



MAK

Press Release

***CIRCULAR FLOWS: The Toilet Revolution!* comes to Vienna**

Austria's contribution to the XXII Triennale di Milano will be presented in the MAK as part of the VIENNA BIENNALE FOR CHANGE 2019

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| Exhibition Venue | MAK FORUM MAK, Stubenring 5, 1010 Vienna |
| Exhibition Dates | 10 September – 6 October 2019 |
| Opening Hours | Tue 10 a.m.–10 p.m., Wed–Sun 10 a.m.–6 p.m. |

CIRCULAR FLOWS: The Toilet Revolution!, the Austrian contribution to the XXII Triennale di Milano (1 March – 1 September 2019) which was created by the design studio EOOS (Martin Bergmann, Gernot Bohmann, and Harald Gruendl) and awarded the silver “Black Bee Award”, will be presented in the MAK. This contribution can be seen as a collateral project of the VIENNA BIENNALE FOR CHANGE 2019: BRAVE NEW VIRTUES. *Shaping our Digital World* and is also the focus of the DESIGN NITE in the MAK (1 October 2019, as part of the VIENNA DESIGN WEEK). In *CIRCULAR FLOWS: The Toilet Revolution!* EOOS presents the prototype of a toilet which is capable of urine separation. The *Urine Trap* offers a revolutionary design solution for fighting the pollution of our waters with nitrogen, one of the most pressing environmental problems of our time.

Austria's contribution, funded by the Federal Chancellery of Austria and commissioned by the MAK, directly ties into the theme of this year's Triennale—*Broken Nature*. The Triennale drew attention to the role of design and architecture in understanding and repairing a world whose natural resources and regenerative capacity have been exploited. These topics will also be discussed in the VIENNA BIENNALE FOR CHANGE 2019, including the exhibition *CLIMATE CHANGE! From Mass Consumption to a Sustainable Quality Society*, a cooperation of the MAK and the Federal Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism (MAK DESIGN LAB, 29 May – 6 October 2019).

In a multimedia installation (animation and graphics: Process Studio, Vienna) *CIRCULAR FLOWS: The Toilet Revolution!* demonstrates which contribution the urine separation toilet can make to preserving the ecological limits of our earth. EOOS' *Urine Trap* makes it possible to separate urine inconspicuously in a conventional flush toilet. In addition to other nutrients, urine contains some 80% of the nitrogen found in sewage: This can be removed from the wastewater stream, collected in decentralized tanks, and finally treated to be used as fertilizer.

The *Urine Trap* is based on years of research by Eawag, the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology, pioneers in the field of urine separation. Since 2011,

Eawag has been working on a revolutionary, completely self-contained, high-tech toilet for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation with EOOS responsible for the design of the *Blue Diversion Toilet*. Central to this is the separate management of water, faeces, and urine. After years of joint research, EOOS has presented a further development in the form of the *Urine Trap*, where urine separation can be integrated into the conventional flush toilet with little effort. Together with Swiss ceramics manufacturer LAUFEN, EOOS has further evolved urine separation technology into a product.

Leading scientists classify large nitrogen flows as being even more threatening than climate change. In their opinion, the biochemical flow of nitrogen exceeds the “planetary boundaries,” endangering the livelihoods of humans.

The official Austrian contribution to the XXII Triennale di Milano was sponsored by the Austrian Federal Chancellery, commissioned by the MAK, and curated by Marlies Wirth, Curator, Digital Culture and MAK Design Collection.

Press photos are available for download at [MAK.at/en/press](https://www.mak.at/en/press).

Funding:

Federal Chancellery of Austria
MAK – Museum of Applied Arts

Support:

Eawag – Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (Tove Larsen)
Austrian Cultural Forum Milan
LAUFEN

MAK DESIGN NITE

CIRCULAR FLOWS: The Toilet Revolution!

as part of the VIENNA DESIGN WEEK

MAK Columned Main Hall, Tuesday, 1 October 2019, 7 p.m.–10 p.m.

7 p.m.

Panel Discussion

on the design process and future scenarios of the “Toilet Revolution”

Welcome address

Christoph Thun-Hohenstein, General Director, MAK

At the podium

Harald Gruendl, EOOS

Tove Larsen, Senior Scientist, Eawag

Marc Viardot, Director Marketing & Products, LAUFEN

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

5:30 p.m.

CIRCULAR FLOWS: The Toilet Revolution! (MAK FORUM)

Expert-Guided Tours with Harald Gruendl

6 p.m.

CLIMATE CHANGE! From Mass Consumption to a Sustainable Quality Society
(MAK DESIGN LAB)

Expert-Guided Tours with Harald Gruendl

All of the MAK's program items as part of the VIENNA DESIGN WEEK at MAK.at.

Press Data

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| Curator | Marlies Wirth, Curator, Digital Culture and MAK Design Collection |
| MAK Admission | € 12 / Reduced € 9 / Family Ticket € 15 Every Tuesday 6–10 p.m.: admission € 5 Free admission for children and teens under 19 |
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Vienna, 5 September 2019