

Press Release

VIENNA BIENNALE FOR CHANGE 2021: PLANET LOVE. Climate Care in the Digital Age

The fourth edition of the multisectoral biennale calls for comprehensive Climate Care

Announcement
Press Conference
Dates

Tuesday, 16 March 2021, 10 a.m. (via Zoom)

28 May – 3 October 2021

The VIENNA BIENNALE FOR CHANGE 2021 (28 May – 3 October 2021) focuses on caring passionately about our environment, on ideas for change, on collective responsibility for the future of our climate—in short, on Climate Care. Under the motto *PLANET LOVE: Climate Care in the Digital Age*, exhibitions, projects, and a comprehensive framework program scheduled at a number of locations help us imagine how a sustainable future might look. “We should love our planet. It’s the only one with an ideal climate for human life. There is no Planet B yet. If we love the Earth, we have to look after it.” This is the key message of this multisectoral biennale’s fourth edition.

“This year’s VIENNA BIENNALE FOR CHANGE focuses on the transition from Digital Modernity to an ecologically and socially sustainable Climate Modernity. Digital innovation is of use only if we can succeed in stopping climate change and preserving our environment. It is a particular strength of the arts that they can reach people in a directly emotional way, touching them with PLANET LOVE—our provocative motto for this year—and motivating them to practice comprehensive Climate Care. Through outstanding art installations, intelligent design processes, architecture connected to the Earth, circumspect urban planning and land use, inspirational performances, and stimulating discussion programs, we hope to kindle enthusiasm for and commitment to an ecologically and socially sustainable future,” according to Christoph Thun-Hohenstein, General Director of the MAK and initiator and head of the VIENNA BIENNALE FOR CHANGE, at the announcement press conference on 16 March 2021.

The VIENNA BIENNALE 2021 is being staged by the MAK, the University of Applied Arts Vienna, the Kunsthalle Wien, the Architekturzentrum Wien, and the Vienna Business Agency, as well as a new partner, the KUNST HAUS WIEN, and as a non-university research partner the Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT).

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The MAK's main contribution to the VIENNA BIENNALE FOR CHANGE 2021 is the multisectoral exhibition **CLIMATE CARE: Reimagining Shared Planetary Futures**. The exhibition recognizes and examines Climate Care as a key concept and vision for a world that humans share in a just and sustainable way with other species and future generations. A wide range of art, design, and architecture programs exemplify how artists and creative minds can play a central role in shaping an ecologically and socially sustainable Climate Modernity. The exhibition takes visitors on a voyage of discovery through an inspiring panorama of ideas, processes, and narratives on key areas of life and planetary activity, to include nourishment and nurture, living, mobility, production, and cooperation. Its goal is to motivate us all to practice "active hope"—hope supported by passionate active engagement.

The exhibition **Ecologies and Politics of the Living** by the University of Applied Arts Vienna examines our understanding of nature's complexities—how and as what we humans perceive nature. The international artistic positions in the exhibition illustrate ecological processes involving organic and inorganic materials and their historical interconnectedness in the context of a politically and economically networked world. The project is an invitation to think about new forms of cohabitation located beyond exploitation and conquest and to experiment with new methods of coexistence between the planet's wide variety of living creatures. Parallel to this exhibition, the Angewandte is presenting an interactive public media sculpture, **Collective Action Viewer**, in which artists Verena Tscherner und Joerg Auzinger demonstrate the impact of global climate change and so help us to understand it.

The exhibition by the KUNST HAUS WIEN, **INES DOUJAK: Landscape Painting**, addresses the unscrupulous expropriation and expulsion of rural populations by corporations, states, and investors. Panels with historical representations of apple varieties, alongside original quotations from so-called "land grabbers," are installed in the museum's courtyard and in public spaces around the city. The partly extinct apple varieties bear witness to one consequence of land grabbing and monocultural farming. In another installation, the artist works with a collection of natural materials, to include seeds, flowers, leaves, wood, and stones.

The future of our food is the focus of **EAT LOVE: Tomorrow's Food and Food Spaces**, a joint project of the Vienna Business Agency and the MAK. The creative and innovative potential of the food industry is being showcased at the MAK as an extension of the Vienna Business Agency's focus topic "Let's talk food". The project provides an insight into the future of our food and dining culture, new production methods, and potential transformation processes relating to our food. **EAT LOVE** is part of the exhibition

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CLIMATE CARE: Reimagining Shared Planetary Futures. It will also be presented at the *studio mobil / think tank station* tour on selected locations in Vienna and during the conference *PLANET MATTERS*.

