



# PRESS INFORMATION VIENNA CONTEMPORARY

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## **VIENNA CONTEMPORARY - FIRST HIGHLIGHTS:**

### **STATEMENT UKRAINE | COOPERATION PARTNERS | SUPPORTING PROGRAM**

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**DEAR LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE PRESS,**

Since 2015, viennacontemporary has been the premier address for exciting positions from Central, Eastern Europe, and the rest of the world. From September 8-11, 2022, Vienna's international contemporary art fair will take place for the first time on the extraordinary premises of the neo-renaissance palace Kursalon Vienna, in the heart of the city.

Just in time for the summer, we are pleased to present the first highlights of viennacontemporary 2022. National and international galleries have been personally invited by artistic director Boris Ondreička and the viennacontemporary admissions committee, promising presentations of the highest quality as well as exciting new discoveries.

With special programs such as **ZONE1**, an exhibition of young artists living and working in Austria curated by Tjaša Pogačar, **Sessions**, an extensive educational program with international experts and collectors in cooperation with the University of Applied Arts and the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, **STATEMENT UKRAINE**, a multi-part statement on what is unfolding in Ukraine and Europe, as well as **concerts, performances and film screenings** around Kursalon Vienna, this year's viennacontemporary promises to be one of the most exciting editions yet. A tailored **New Collectors Program** in cooperation with the online platform Artsy is designed to assist budding art collectors in navigating what is often initially perceived as an overwhelming offer of artworks.

*“During the day we work mainly with physical art commodities, while the evenings are dedicated to the ephemeral disciplines: Dance, music, film. At the same time, our goal is to make the art fair a place of learning, especially addressed to art students, but also for art collectors and those who want to be.*

*We are nothing more than a fair. But we are trying to explore the boundaries of what a fair can be. We want to form an integral part of Viennese culture and contribute to the development of the district, which we feel is very rich in terms of cultural production.”*

- Artistic Director Boris Ondreička on the focus of this year's program.

## STATEMENT UKRAINE

On February 24, 2022, the reality of life for people in Ukraine, Europe, and the rest of the world suddenly changed with the invasion of Ukraine by Russian troops. Among the millions of people who fled are numerous artistic and creative professionals. Like many other institutions, viennacontemporary is personally and professionally affected by the humanitarian catastrophe and would like to contribute. With **STATEMENT UKRAINE**, viennacontemporary wants to show what art fairs can do for the common good, support artists in and from Ukraine, and promote the visibility of Ukrainian culture abroad.

Initiated by Boris Ondreička and Yana Barinova, former Kyiv City Councillor for Culture and now Development Officer at viennacontemporary, **STATEMENT UKRAINE** forms this year's content focus of viennacontemporary and is composed of several parts:

The first part is an exhibition of twenty Ukrainian and international artists exploring diverse media from photography to film to ceramics, curated by **Kateryna Filyuk**, curator of the First Kyiv International Biennial of Contemporary Art ARSENALE. The exhibition will take place during the days of viennacontemporary in cooperation with and in the rooms of das weisse haus and is open to the public free of charge.

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### **Exhibition Opening:**

Wednesday 7 September 2022, 7:00 pm  
das weisse haus, Hegelgasse 14, 1010 Wien

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The exhibition opening will be preceded by a panel discussion accompanying the project on the role of art and culture in times of crisis in Ukraine and Europe. The discussion will feature leading Ukrainian, Austrian and European figures and the participating artists. This part of **STATEMENT UKRAINE** encourages a local and international audience to participate in a dialogue about the future of Europe.

Furthermore, viennacontemporary will launch the NFT drop **VC STATEMENT UKRAINE CRYPTO PROJECT** to support the Ukrainian art scene.

This will feature around eight artworks by established contemporary Ukrainian artists in collaboration with international crypto artists, selected by Yana Barinova, Boris Ondreička (both viennacontemporary), Benoit Couty (founder of the Museum of Crypto Art), and Yura Miron (leading Ukrainian crypto artist). 30% of primary sales will be donated to a charity in Ukraine, the remaining proceeds will be divided among participating artists and stakeholders.

## VIENNA CONTEMPORARY IN COOPERATION WITH GMUNDEN.PHOTO

A preview of STATEMENT UKRAINE is already provided at the cooperation project gmunden.photo: photos and films by Ukrainian and Austrian artists will be juxtaposed in exhibition containers in the Stadtgarten Gmunden this summer under the curatorial direction of Yana Barinova and Boris Ondreička.

