Exhibition title	Avant-Garde and the Contemporary The Belvedere Collection from Lassnig to Knebl
Curator	Luisa Ziaja
Works	185 works, including 90 paintings, 50 sculptures, objects and installative works, 20 photographic works and collages, and 10 video works
Duration	15 September 2021 to 19 February 2023
Exhibition venue	Belvedere 21 Arsenalstraße 1, 1030 Vienna
Opening hours	Tuesday to Sunday 11 am - 6 pm Late Night: Thursday 11 am - 9 pm (Open Mondays on holidays.)
Tickets	Regular € 8,90 online, € 10,50 on site Reduced € 6,90 online, € 8,00 on site Belvedere annual ticket € 39 Children and youth up to the age of 18 free
Web	belvedere.at facebook.com/belvedere21 twitter.com/belvedere21 instagram.com/belvedere21wien #AvantgardeundGegenwart

For more information on the exhibition and high-resolution press photos please visit belvedere.at/en/press.