

Press Release

VIENNA BIENNALE 2017 Robots. Work. Our Future

Multidisciplinary visions for a humane
digital tomorrow

Opening Press Conference Tuesday, 20 June 2017, 9:30 a.m.
Venue Café Heuer, Kunsthalle Wien Karlsplatz, Treitlstraße 2, 1040 Vienna

Digitalization, humanitarianism, and the arts have a lot to say to each other: Opening today, 20 June 2017, the *VIENNA BIENNALE 2017: Robots. Work. Our Future* sparks an auspicious discourse about possible digital realities. Multidisciplinary positions approach turbocharged digitalization with incisive scenarios of a humane digital future. Over 300 artists, designers, architects, and other participants attract our attention to the possible ways in which we can make the best for humans out of this technology- and economy-driven digital revolution.

With the motto *Robots. Work. Our Future*, the organizers of the VIENNA BIENNALE 2017—MAK, University of Applied Art Vienna, Kunsthalle Wien, Architekturzentrum Wien, Vienna Business Agency as well as the AIT Austrian Institute of Technology as non-university research partner—are facing up to one of the most defining topics of our age.

Digitalization influences our (work) life and our way of life down to the last detail. Often that takes place without us noticing; the changes are too fast. Technological achievements create new room for maneuver and liberate us. Yet at the same time, they control us in unprecedented ways. It is the arts that have the potential to open our eyes, keep us vigilant, and contribute to instilling digitalization with aesthetic and humane values and make it sustainably meaningful.

According to Christoph Thun-Hohenstein, General Director of the MAK and Initiator and Head of the VIENNA BIENNALE, the focus on work and robotics is intrinsic to the digital as an issue: "Work is central to our prosperity and our well-being. Automation and robotics break down barriers, especially between humans and machines. Addressing and helping to humanely shape these elementary changes triggered by Digital Modernity is a key aim of the VIENNA BIENNALE 2017."

Three Biennale projects will introduce the diverse facets of and intersections between work, robotics, and automation: *Hello, Robot. Design be-*

21.6. – 1.10.2017

tween Human and Machine (An exhibition of the MAK, the Vitra Design Museums, and the Design museum Gent) invites close encounters with the increasingly omnipresent species *Robot*, while *How Will We Work?* (An exhibition by the University of Applied Arts Vienna at the AIL – Angewandte Innovation Laboratory) provides a critical glimpse of the often skeptical notions of automation and Industry 4.0. The *StadtFabrik [City factory]* (A cooperation project by the Vienna Business Agency with its creative center departure and the MAK) researches three core aspects of work in the digital future with **demonstrators** across the city and the **exhibition *CityFactory: New Work. New Design.*** at the MAK: NEW CREATIVE WORK, NEW SOCIAL WORK, and NEW SUSTAINABLE WORK.

As an antithesis to turbocharged digitalization, the project *Care + Repair* (A public workspace by the Architekturzentrum Wien) attracts our attention to the need to conserve and heal our world. At the Nordbahnhof (former northern train station), one of the largest inner-city development zones in Vienna, prototypes are emerging for a *Care + Repair* urbanism.

Yet how does Digital Modernity feel, how do we humans want to interact and live in it? *Work it, feel it!* (An exhibition by the Kunsthalle Wien) focuses on the human body and addresses mechanisms of control and discipline that shape and regulate it, as well as moments of (bodily) resistance to an all-embracing and boundless work. *ARTIFICIAL TEARS. Singularity & Humanness—A Speculation* (An exhibition of the MAK) is an invitation to consider both emotionally and intellectually the future of humankind. It takes us to dystopian worlds that we must flee, and negotiates humans' poetic inefficiency in contrast to technology. A narrative about the affect of things is spun by the MAK's group exhibition *ich weiß nicht [I don't know]—Growing Relations between Things* against the backdrop of new digital settings.

There is always a place for utopia, as is illustrated by the kinetic installation *Level—the fragile balance of utopia* by the mischer'traxler studio—conceived for the London Design Biennale 2016 and on display in Vienna for the first time—as well as *DESIGN FOR AGENCY* (A presentation by students from the Industrial Design 2 Institute at the University of Applied Arts Vienna in the MAK FORUM).

The most important content in the VIENNA BIENNALE 2017 is boiled down by the **Vienna Biennale Circle**, a think tank of mostly Vienna-based representatives of various creative sectors, in the exhibition manifesto *What Do We Want? Dimensions of a New Digital Humanism*, designed by buero bauer. It outlines approaches to a world in which we would also want to live in the future.

And that's not all: to further publicize the topics of the VIENNA BIENNALE 2017, the MAK has entered into a cooperation with the international online

platform **e-flux** Architecture for the first time. Under the title *ARTIFICIAL LABOR*, international experts are developing new viewpoints on Digital Modernity in essays.