*"I started sifting through hundreds and thousands of photos, both of our well-known artists and of those I had never heard of before the war. Often they were reportage photos, scenes of fierce fighting, and destroyed towns and villages. Photos that some of the photographers paid for with their lives, such as Max Levin. The absolute evil, what the war was for me, gradually took on concrete features and details, became real, almost familiar. And surprisingly, this concreteness helped me overcome my fear, because it strengthened my belief that evil can and must lose. Yes, it's paradoxical, but true art doesn't work according to linear laws. That's why it was important for me to avoid monotony in the exhibition, to show not only the horror of war, but also the substance of peaceful Ukraine."*

- Co-curator Yana Barinova

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**gmunden.photo - Curated by Yana Barinova and Boris Ondreička  
(both viennacontemporary)**

On view from 2 July - 14 August 2022

## SUPPORTING PROGRAM

Built in 1865, Kursalon Wien is one of the most impressive buildings in the city center. Its magnificent premises provide a great setting for contemporary art and underscore Vienna's unique interplay of historical heritage and a thriving young creative scene. Through interdisciplinary art collaborations and joint events, the space around Stadtpark is activated and revitalized as a new cultural center that promotes the visibility and accessibility of Vienna's many great cultural institutions.

With the help of close collaborations with important art festivals and institutions, such as das weisse haus and a number of institutions around the Vienna Stadtpark, viennacontemporary aims to promote the visibility of the city's independent contemporary art scene and to anchor Austria's capital as a popular meeting point for the international art world during the fair week in early September. We are pleased to introduce some of our cooperation partners this year.

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- **COOPERATION PARTNER: DAS WEISSE HAUS**

das weisse haus is a collaborative platform for contemporary art in Vienna. Making interim use of vacant spaces since 2007, das weisse haus offers a locally rooted and internationally oriented experimental program of exhibitions, performances, workshops, discursive formats, as well as a studio and residency program and, most recently, the digital platform dwhX.

- **VIENNA CONTEMPORARY CONCERT:  
FENNESZ@KONZERTHAUS**

Austrian guitarist, composer, and electronic musician Christian Fennesz is considered one of the most distinctive voices in electronic music. Fennesz uses guitar and computer to create swirling electronic sounds of enormous range and complex musicality that have brought him international notoriety. His compositions are anything but sterile computer experiments. They resemble sensitive, telescopic recordings of insect life in the

rainforest or natural atmospheric events, each piece marked by an inherent naturalism. As part of viennacontemporary 2022, Fennesz will perform in the historic Schubert Hall of the Vienna Konzerthaus.

**Friday, 9 September 2022, 9:00 pm**  
Schubert Hall at the Vienna Konzerthaus  
Lothringerstrasse 20, 1030 Vienna

- **VIENNA CONTEMPORARY VIDEO: IS FILM ART? IS ART FILM? COOPERATION WITH THE ACADEMY OF AUSTRIAN FILM**

On Saturday, September 10, viennacontemporary, in cooperation with the Academy of Austrian Film, has organized a day at Metro Kino on the topic "Is Film Art? Is Art Film?" For this purpose, films will be shown during the day in the interface "Art/Film" and in the evening there will be a discussion on the topic at 8:00 pm with Barbara Fränzen (BMKÖS), Boris Ondreicka (Artistic Director viennacontemporary) and two filmmakers, moderated by Arash T. Riahi (Director / Producer / President of the Academy of Austrian Film). The discussion will then be followed by screenings of films by the filmmakers in attendance.

**Saturday, 10 September 2022**  
Metro Cinema Culture House  
Johannesgasse 4, 1010 Vienna

- **NEW COLLECTORS PROGRAM POWERED BY ARTSY**

Bringing contemporary art into the center of society and breaking down any barriers is one of the declared goals of viennacontemporary. The New Collectors Program of viennacontemporary powered by Artsy aims to help newcomers - but also long-time collectors - navigate through the wide range of art on offer at the fair. A knowledgeable art expert on-site helps filter works by budget, style, or geographic criteria and compiles personal recommendations.

New Collectors Program powered by Artsy. Daily personal consultations at the fair.

- **KIDS WORKSHOP:  
ZOOM MOBIL X VIENNA CONTEMPORARY**

Any place can become a studio, playroom, music-, or animation studio. Together with the ZOOM team, children and young people build their own works of art as part of viennacontemporary!

