

## AGING PRIDE

Lower Belvedere  
17 November 2017 to 4 March 2018



Joyce Tenneson, Christine Lee, 2002 © Joyce Tenneson

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Of all the stages in life, none has such controversial associations in our society as old age. While on the one hand the advertising industry coins new enticing labels for the growing market of over sixty-fives, such as woopies, “Best Ager,” or golden agers, on the other, people only in their fifties find themselves excluded from the job market. The movie industry shows us sprightly young-at-heart seniors; the cosmetics industry reinforces the prevailing cult of youth with a multitude of anti-aging products. In the discussion about old age, artists have often presented alternatives to the usual model. AGING PRIDE presents a wide variety of approaches to this topic in historical and contemporary art. This first cross-media exhibition about this highly topical subject can be seen at the Lower Belvedere from 17 November 2017 to 4 March 2018.

Stella Rollig, CEO of the Belvedere, said: *“Dealing with old age is one of the major issues of our time, especially as life expectancy is clearly increasing. But instead of valuing age, there exists real discrimination and exclusion. The Belvedere’s exhibition shows images of old age that radiate strength, beauty, and joy: the power of life’s later years.”*

You have to live a long time “to become young,” believed Pablo Picasso, who in the last two years of his life created around 200 works and was ninety-one when he died. Picasso is just one of the 105 artists featured in the Belvedere’s current exhibition totaling 174 works. They all ask urgent questions raised by age and aging in our society. For aging is not only a biological process but also a cultural construct. Currently it is not regarded as a natural stage in our lives like childhood, adolescence, and adulthood. Terms like “anti-aging” frame the aging process as something pathological requiring treatment. Today’s model sees old age as a deficiency and largely marginalizes old people. Furthermore, “doing aging” hits women harder than men. The ideal of beauty, stretching back centuries, still mainly judges women by their youthfulness, is swifter to regard them as old, and filters them out of the public eye earlier.

Curator Sabine Fellner poses the question: *“Does our society need coaching in how to cope with the last stage in life and, if so, why? Is there a lack of appropriate role models and examples? Can art offer ‘alternative’ concepts?”*

A different view of old age has been presented by Future Studies for quite some time. Instead of lamenting an aging society, it calls for life's phases to be redefined and age to be seen in an affirmative light, highlighting the advantages of increasing life expectancy. Artists also subscribe to an alternative view of the last stage in life and illustrate that old age can indeed represent experience, wisdom, power, contemplation, dignity, joie de vivre, a triumph over social conventions, and productivity. Maria Lassnig, for example, carried on developing her painting up until her death at the age of ninety-five; artists like Arnulf Rainer, Daniel Spoerri, Joan Semmel, and Margot Pilz continued their creative work into their eighties.

This exhibition examines representational traditions with regard to gender roles and the assignment of roles. It juxtaposes the current discourse with images of age and aging approximately covering the last one hundred years.

New perspectives on old age emerge and are based around six themes in the exhibition: *Eternal Youth/Impressive Age*, *Mortality*, *Solitude/Solidarity*, *New Freedom*, *Leisure*, and *Memory*. Instead of romanticizing or being pessimistic about old age, artists have approached the opportunities and limitations of aging in realistic and nuanced ways, sifting out its specific qualities. In various artistic media, they examine the subject critically, empathetically, but also with irony, wit, and humor, and illustrate how we can integrate and value all the aspects of old age in our lives and enjoy solidarity between the generations.

Presenting international perspectives, this exhibition features numerous works from the Belvedere's collection in addition to high-profile loans from Austrian and international museums and collections.

Curator: Sabine Fellner

The exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue.

