

Press Release

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

On 28 May 2021, the fourth edition of the VIENNA BIENNALE opens with an appeal for CLIMATE CARE

Virtual Opening
Dates 27 May 2021, 6:30 p.m. (via Zoom)
28 May – 3 October 2021

A passion for our environment, ideas for change, and collective responsibility for the future of our climate—active CLIMATE CARE—are the focus of the *VIENNA BIENNALE FOR CHANGE 2021: PLANET LOVE: Climate Care in the Digital Age*. Starting on 28 May 2021, the fourth edition of this multi-sectoral biennale is open to the public. Exhibitions, projects, and events at five different locations demonstrate how a sustainable future, inspired by CLIMATE CARE and PLANET LOVE, might look, and which impulses might be provided by art, architecture, and design.

“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 central appeal of the VIENNA BIENNALE FOR CHANGE 2021.

“In developing and disseminating a future-oriented mindset that can create a sustainable future for our climate, art institutions and artists active today play a key role. Through the many art works and installations, design processes and ideas on urban and spatial planning presented at this year’s VIENNA BIENNALE, we hope to succeed in inspiring and motivating visitors to join in the transformation towards an ecosocial Climate Modernity—a transformation that we can only achieve together.” says Christoph Thun-Hohenstein, General Director of the MAK and initiator and head of the VIENNA BIENNALE FOR CHANGE.

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).

EXHIBITION OVERVIEW

The interdisciplinary exhibition **CLIMATE CARE: Reimagining Shared Planetary Futures** presents what is to date a unique variety of artistic and activist projects, ideas, and concepts in a museum context—on one of the most urgent issues of our time: CLIMATE CARE. In the MAK's main contribution to the VIENNA BIENNALE FOR CHANGE 2021, more than 120 contributions from artists, designers, architects, researchers, activists, and authors represent the enormous potential of artistic disciplines in helping to develop and promote a sustainable Climate Modernity. The arts can speak to us in ways that statistics on climate and biodiversity cannot. They communicate directly with our senses and motivate us to practice CLIMATE CARE—inspired by PLANET LOVE, a nurturing, reverential relationship with our planet.

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 and 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 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." As a city outdoor-laboratory, the *studio mobil / think tank station* tours through Vienna from May to October. With over 20 partners, people are invited to participate by (re)activating, collecting, and sharing

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knowledge about food. Workshops, debates, and lectures illuminate ideas about alternative food and food spaces.

With **INVOCATION FOR HOPE**, a newly commissioned work by the MAK in the heart of the VIENNA BIENNALE, Superflux invites us to reflect on our relationship with the Earth and on alternative visions of how our planet may prosper. With this immersive installation the anglo-indian design and art studio reveals a resurgent forest born from the ashes of human hubris. A vast symmetrical grid of over 400 fire-blackened trees in the central hall of the MAK Exhibition Hall presents visitors with an allegory, as it were, of the destruction of our environment. Gracefully, the burnt tree skeletons restore fertility to the fallow land, nurturing a young, newly resurgent forest—a green oasis bursting with life.

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 and its Columned Main Hall (1st floor) 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, E00S NEXT and the Process design studio, together with a work group headed by the renowned material flows expert Assoc. 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 circular 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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For Change

invites us to question the extractivist logics 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 the 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/en/press.

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 by the Kunsthalle Wien

Kunsthalle Wien, Museumsplatz 1, 1070 Vienna

18 June 2021

Space For Kids. Footprints in a Sea of Data

An exhibition by the Kunsthalle Wien

Kunsthalle Wien Karlsplatz, Treitlstraße 2, 1040 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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INES DOUJAK: Landscape Painting

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GETTING WET / Space For Kids

A discursive event series by the Kunsthalle Wien
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PLANET MATTERS

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Vienna, 27 May 2021

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