



Exhibition View *circuit cruise / feasible memory/regulator*  
© 2022 Gerwald Rockenschaub, Photo: Johannes Stoll / Belvedere, Vienna

Vienna, 24 November 2022

**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)

**Press downloads:**  
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## GERWALD ROCKENSCHAUB

### circuit cruise / feasible memory/regulator

25 November 2022 to 12 March 2023

**Colorful surfaces, figures, and shapes flicker, jerk, and twitch in a dynamic but silent manner on the walls: at the Belvedere 21, Gerwald Rockenschaub has created a sensory overload that is both minimalist and complex and extremely precisely staged, requiring close observation.**

General Director Stella Rollig: *"Rockenschaub's animations and their presentation at the Belvedere 21 demonstrate all the characteristics of his artistic production, including geometric abstraction, laconic reduction, flawless surfaces, art-historical references, pop appeal, and the use of the latest technologies. In keeping with his vision, Rockenschaub explores new forms of expression that challenge our perception and offer a singular visual experience."*

Gerwald Rockenschaub has been one of the most influential exponents of contemporary Austrian art for almost four decades. His multimedia work possesses a distinct style defined by the principle of distillation to a few but essential elements, structures, and color contrasts. The works of the radical minimalist are simple, devoid of narrative, yet complex: they range from his ink drawings of the early 1980s and abstract-geometric oil-on-canvas paintings associated with the Neo-Geo movement, to industrially produced acrylic glass, space-consuming installation works, and massive inflatable PVC objects, to the digital animations presented in this exhibition.

For several years Rockenschaub has been generating works and the dramaturgy of his exhibitions on the computer. They are quite humorous—especially when they relate to the history of art: they take a playful approach to the classical genres of painting such as abstraction, landscape, and (self-)portrait. The artist's work is characterized by simple abstract forms that evoke associations with recognizable objects. Rockenschaub, also active as a DJ and musician since the late 1980s, composes his presentations in a rhythmic and beat-oriented manner, similar to techno tracks. This conceptual approach is particularly evident in the animations, which act like short visual tracks—albeit without sound.

Gerwald Rockenschaub developed the solo show *circuit cruise / feasible memory/regulator* with the main gallery of the Belvedere 21 in mind: a loop of 24 digital animations is shown on 24 monitors, which are evenly distributed along four large dark-gray walls. The artist has placed the screens like framed pictures in a classical painting exhibition, except that each screen features moving images that run at uneven tempos. In short sequences, animated geometric figures such as circles, semicircles, triangles, and squares are shown, along with networks of vertical and horizontal lines and pulsating, flickering surfaces. Shapes resembling reduced silhouettes of human faces, such as Rockenschaub's head, can also be discerned in the loops. Often stark color contrasts amplify the momentum of the animations. Three brightly colored sculptures, configured at the center of the exhibition space, invite the viewer to sit or lean against them. *Circuit cruise / feasible memory/regulator* exposes viewers to a rhythmic staccato of patterns, structures, colors, and shapes from all sides. With this site-specific installation, Rockenschaub addresses the architectural conditions of Karl Schwanzer's glass pavilion, challenging the relationship between viewer, artwork, and space with sparse interventions.

*"With his reduced installation, Rockenschaub responds to the Belvedere 21's unique architectural design. An almost meditative silence in the space is contrasted with the visual dynamism of the animations on the exhibition walls. The artist cryptically and peerlessly negotiates pop and high culture, the commonplace and art history, and our visual habits—all without sound, yet all the more visually striking,"* says curator Axel Köhne.

## SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Gerwald Rockenschaub, born in Linz (AT), lives and works in Berlin.

Exhibitions (abridged):

- 2017 Sammlung Goetz, Munich
- 2016 Kunstmuseum St. Gallen
- 2011 Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg
- 2009 Villa Stuck, Munich
- 2008 Kunsthalle Bern
- 2007 documenta 12, Kassel
- 2004 MUMOK, Vienna
- 1998 Kunstverein in Hamburg
- 1994 Secession Vienna
- 1993 45. Biennale di Venezia, Austrian Pavilion
- 1991 Kunstmuseum Luzern
- 1989 International Biennale of São Paulo
- 1986 The 6th Biennale of Sydney

Gerwald Rockenschaub is represented by Mehdi Chouakri, Berlin; Krobath, Vienna; Vera Munro, Hamburg; Galerie Eva Presenhuber, Vienna, Zurich, New York; Thaddaeus Ropac, London, Paris, Salzburg, Seoul.

## CATALOGUE

**Gerwald Rockenschaub. circuit cruise / feasible memory/regulator**

Editors: Stella Rollig, Axel Köhne

Authors: Sven Beckstette, Axel Köhne, Stella Rollig

Graphic design: Alexander Rendi, Vienna

Verlag der Buchhandlung Walther & Franz König, Cologne

Number of pages: 96 pages, 80 plates

Format: 23 × 28.5 cm, landscape

Softcover with open spine

German & English in one volume

ISBN 978-3-903327-37-5 (museum edition)

Sale price: EUR 29.80

## EXHIBITION PROGRAM

### LIVE SET

**With Gerwald Rockenschaub**

Saturday, 21 January / 7 pm

Over the past thirty years, Gerwald Rockenschaub has also made a name for himself as a DJ and (techno) musician. His music—like his visual works—is made exclusively on computers, and he creates an abstract, dynamic dramaturgy in both fields. Rockenschaub will curate a playlist exclusively for Winterfest. The artist's live electronic set will be the evening's highlight.

Free of charge as part of the Belvedere 21 Winter Festival

### LECTURE

**Funky Minimal – Art and Music**

Thursday, 23 February / 7 pm

Sven Beckstette (Curator, Hamburger Bahnhof – Museum für Gegenwart – Berlin) will talk about the work of Gerwald Rockenschaub, his references to constructivism, and the influence of perceptual psychology. The art historian will also discuss the role of the DJs and electronic music during his lecture.

Blickle Kino / free event / duration: 1 hour

All events and tickets at: [www.belvedere.at/programm](http://www.belvedere.at/programm)

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Artist	Gerwald Rockenschaub
Exhibition title	<i>circuit cruise / feasible memory/regulator</i>
Curator	Axel Köhne
Duration	25 November 2022 to 12 March 2023
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 Discounted   € 6.90 online, € 8 on-site Belvedere Annual Ticket   € 39 Children and youth up to the age of 18   free
Web	<a href="https://belvedere.at/en">belvedere.at/en</a> <a href="https://facebook.com/belvedere21">facebook.com/belvedere21</a> <a href="https://twitter.com/belvedere21">twitter.com/belvedere21</a> <a href="https://instagram.com/belvedere21wien">instagram.com/belvedere21wien</a>  #GerwaldRockenschaub

For more information on the exhibition and high-resolution press photos please visit [belvedere.at/en/press](https://belvedere.at/en/press).