

Kunsthhaus
Graz

Quick Tour

Brief overview of the exhibitions

The Other

Re-Imagine the Future

09/28/2023–04/03/2024

Curated by Andreja Hribernik

Venue: Space02

Sol LeWitt's Wall. Performed

Re-Imagine the Future

09/28/2023–06/09/2024

Curated by Katrin Bucher Trantow

Venue: Space01

English

General

Twenty years ago in September, the Kunsthaus Graz was opened. Until today it has been a place for artists to talk about current topics through art.

On the anniversary there are several exhibitions:

In Space02, artists show how they think about the meaning of “the other”.

The wall of the artist Sol LeWitt is exhibited in Space01. It was already on display in 2004. This time, the views of other artists complement the wall.

Both exhibitions are linked by thoughts about the past, life in the present and the future.

Note

On the last page there is information about the underlined words.

The Other

Venue: Space02

The exhibition “The Other” is about what being different can mean. As humans we differentiate ourselves from others to be our own. But that is exactly what leads to being excluded. Where do we find these contradictions? The artists deal with society, politics, history, and time. They introduce new ideas and question old narratives and make room for almost forgotten stories.

Here we present the artists’ thoughts on these topics: time, history, resistance, transience, and shared future.

Time

What influence does the past have on our future? Isn’t it always now?

As soon as we arrive in the exhibition space, we see the artwork by **Anetta Mona Chişa** and **Lucia Tkáčová**: A picture of a broken cell phone screen is woven into colorful fabric panels. The artists wonder how time affects us. Broken and new come together and ask: do we start something new to finally get rid of something old? Or is the old always attached to the new thing?

Passing by?

What remains of what is important to us?

This question is addressed by women artists in the exhibition. They exhibit gifts and flowers that were used at political celebrations: **Jasmina Cibic** photographs diplomatic gifts that were given away over decades within the Non-Aligned

Movement. Cibic captures the female figures and depicts moths on them. They are a reminder of how quickly something can be over. Symbolically, the photographs can represent the early dreams of the movement.

Kapwani Kiwanga also shows us flowers as witnesses to past celebrations. They were there when various African states gained their independence. The flowers in the exhibition are not cared for by anyone and wither: it takes a lot of work and care to realize a political dream in the long term.

Shared Future

How can we live a better life together?

Some artists explore ideas about how society can function differently. Do power and exploitation always have to be a part of it? **Jonas Staal** shows the opposite: plants and animals lived peacefully together for 94 million years. The artist group **IRWIN** created their own state in time. They want it not to be determined by territory and borders, but by its values.

History

What is written in history has been recorded by people with power. What about the others? Which voices are not heard?

The artist **Rossella Biscotti** uses materials that were used in history. They are related to people or animals that were previously invisible. She deals with colonialism in Indonesia. The Netherlands was a colonial power there until 1949 and exploited the land, people, and animals. In *Clara*, Biscotti tells

the story of a rhinoceros, while in her works made of natural rubber, Biscotti tells the story of women who took their fate into their own hands.

Lana Čmajčanin addresses how history repeats itself. Austria-Hungary conducted a campaign against Bosnia in 1878. It was supposed to be peaceful but turned violent. “Don’t dream dreams,” said politician David Owen in 1992. People in the Bosnian war should not dream dreams. The West would not come to solve their problem. This hurtful saying also fits the failed campaign of 1878.

Resistance

Who fights back against injustice? Who fights for a better future?

In **Bouchra Khalili**’s film, people call for more equality and solidarity. They deal with the current situation in Greece, Europe, and the Mediterranean. People on the run are exposed to inhumane living conditions. We should look and react.

Over the last 250 years, people around the world have fought against oppression. Often violence is the only means to achieve change. The Belarusian artist **Marina Naprushkina** remembers the prisoners in Belarus who are resisting the president’s government. She calls for a president who has more understanding and different life experiences than a white man. In her embroidery, **Helene Thümmel** honors all the people who fought for a fairer future in revolutions and protests.

They turned the actual national flags into colorful fabrics. The individual flags are no longer that important. They remind us that we could live and deal with each other completely differently. The flags are on different locations in the Kunsthaus, but also in the city of Graz.

Sol LeWitt's Wall. Performed

Venue: Space01

The exhibition “Sol LeWitt’s Wall” is special on several levels: twenty years ago, the artist **Sol LeWitt** planned a wall for the new Kunsthaus Graz. The wall was one of his last major works. It is now being shown for the second time at the same exhibition venue. What is different is that artists fill the wall with questions and ideas from today. Over the next months, the wall itself and the Kunsthaus will change as a result.

Like “The Other,” “Sol LeWitt’s Wall” addresses demarcation and boundaries. A boundary can protect and exclude at the same time. It is sometimes necessary and can be unjust at the same time. We can change, destroy, or redefine boundaries. What is the outcome?

The artistic examination of the wall happens in a similar way to its construction: piece by piece, the artists contribute their ideas. They want to discuss topics that are related to the wall: Who is allowed to come and who is not? Why does exclusion happen?

During the exhibition, **Franz Vana**, **Renate Krammer** and **Superflex**, among others, will continue to rethink these questions regarding the Wall.

The wall is limited to its essentials: bricks of a certain shape. This opens several questions. What could this wall mean? What do we hear, see, smell, feel at which point? Where are we standing right now? In Space01, in our live, in society?

The growth of the wall is visible over time. It also stands as a symbol for the Kunsthaus: a place for reflection, a space for discussion and plenty of space for movement and change.

Dictionary

Non-Aligned Movement

The Non-Aligned Movement was founded after World War II. 120 countries are part of this forum. They are not formally aligned with or against any major power bloc. No European Country is part of it, but the former Yugoslavia was.

Colonialism

This refers to the occupation of a territory by another state. European states in particular colonized parts of Asia and America. They op-pressed, enslaved and killed the people who lived there. The systems introduced devalued the existing society. They continue to have influence. One example of the consequences today is racism.

white

is deliberately written crookedly. „*White*“ is the opposite of the „Black“. It refers to the political dimensions of Color and the benefits associated with it. For example, that someone who is *white* is rarely asked for ID by a police officer on the street.