In an immersive installation commissioned by the MAK exclusively for the VIENNA BIENNALE FOR CHANGE 2021, Superflux transports visitors into an imaginary post-anthropocentric future no longer determined by humans alone. **INVOCATION FOR HOPE. A new commission by SUPERFLUX** encourages people to reflect on their fragile, interconnected relationship with the natural world. It explores strategies for nurturing our climate-altered futures that go beyond merely human concerns—strategies based on resurgence, redistribution, reparation, and rewilding. The project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under grant agreement No 870759.

The MAK exhibition **FOSTER: The Soil and Water Residency** presents newly developed works by artists who participated in the project *Foster – The Soil and Water Residency*, initiated by Angelika Loderer in 2020. She invited eleven artists to use the space loaned to them as a field for experimenting with the simple and elemental, for self-preservation and research for their own artistic work. *FOSTER* (with its connotations of caring for someone not linked by blood or legal obligation) is about engaging with the process of growth and nurture on the interface between independence and precariousness.

The exhibition **CLIMATE PANDEMICS: Dark Euphoria** takes science fiction literature, specifically climate fiction, as a starting point for artistic reflection: it plays on the genre's ability to link environmental themes to the experiences of living in another world as if we were a part of that world and thus evoke more intense emotional reactions than simply reading information about the causes and effects of climate change. Two Vienna-based artists, Kerstin von Gabain and Ivan Pérard, have been invited by the MAK to develop new works for the exhibition.

Under the title **DIGITAL & CIRCULAR: Towards a Circular Society**, from 23 June in its Works on Paper Room the MAK will be presenting the results of an interdisciplinary brainstorming session on digital innovation in the service of ecological sustainability. To establish a concrete focus for the presentation, EOOS NEXT and the Process design studio, together with a work group headed by the renowned material flows expert Prof. Helmut Haberl (Institute for Social Ecology at the Vienna University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences) explore possibilities for the more efficient use of cyclic applications.

GETTING WET by the Kunsthalle Wien, scheduled for 18 June 2021, is a discussion and film event focusing on water—both as element and as a concept that can help reconfigure our planetary relationships. The event

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invites us to question the extractivist ethics dominating our present age. In addition, from 10 to 27 June 2021, the Kunsthalle Wien Karlsplatz will be transformed into an artistic research laboratory as part of the hands-on exhibition **SPACE FOR KIDS: Footprints in a Sea of Data**. Together with artists from The Golden Pixel Cooperative, visitors can playfully discover new perspectives on our environment in a range of workshops.

As an umbrella platform for discussing the themes of the VIENNA BIENNALE, the Architekturzentrum Wien (Az W) is organizing the conference **PLANET MATTERS** from 3 to 4 September 2021. The conference will be programmed in common by all Biennale partner institutions. A new mindset regarding the planet and the totality of its species requires cooperation between a broad spectrum of disciplines. At this conference, international representatives from the worlds of architecture, art, design, the environment, and economics consider a variety of approaches to Planet Love.

Detailed press texts and press images on all exhibitions and projects of the VIENNA BIENNALE FOR CHANGE 2021, biographies of the curators and a list of the participating artists, designers and architects are available for download at www.viennabiennale.org and MAK.at/presse.

Continually updated information on further projects and accompanying program is available at viennabiennale.org.

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**Overview of exhibitions and projects at the
VIENNA BIENNALE FOR CHANGE 2021: PLANET LOVE. Climate Care in the
Digital Age**

CLIMATE CARE: Reimagining Shared Planetary Futures

A MAK exhibition

MAK Exhibition Hall ground floor/Gallery, Stubenring 5, 1010 Vienna
28 May – 3 October 2021

Ecologies and Politics of the Living

An exhibition by the University of Applied Arts Vienna

AIL – Angewandte Innovation Lab, 1010 Vienna, Georg-Coch-Platz 2
28 May – 3 October 2021

Collective Action Viewer

An interactive media sculpture by the University of Applied Arts Vienna

In a public space on the Karlsplatz, 1040 Vienna
28 May – 3 October 2021

INES DOUJAK: Landscape Painting

An exhibition by the KUNST HAUS WIEN

Garage and courtyard, Untere Weißgerberstraße 13, 1030 Vienna
28 May – 3 October 2021

EAT LOVE: Tomorrow's Food and Food Spaces

A joint project by the Vienna Business Agency and the MAK

MAK Exhibition Hall ground floor, Stubenring 5, 1010 Vienna,
and other locations in Vienna
28 May – 3 October 2021