Developed for the premiere of the VIENNA BIENNALE, the **app** (iOS and Android) has been expanded with the support of Digital Content Partner T-Mobile Austria and now offers audio tours of three exhibitions. On the basis of the Vienna Biennale Circle's Manifesto *What Do We Want? Dimensions of a New Digital Humanism*, users can create their very own digital manifesto (www.viennabiennale.org/vienna-biennale-app).

DETAILED PRESS RELEASES ON THE INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS of the VIENNA BIENNALE 2017 and **BIOGRAPHIES OF THE CURATORS** are available for download in the press section of www.viennabiennale.org/en as well as at MAK.at/en/press.

The wide-ranging RELATED EVENTS surrounding the VIENNA BIENNALE 2017 are continually updated and can be found at viennabiennale.org/en/calendar/.

CURATORS

VIENNA BIENNALE 2017: Robots. Work. Our Future:

Anne Faucheret (Curator, Kunsthalle Wien)
Angelika Fitz (Director, Architekturzentrum Wien)
Anab Jain (Director and Co-founder, Superflux, London; Professor for Industrial Design, University of Applied Arts Vienna)
Amelie Klein (Curator, Vitra Design Museum, Weil am Rhein)
Elke Krasny (Curator, Professor at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna)
Marlies Wirth (Curator, Digital Culture and Design Collection, MAK)
IDRV – Institute of Design Research Vienna (Martina Fineder, Harald Gruendl, and Ulrike Haele)

TEAM Vienna Biennale Circle:

Christoph Thun-Hohenstein (editorial lead), Gerald Bast, Erwin K. Bauer, Mark Coeckelbergh, Janina Falkner, Anne Faucheret, Paul Feigelfeld, Gabriela Gantenbein, Harald Gruendl, Ulrike Haele, Miriam Kathrein, Beate Lex, Eva Meran, Elisabeth Noever-Ginthör, Hans-Jörg Otto, Bill Price, Doris Rothauer, Robert Trappl, Marlies Wirth, and Evan Zimmerman

OVERVIEW: EXHIBITIONS AND PROJECTS

VIENNA BIENNALE 2017: Robots. Work. Our Future

Hello, Robot. Design between Human and Machine

An exhibition of the MAK, the Vitra Design Museum, and the Design museum Gent

Curators: Amelie Klein (Vitra Design Museum), Thomas Geisler, Marlies Wirth (MAK), Fredo de Smet (Design museum Gent, curatorial advisor)

Curatorial Assistance: Erika Pinner (Vitra Design Museum)

MAK Exhibition Hall, MAK, Stubenring 5, 1010 Vienna

21 June – 1 October 2017

ARTIFICIAL TEARS. Singularity & Humanness—A Speculation

An exhibition of the MAK

Curator: Marlies Wirth (Curator, Digital Culture and Design Collection, MAK)

MAK Exhibition Hall, MAK, Stubenring 5, 1010 Vienna

21 June – 1 October 2017

ich weiß nicht—Growing Relations between Things

An exhibition of the MAK

Curators: Janina Falkner (MAK Contemporary Art Collection) and Marlies Wirth (Curator, Digital Culture and MAK Design Collection)

MAK DESIGN LAB, MAK, Stubenring 5, 1010 Vienna

21 June – 1 October 2017

How Will We Work?

An exhibition by the University of Applied Arts Vienna at the Angewandte Innovation Laboratory (AIL)

Curators: Anab Jain (Director and Co-founder, Superflux, London; Professor for Industrial Design, University of Applied Arts Vienna), Gerald Bast (President, University of Applied Arts Vienna)

Curatorial Assistance: Jake Charles Rees (Superflux), Martina Schöggel (University of Applied Arts Vienna)

AIL Angewandte Innovation LAB, Franz-Josefs-Kai 3, 1010 Vienna

21 June – 27 Sep 2017

Work it, feel it!

An exhibition by the Kunsthalle Wien

Curator: Anne Faucheret

Associate Curator: Eva Meran

Kunsthalle Wien Karlsplatz

21 June – 10 September 2017

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Care + Repair

A public workspace by the Architekturzentrum Wien

Curators: Angelika Fitz (Director, Architekturzentrum Wien), Elke Krasny (Curator, Professor at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna)

Nordbahn-Halle, corner of Leystraße/Taborstraße, Nordbahnhof Wien, 1020 Vienna

21 June – 31 July 2017

CityFactory: New Work. New Design

Demonstrators within the city and exhibition at the MAK

A cooperation project by the Vienna Business Agency with its creative center departure and the MAK

Curators of the demonstrators: IDRV – Institute of Design Research Vienna (Harald Gruendl, Ulrike Haele)