KIDS Workshop  
**Saturday, 10 September 2022, 1:30 pm**

## CURATORS' SHORT BIOGRAPHIES

### **KATERYNA FILYUK** **CURATOR OF STATEMENT UKRAINE**

Kateryna Filyuk is a curator and researcher and currently serves as a curator at Izolyatsia, a platform for cultural initiatives in Kyiv. She is also co-founder of the publishing house "89books" in Palermo. Filyuk is the founder and affiliate of "Festival Ucraina. La Terra di Confine in Palermo" (2022). In 2020-21, she was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Others Art Fair (Turin). Before joining Izolyatsia, she was co-curator of the Festival of Young Ukrainian Artists at Mystetskyi Arsenal, Kyiv (2017). She has participated in several internationally renowned curatorial programs, including the Young Curators Residency Program at Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Turin (2017); De Appel Curatorial Programme, Amsterdam (2015-2016); International Research Fellowship at the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (MMCA), Seoul (2014); and Gwangju Biennial International Curator Course (2012). She was the editor of the catalog and coordinator of the discussion platform for the First International Biennial of Contemporary Art in Kyiv ARSENALE 2012. She has an MA in Philosophy from Odessa I.I. Mechnikov National University and has been a PhD student at the University of Palermo since 2021.

### **TJAŠA POGAČAR** **CURATOR OF ZONE1**

Tjaša Pogačar is an independent curator of contemporary art and co-founder and editor-in-chief of Šum, a Ljubljana-based magazine, and platform for art and theory-fiction. She worked with the Museum of Contemporary Art Metelkova, Škuc Gallery, and Aksioma Project Space in Ljubljana, among others, curating solo and group shows and collaborating mostly with the younger generation of artists. In 2019/20 she curated two editions of IFCA - International Festival of Computer Arts in Maribor titled Automated Ecologies and Infrastructure Complex: Altered Earth that focused on questions arising from the intertwining of technology and planetary ecologies. She works also as a curator and producer of new media art at the Projekt Atol Institute in Ljubljana. With Šum and Projekt Atol she launched an offsite/online exhibition project Plaza Protocol that is

developing new formats and plots for and from an unfinished construction site of an underground shopping mall on the outskirts of the city. She is also the curator of ISKRA DELTA - 34th Ljubljana Graphic Biennale. In 2022, she will be curating the special show ZONE1, which features solo exhibitions by young artists with a connection to Austria at viennacontemporary.

## PRESS

### PRESS PHOTOS

Press photos can be found at this link:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/viennacontemporary/albums>

### PRESS CONTACT

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## SAVE THE DATE

8-11 September, 2022

Kursalon Vienna

Johannesgasse 33, 1010 Vienna

Opening hours:

Preview: 8 September

11:00 am - 7:00 pm

Public Days:

9-11 September

VIP Hours: 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Public Hours: 1:00 - 7:00 pm

## SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

<b>MAIN PARTNER:</b>	Erste Foundation
<b>PARTNERS:</b>	BDO, Bildrecht, SHI Group, Vienna Digital Group
<b>SUPPORTED BY:</b>	Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport (BMKOES), Department of Culture of the City of Vienna (MA7), Vienna Business Agency, RailAd
<b>ZONE1 &amp; VIDEO</b>	with kind support of: Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport
<b>STATEMENT UKRAINE</b>	with kind support of: Erste Foundation
<b>PRIZES 2022:</b>	viennacontemporary   Bildrecht SOLO Award
<b>ONLINE PARTNER:</b>	Artsy
<b>OFFICIAL AIRLINES:</b>	Lufthansa Group
<b>TICKET PARTNER:</b>	Reservix
<b>PARTNER INSTITUTIONS:</b>	Akademie des Österreichischen Films, Belvedere 21, das weisse haus, Jüdisches Museum Wien, Kunsthalle Wien, Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien, Kunstforum Wien, Künstlerhaus, Kunst Haus Wien, Heidi Horten Collection, Sigmund Freud Museum, Ernst Fuchs Museum, ZOOM Kindermuseum
<b>MEDIA PARTNERS:</b>	ArtFacts.Net, Art Flash International, Auslöser Magazin, Collectors Agenda, Contemporary Lynx, EIKON, H.O.M.E., Les Nouveaux Riches, Monopol, Mousse, Notorious Mag, Ö1, Parnass, springerin, The Gap, This is Badland, Vienna Art Week, Widewalls