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PRESS INFORMATION
VIENNA CONTEMPORARY

viennacontemporary attracts national and international audience to the new location Kursalon and underlines once again its leading role as the most important fair for art from Central and Eastern Europe in its eighth edition and with a comprehensive Ukrainian focus.

They have come to stay: with Kursalon in the city center, viennacontemporary has found a location that allows it to concentrate on a high-quality program and expand its focus on Central and Eastern Europe more than ever. Around 10,000 visitors found their way to the turn-of-the-century palace in Vienna's Stadtpark on four days of the fair this year.

With the new location of Kursalon Wien in the Stadtpark, the art fair is now moving into the center of a city that has always placed great emphasis on arts and culture. 62 galleries from 17 countries participated in the leading contemporary art event. Known as a place of new discoveries for art from the "CEE region," the fair stressed this focus more than ever and featured 36 international exhibitors, 27 of them from Central and Eastern Europe, in addition to 26 Austrian galleries.

"The atmosphere was phenomenal, the feedback consistently positive. We are very pleased that our ideas of a fair in the Kursalon were fortunately confirmed. We have achieved our goal, both in terms of the qualitative standard and the geopolitical focus of the fair," Artistic Director Boris Ondreicka sums up the first year at the new location, *"We see that the Kursalon location holds a lot of potential to expand these goals even more in the coming years."*

As far as is known, the sales achieved by almost all participating galleries are more than satisfactory.

Among the major local galleries, for example, **Galerie nächst St. Stephan Rosemarie Schwarzwälder** sold a new painting by Herbert Brandl (72,000 euros) to a Viennese private collection, while **Krobath** handed over a sculpture by Julian Opie to a Swiss collector for 20,000 euros.

KOW Berlin sold a painting by the young Austrian painter Sophie Gogl (b. 1992) for 11,500 euros, a painting by Heinrich Dunst for 9,000 euros, and two works by Simon Lehner (b. 1996) for a combined 13,000 euros to Austrian collectors, as well as a sculpture by Michael E. Smith for 36,000 euros to a London private collection. **Persons Projects**, also based in Berlin, sold ten works from a series by Milja Laurila to a well-known American collector for a total of 44,000 euros, and at the Ukrainian gallery **The Naked Room** from Kyiv, four large paintings by Pavlo Makov - who is also exhibiting at the 59th Venice Biennale - changed hands for a total of 120,000 euros. **Karpuchina** from Prague brought a total of six sculptures

by Sabina Knetlová to customers for a total of 23,600 euros, as well as two paintings by Serhij Dakiv for a total of 5,500 euros. Among the big winners of the fair was **acb** from Budapest: the winner of the viennacontemporary | Bildrecht SOLO Award 2022 sold no less than 15 works of the solo presentation by Selma Selman (*1991 Ružica, Bosnia-Herzegovina) for about 40,000 euros and additionally collected about 3,000 euros for the artist foundation for the education of Roma girls.

Others, such as Galerie Krinzinger, 10 A.M. ART and Galerie Sophia Vonier, were cagey with exact details, but indicated that they were satisfied with the sales.

Synergies with surrounding partners, such as the Academy of Austrian Film, the Vienna Konzerthaus, the young art fair Parallel and the gallery festival Curated by, which took place at the same time, provided visitors with a dense program in Vienna's city center. The close collaboration with the cooperation partners is to be strengthened and further deepened in the coming year and the Stadtpark area is to be promoted as a hub of contemporary art. To this aim, viennacontemporary, Kursalon Betriebs GmbH and JP-Immobilien initiated the Sculpture project, in which galleries participating in the fair may submit designs, the winner of which will be realized in the Stadtpark by viennacontemporary 2023.

AWARDS

Bildrecht awarded **Selma Selman** and gallery **acb** from Budapest, Hungary, who exhibited in ZONE1 curated by Tjaša Pogačar, as winners of the viennacontemporary | Bildrecht SOLO Award endowed with 4,000 euros.

STATEMENT UKRAINE

Due to current global happenings, the fair introduced a political focus on Ukraine: more than 200 people attended the panel discussion on September 7 in the Aula of Sciences, which included Ukrainian Minister of Arts and Culture, Oleksandr Tkachenko, Secretary General for Foreign Affairs at the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, Peter Launsky-Tieffenthal, Ukraine's Deputy Minister of Culture and Information, Halyna Hryhorenko, and art expert Francesca von Thyssen-Bornemisza. Daily guided tours of the special exhibition at das weisse haus, where thirteen artists from and with ties to Ukraine exhibited works on the theme of war and loss under the curatorial direction of Katheryna Filyuk, were gladly visited. The special focus, supported by ERSTE Foundation, received wide coverage in the international as well as national press.

“This year, with the statement on Ukraine, it was especially important to us to position clear values of a common humanity and European identity, which we – a very international team – experience every day as enriching for our joint work. We want to maintain the STATEMENT format in the future to promote our contemporary social commitment,” says Managing Director Markus Huber, *“It was our clear intention to organize an art fair in the format which we are convinced is necessary for the entire market in Austria and Vienna to be able to signal its international importance. A fair is a place of social encounter, the intensity of which we want to expand and develop in Vienna in the long term with all our national and international partners such as galleries, institutions, and others.”*

TALKS AND GUIDED TOURS

The series of talks and guided tours, which could be booked with a ticket, were always well attended. These programs are expected to be continued and expanded in the coming year.

FACTS AND FIGURES VCT 2022

Location: Kursalon Vienna (als known as Kursalon Hübner)
Built in 1862, originally as a place of recreation. On October 5, 1868, the first concert by Johann Strauss (son) took place here, after which the Kursalon became a popular dance and concert venue and a meeting place for Viennese society.

Kursalon area: over 1,600 m² of interior space on a total of three floors (3,800 m² with terrace)

Visitors: 10,000

Exhibitors: 62 galleries from 17 countries, 195 artists

The total of 62 galleries consists of 26 Austrian galleries and 36 galleries from 16 other countries, 25 of them from Central, Southeastern and Eastern Europe, the so-called CEE region. 16 galleries are represented for the first time with a booth at the fair.

Booth dimensions: 5m² - 31,5m²