Curators of the exhibition: IDRV – Institute of Design Research Vienna (Martina Fineder, Harald Gruendl, Ulrike Haele)

MAK Exhibition Hall, MAK, Stubenring 5, 1010 Vienna (21 June – 1 October 2017), and demonstrators within the city (21 – 25 June and 15 – 24 September 2017)

What Do We Want? Dimensions of a New Digital Humanism

The Vienna Biennale Circle's Exhibition Manifesto

MAK Columned Main Hall, 1st floor, MAK, Stubenring 5, 1010 Vienna

21 June – 1 October 2017

Level—the fragile balance of utopia

A mischer'traxler studio installation at the MAK

MAK GALLERY, MAK, Stubenring 5, 1010 Vienna

21 June – 1 October 2017

DESIGN FOR AGENCY

A presentation by the MAK and the University of Applied Arts Vienna

MAK FORUM, MAK, Stubenring 5, 1010 Vienna

21 June – 2 July 2017

Timetable: Openings

VIENNA BIENNALE 2017: Robots. Work. Our Future

5:30 p.m., Doors open at the MAK

6 p.m., VIENNA BIENNALE Opening Speeches at the MAK

Speakers:

Christoph Thun-Hohenstein, General Director, MAK, and Head of the VIENNA BIENNALE

Gerald Bast, President, University of Applied Arts Vienna

Vanessa Joan Müller, Head of Dramaturgy, Kunsthalle Wien

Angelika Fitz, Director, Architekturzentrum Wien

Gerhard Hirczi, General Manager, Vienna Business Agency

Opening

Thomas Drozda, Federal Minister for Arts and Culture, Constitution and Media

Exhibitions open until 10 p.m.

OPENING PARTY at the MAK until 1 a.m.

DJ line-up with Arne Spremberg (Gassen aus Zucker/Schakal) and Fredo De Smet

10 p.m., ELEKTRO GUZZI live

7 p.m., Opening Speeches at the AIL – Angewandte Innovation Laboratory

Franz-Josefs-Kai 3, 1010 Vienna

Exhibition open until 10 p.m.

8 p.m., Opening Speeches at the public workspace of the

Az W – Architekturzentrum Wien

Nordbahn-Halle next the Wasserturm, corner of Leystraße/Taborstraße, Nordbahnhof Wien, 1020 Vienna

Exhibition open until 10 p.m.

9 p.m., Opening Speeches and performance by Apparatus 22 at Kunsthalle Wien Karlsplatz

Treitlstraße 2, 1040 Vienna

Exhibition open until 12 a.m.

Exhibition Venues

VIENNA BIENNALE 2017: Robots. Work. Our Future

MAK – Austrian Museum of Applied Arts / Contemporary Art (21 Jun – 1 Oct 2017)

Stubenring 5, 1010 Vienna

Opening Hours:

Tue 10 a.m.–10 p.m., Wed–Sun 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

Admission:

€ 9.90 / Reduced € 7.50 / Family Ticket € 13

Free admission on Tuesdays 6–10 p.m.

Free admission for children and teens under 19

T +43 1 711 36-0, office@MAK.at

www.MAK.at

University of Applied Arts Vienna – Angewandte Innovation Laboratory (21 Jun – 27 Sep 2017, closed in August)

Franz-Josefs-Kai 3, 1010 Vienna

Opening Hours:

Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 12 noon–5 p.m., Wed 12 noon–8 p.m. (except bank holidays)

Free admission

T +43 1 711 33-2007

www.aialab.at, www.dieangewandte.at

Kunsthalle Wien Karlsplatz

(21 Jun – 10 Sep 2017)

Treitlstraße 2, 1040 Vienna

Opening Hours:

Thu 11 a.m.–9 p.m., Fri–Wed 11 a.m.–7 p.m.

Admission:

Regular € 3 / Reduced € 2 / Students € 2

Free admission for children and teens under 19

T +43 1 52189-0, office@kunsthallewien.at

www.kunsthallewien.at

A public workspace by the Az W – Architekturzentrum Wien

(21 Jun – 31 Jul 2017)

Nordbahn-Halle, corner of Leystraße/Taborstraße, Nordbahnhof Wien, 1020 Vienna

Opening Hours:

Daily 2–10 p.m.

Free admission

T +43 1 522 31 15, office@azw.at

www.azw.at

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The *VIENNA BIENNALE 2017: Robots. Work. Our Future*
is organized by

MAK – Austrian Museum of Applied Arts /
Contemporary Art

University of Applied Arts Vienna – Angewandte Innovation
Laboratory

Kunsthalle Wien

Az W – Architekturzentrum Wien

Vienna Business Agency

Research Partner:
AIT Austrian Institute of Technology

Robots. Work. Our Future

21.6. – 1.10.2017

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Work it, feel it!

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Vienna, 20 June 2017