INVOCATION FOR HOPE. A new commission by SUPERFLUX

A MAK exhibition

MAK Exhibition Hall ground floor (Central Hall), Stubenring 5, 1010 Vienna
28 May – 3 October 2021

FOSTER: The Soil and Water Residency

A MAK exhibition

MAK DESIGN LAB (Central Room), Stubenring 5, 1010 Vienna
28 May – 3 October 2021

CLIMATE PANDEMICS: Dark Euphoria

A MAK exhibition

MAK CREATIVE CLIMATE CARE GALLERY, Stubenring 5, 1010 Vienna
28 May – 3 October 2021

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DIGITAL & CIRCULAR: Towards a Circular Society

A MAK exhibition

MAK Works on Paper Room and MAK Columned Main Hall (1st floor),
Stubenring 5, 1010 Vienna

23 June – 3 October 2021

GETTING WET

A discursive event series by the Kunsthalle Wien

Kunsthalle Wien, Museumsplatz 1, 1070 Vienna

18 June 2021

SPACE FOR KIDS

A discursive event series by the Kunsthalle Wien

Kunsthalle Wien, Museumsplatz 1, 1070 Vienna

10 – 27 June 2021

PLANET MATTERS

A Conference at the Az W – Architekturzentrum Wien, Museumsplatz 1,
1070 Vienna

3 – 4 September 2021

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The VIENNA BIENNALE FOR CHANGE 2021: PLANET LOVE. Climate Care in
the Digital Age

Is organized by

MAK – Museum of Applied Arts

University of Applied Arts Vienna – Angewandte Innovation Lab

Kunsthalle Wien

KUNST HAUS WIEN

Az W – Architekturzentrum Wien

Vienna Business Agency

Research Partner:

AIT Austrian Institute of Technology

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The sponsors of the VIENNA BIENNALE FOR CHANGE 2021:
PLANET LOVE. Climate Care in the Digital Age

Sponsor



Premium Partner of the exhibition *CLIMATE CARE: Reimagining Shared Planetary Futures* and Cooperation Partner of the project *DIGITAL & CIRCULAR. Towards a Circular Society*

Verbund

Premium Sponsor of the exhibition *CLIMATE CARE: Reimagining Shared Planetary Futures* and Cooperation Partner of the project *DIGITAL & CIRCULAR. Towards a Circular Society*

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Sponsor of the exhibitions *CLIMATE CARE: Reimagining Shared Planetary Futures* and *DIGITAL & CIRCULAR. Towards a Circular Society* as well as sponsor of the conference *PLANET MATTERS*

 Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
Climate Action, Environment,
Energy, Mobility,
Innovation and Technology

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Press Contacts

VIENNA BIENNALE in general and exhibitions at the MAK

MAK Press and PR
Judith Anna Schwarz-Jungmann (Head)
Cäcilia Barani, Sandra Hell-Ghignone
MAK, Stubenring 5, 1010 Vienna
T +43 1 711 36-233, -212, -229
presse@MAK.at, www.MAK.at
press@viennabiennale.org, www.viennabiennale.org

ECOLOGIES AND POLITICS OF THE LIVING / COLLECTIVE ACTION VIEWER

Press office, University of Applied Arts Vienna
Andrea Danmayr
Oskar-Kokoschka-Platz 2, 1010 Vienna
T +43 1 711 33-2004
andrea.danmayr@uni-ak.ac.at

EAT LOVE: Tomorrow's Food and Food Spaces

Press contact Vienna Business Agency
Ursula Kainz, Head of Communication & Marketing
Mariahilfer Straße 20, 1070 Vienna
T +43 1 25200252
M +43 699 140 86583
kainz@wirtschaftsagentur.at

INES DOUJAK: Landscape Painting

Press contact KUNST HAUS WIEN
Martina Kuso, Head of Communication
Untere Weißgerberstraße 13, 1030 Vienna
T +43-1-712 04 91-43
M +43-664-8821 8114
martina.kuso@kunsthausewien.com

GETTING WET / SPACE FOR KIDS

A discursive event series by the Kunsthalle Wien
Press contact Kunsthalle Wien
Katharina Schniebs
Museumsplatz 1, 1070 Vienna
T +43 1 521 89-1221
presse@kunsthallewien.at

PLANET MATTERS

A conference at the Az W – Architekturzentrum Wien
Press contact Architekturzentrum Wien
Katharina Kober
Museumsplatz 1, 1070 Vienna
T +43 1 522 31 15-23

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presse@azw.at

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