

## **MAK Poster Forum: NOTHING IS DONE!** Posters for Environmental Protection by Klaus Staeck since 1973

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MAK – Press and PR

### **Press Release**

Vienna, 13.3.2024

presse@MAK.at

Heat records and extreme weather seem to be the new normal. The Paris Agreement on climate protection, signed in 2015, has de facto failed. Many countries, including Austria, have but inadequately fulfilled their promises to meet the Agreement's requirements. Global emissions continue to rise, and measures to reduce greenhouse gases are ineffectual. There is a lack of political will and of concrete plans to implement the necessary changes.

Against this background, in the new format of the MAK Poster Forum, the MAK presents 25 posters on the theme of environmental pollution and climate change by graphic designer, lawyer, and political activist Klaus Staeck (\* 1938). The exhibition's title *NOTHING IS DONE!* alludes to the oft-cited credo of this early campaigner for the environment.

Hardly any medium is more memorable and delivers its message more directly to the public than the poster. A Staeck poster is synonymous with combative poster art. Long before the urgent need for action, faced with the impending climate catastrophe, was publicly discussed at the first World Climate Conference in 1979, Klaus Staeck was fighting nature's cause. As a friend and companion of Joseph Beuys, he has long been raising his voice on behalf of environmental and climate protection. His posters are incriminatory and always uncomfortable.

The exhibition presents his posters in chronological order. Starting with one of his first poster actions in 1973, the posters presented here cover over 40 years of graphic design dedicated to environmental protection. The posters, which were always executed on his own initiative as a graphic designer, sometimes cynically, sometimes humorously or poetically, encourage reflection and action. Iconic images, such as that of the oil-soaked cormorant photographed on the North Sea coast in 1982, are often accompanied by concise and laconic titles such as "The Oil Prince." Despite being in agony, the cormorant gazes at us steadfastly, almost majestically. It serves as a metaphor for nature

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and its vulnerability. Images like these evoke strong emotions and remind us that we must all take responsibility for caring for the planet, for “The leased property must be treated gently and returned in good condition” (1983). Beginning with the exhibition *NOTHING IS DONE! Posters for Environmental Protection* by Klaus Staeck since 1973, the area surrounding the MAK Design Lab is being used as the MAK Poster Forum, offering 160 m<sup>2</sup> of wall space for presentations in the field of poster design. The MAK thus provides space to present up-to-date, controversial topics, for scarcely any other medium reflects the spirit of the age and its social, cultural, and political aspects with greater immediacy than does the poster. The exhibition follows *PROUD TO BE PRIDE* (4.6.–1.9.2024) in Pride Month, in which posters sent out a message of acceptance and tolerance.

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Some of the posters by Klaus Staeck in the exhibition may be purchased from the MAK Design Shop.

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

The exhibition will take place in the context of the Vienna Climate Biennale 2024.

**Klima  
Biennale  
Wien**



**Exhibition Venue**

MAK Poster Forum  
MAK, Stubenring 5, 1010 Vienna

**Exhibition Dates**

19.3.–26.5.2024

**Opening Hours**

Tue 10 am–9 pm, Wed to Sun 10 am–6 pm

**Curator**

Peter Klinger, Deputy Head, MAK Library and Works on Paper Collection

**MAK Admission**

€ 16,50/15,50\*; reduced € 13,50/12,50\*; every Tuesday 6–9 pm:  
admission € 8/7,50\*

Admission free for kids and teens under 19

\* Ticket price online

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