

Press Release

CHANGE WAS OUR ONLY CHANCE A Project by the University of Applied Arts Vienna

Two immersive installations, the eponymous *Change Was Our Only Chance* and *Noise Aquarium*, address economic, environmental and social changes.

Exhibition Venue

AIL, Angewandte Innovation Laboratory

Franz-Josefs-Kai 3, 1010 Vienna

Exhibition Dates

29 May – 27 September 2019, closed in August

Opening Hours

Wed 12 p.m.–8 p.m., Mon–Fri 12 p.m.–5 p.m.

Additional opening hours on selected Saturdays:

15 June, 13 July, 21 September 12 p.m.–5 p.m.

www.ailab.at / Free Admission

We need to focus on change, but especially on what that change must look like. The current ecological, economic, and technological changes and their impacts on every single area of our lives pose many questions. The University of Applied Arts Vienna states that future developments in society can only be met by breaking down boundaries between disciplines and by the permeability of research, teaching, and society, as well as art and science.

CHANGE WAS OUR ONLY CHANCE: This immersive physical narrative by the artists collective Time's Up makes possible futures tangible, allowing a perspective back to the now.

Timewise we are in the year 2047; geographically we are situated on the outskirts of Turnton, a small city on the sea. The devastating effects of environmental pollution and its consequent upsetting of natural balances dominate global life. After decades of reluctant political action, global warming is raging with worldwide weather extremes, considerable climatic changes, and large areas of land have become useless for human habitation. The consequences of the ruthless interventions in ecosystems that evolved millions of years are wreaking havoc on the world.

This ecologically dystopian vision of the year 2047 is enriched with a socioeconomic utopia. This utopia is countering and subverting the environmental catastrophes and social consequences with the growing fusion of a plethora of countermeasures, that will drive a change in civilization for the better in the coming decades. Worldwide opposition to the unequal distribution of wealth and income gained momentum, economic injustice

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was fought against successfully. People's consumption behaviour changed radically and economic alternatives that were oriented towards social progress and ecologically sustainable development grew into the new guiding principles. *CHANGE WAS OUR ONLY CHANCE* harnesses existing propositions and puts them into perspective. It combines signals with a portion of fabulation to present variations of a future that projects a positive world view.

Noise Aquarium: An immersive, interactive installation to raise awareness about the balance of ecosystems.

Plankton is the foundation of the maritime food chain and therefore a vital part of our ecosystem. *Noise Aquarium* (holder of RAW Science Award 2019) deals with the increase in noise pollution in the world's oceans. It focuses on particularly fascinating representatives of the great variety of plankton and micro-plastics that cannot be seen with the naked eye. Through visual attractiveness along with audio immersion of underwater sounds and noise, the project aims to raise awareness and interest in these vitally important living creatures.

In the Science Visualization Lab Angewandte, special procedures to create authentic three-dimensional models of the organisms take place. With this data it is possible to calculate a digital geometry that can then be animated in an elaborate process. The visitors are able to marvel at these animations in the immersive, interactive installation created in collaboration with the ArtSci Center UCLA. <http://noiseaquarium.com>

CHANGE WAS OUR ONLY CHANCE: Artists collective Time's Up with a large group of accomplices in cooperation with teachers, researchers, and students at the University of Applied Arts Vienna (<http://timesup.org/TurntonKomplizInnen>). Founded in 1996, Time's Up has its principal locus in the Linz harbor of Austria and investigates intersections between art, technology, science, and entertainment. As a laboratory for the construction of experimental situations, the artist group develops realities borrowed from everyday life in combination with scenarios of possible futures into haptic experiences that invite to actively explore the transmedia installations. Recently, their work has been shown at the Ars Electronica Linz (2017) and the European Capital of Culture Valletta, Malta (2018). www.timesup.org / Supported by Austrian Federal Chancellery, Linz Kultur, Kulturland OÖ, Linz AG, and emporia Telecom.

For the duration of both installations additional guided tours and a divers framework program will take place, curated by Elisabeth Falkensteiner und Alexandra Graupner.

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