



MAK

Press Release

MAK Symposium
Can Art Improve the World?
Orientation for the VIENNA BIENNALE 2017
Part of the VIENNA ART WEEK 2015: *Creating Common Good*

MAK Symposium	Tuesday, 17 November 2015
	7 p.m.–midnight
Venue	MAK Columned Main Hall
	MAK, Stubenring 5, 1010 Vienna
Admission	Admission free

On the occasion of the VIENNA ART WEEK 2015: *Creating Common Good*, the MAK extends an invitation to the symposium *Can Art Improve the World? Orientation for the VIENNA BIENNALE 2017* on Tuesday, 17 November 2015 in the MAK Columned Main Hall. Following the topic of the VIENNA BIENNALE 2015: IDEAS FOR CHANGE, the relevance of artistic creativity and its unchallenged freedom will be brought forward for discussion for the purpose of an initial orientation for the VIENNA BIENNALE 2017. To kick off the evening, MAK Director and VIENNA BIENNALE Initiator Christoph Thun-Hohenstein will discuss the role of art in positive change with Heinrich Dunst (Artist), Bettina Goetz (Architect), and Dorit Margreiter (Artist). The artists Mladen Bizumic, Andreas Fogarasi, Sonia Leimer, Valentin Ruhry, and Anna Witt will present their personal stance towards the eponymous question in short statements and with the aid of visual material. The evening will end with a consideration of these viewpoints in the context of an open artists' discussion with audience participation.

Art is often described as a “seismograph” of sociopolitical developments. At present art is facing an unusual challenge, occasioned by the fact that digitalization is fundamentally changing every aspect of life. Indeed, this could be deemed a new era in which people and the world they define are central: the “Anthropocene” or a “new modernity.” Digital Modernity has enormous potential, but also harbors great risks—not least due to the lack of emotions and the increasing proliferation of instrumental rationality in economics, politics, science, technology—and culture. In light of digital technologies' ability to learn, a substantial proportion of work that is currently accomplished by human brain and brawn will instead be executed by “machines” (artificial intelligence/robotics) over the coming decades. However, the development and design of future-oriented concepts to safeguard human self-determination and meaningful life concepts depends to a large extent on human creativity.

Hence, artists assume a central role in Digital Modernity. Whereas design and architec-

ture frequently embody the definition of “creativity as a problem-solving process,” fine art is neither able nor wants to be exploited to solve problems directly. In this open space beyond immediate utility, art can unfold its distinct, unmistakable potential. As a result of this ongoing sociocultural transformation process that was set in motion by digitalization, art is given the opportunity to sustainably contribute to the creation of identity, awareness, and new values for society.

**Program: MAK Symposium *Can Art Improve the World?*
*Orientation for the VIENNA BIENNALE 2017***

Tuesday, 17 November 2015, 7 p.m.–midnight, MAK Columned Main Hall

7:15–8:15 p.m., Panel Discussion

MAK Director and VIENNA BIENNALE Initiator Christoph Thun-Hohenstein discusses the question “Can art improve the world?” and if so, how?

with

Heinrich Dunst, Artist

Bettina Goetz, Architect

Dorit Margreiter, Artist

8:30–9:30 p.m., Statements by Contemporary Artists

Invited by the MAK, the artists

Mladen Bizumic

Andreas Fogarasi

Sonia Leimer

Valentin Ruhry

Anna Witt

will present short statements (10 minutes each) and five pictures on the topic “Can art improve the world?”

9:30–10:30 p.m., Artists’ Discussion

Closing discussion with Mladen Bizumic, Andreas Fogarasi, Sonia Leimer, Valentin Ruhry, and Anna Witt with input from the group of VIENNA BIENNALE 2015 partner institutions and the Vienna Biennale Circle, and with the involvement of the audience.

Moderation: Marlies Wirth, MAK Curator

This event will predominantly be conducted in German.

Further information can be found at MAK.at/en as well as viennaartweek.at/en



Queries

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