*Please contact us, if you want us to send a PDF of the exhibition catalogue: [presse@belvedere.at](mailto:presse@belvedere.at) Complimentary images can be downloaded for press purposes at [www.belvedere.at/press](http://www.belvedere.at/press).*

**#AgingPride**

## ARTISTS in the exhibition

Gustinus Ambrosi  
 Tina Barney  
 Pina Bausch  
 Renate Bertlmann  
 Herbert Boeckl  
 Eva Brunner-Szabo  
 Aleah Chapin  
 Heinz Cibulka  
 John Coplans  
 Lovis Corinth  
 Edgar Degas  
 Carola Dertnig  
 Ines Doujak  
 Sepp Dreissinger  
 Barbara Eichhorn  
 Titanilla Eisenhart  
 Michael Endlicher  
 James Ensor  
 Eric Fischl  
 Josef Floch  
 Greta Freist  
 Lucian Freud  
 Adolf Frohner  
 Friedl vom Gröller  
 George Grosz  
 Johannes Grützke  
 Ernst Haas  
 Heidi Harsieber  
 Felix Albrecht Harta  
 Karl Hofer  
 Edgar Honetschläger  
 Alfred Hrdlicka  
 Bernadette Huber  
 Franz Hubmann  
 Regina Hügli

Ishiuchi Miyako  
 Konstantin Jatropulus  
 Birgit Jürgenssen  
 Alex Katz  
 Josef Kern  
 Anastasia Khoroshilova  
 Barbara Klemm  
 Gustav Klimt  
 Herlinde Koelbl  
 Oskar Kokoschka  
 Broncia Koller-Pinell  
 Käthe Kollwitz  
 Nikolaus Korab  
 NINA Kovacheva  
 Brigitte Kowanz  
 Karoline Kubin  
 Maria Lassnig  
 Annie Leibovitz  
 Erich Lessing  
 Max Liebermann  
 Karin Mack  
 Karl Mediz  
 Elfriede Mejchar  
 Duane Michals  
 Paula Modersohn-Becker  
 Inge Morath  
 Marie Louise von  
 Motesiczky  
 Ron Mueck  
 Shirin Neshat  
 Roman Opałka  
 Hans Op de Beeck  
 Martin Parr  
 Ewa Partum  
 Pablo Picasso

Margot Pilz  
 Arnulf Rainer  
 Paula Rego  
 Carl Anton Reichel  
 Elisabeth von Samsonow  
 Egon Schiele  
 Karl Schmidt-Rottluff  
 Claudia Schumann  
 Fritz Schwarz-Waldegg  
 Joan Semmel  
 Elfie Semotan  
 Fritz Simak  
 Kiki Smith  
 Annegret Soltau  
 Margherita Spiluttini  
 Elsa Spitzer  
 Daniel Spoerri  
 Evelin Stermitz  
 Karl Sterrer  
 Superflux  
 Fiona Tan  
 Juergen Teller  
 Joyce Tenneson  
 Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec  
 Rosemarie Trockel  
 Spencer Tunick  
 Christine Turnauer  
 Nurith Wagner-Strauss  
 Jeff Wall  
 Josef Wawra  
 Harry Weber  
 Todd Weinstein  
 Nives Widauer  
 Martha Wilson  
 Herwig Zens

## GENERAL INFORMATION

<b>Exhibition title</b>	<b>AGING PRIDE</b>
<b>Exhibition duration</b>	17 November 2017 to 4 March 2018
<b>Venue</b>	Lower Belvedere
<b>Exhibits</b>	<b>174</b>
<b>Curator</b>	Sabine Fellner
<b>Catalogue</b>	Die Kraft des Alters / Aging Pride Editors: Stella Rollig, Sabine Fellner Authors: Sabine Fellner, Heike Hartung, Beate Hofstadler, Robert Pfaller, Stella Rollig, Gabriele Schor Graphic Design: Willi Schmid 384 p., 17 x 24 cm, Hardcover german & englisch all in one ISBN 978-3-903114-46-3 EUR 36,-
<b>Contact</b>	Belvedere, Prinz Eugen-Straße 27, 1030 Wien T +43 1 795 57-0 <a href="http://www.belvedere.at">www.belvedere.at</a>
<b>Guided Tours</b>	Belvedere Education T + 43 1 795 57-134   M <a href="mailto:public@belvedere.at">public@belvedere.at</a>
<b>Opening Hours</b>	daily 10am to 6pm Friday 10am to 9pm
<b>Regular Entry</b>	€ 13 (Lower Belvedere)
<b>Press Contact</b>	Presse Belvedere Prinz Eugen-Straße 27, 1030 Wien M +43 1 795 57-177 E <a href="mailto:presse@belvedere.at">presse@belvedere.at</a> Complimentary images can be downloaded for press purposes at <a href="http://www.belvedere.at/press">www.belvedere.at/press</a> .

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