



For media requests, please contact:

Salomea Krobath
Communications Manager
krobath@viennacontemporary.at
+43 699 19 3333 22

Manuel Brandl
PR & Communications
brandl@viennacontemporary.at
+43 699 19 3333 23

DEAR PRESS,

The team of viennacontemporary is pleased to look back on a very successful opening day, for the second time at the Kursalon Wien.

No less than 2,000 VIP guests from all over the world as well as numerous representatives from politics, business, and culture found their way to the Preview; and numerous galleries could already sell one or the other work to collectors and art lovers. In addition, a large number of international museum patron groups attended today's Opening Day, including the Amis du Palais de Tokyo, the Royal Art Museums of Belgium's Maecenas Circle, the Friends of Marta Herford and the Friends of the Elgiz Museum in Istanbul, the Belvedere Cercle, the Albertina Partons Circle, the mumok Board, the Leopold Circle of Patrons, and the Vienna Collectors Club.

This opening day marks the start of a four-day marathon dedicated to contemporary art.

With a total of 61 galleries – 27 from Austria and 34 from 19 other countries, including 19 galleries from the Central, Southeastern, and Eastern European (CEE) region, viennacontemporary offers a diverse range of international art.

Fifteen galleries are participating in the fair for the first time, including Pedro Cera from Portugal, Giorgio Persano from Italy, Kogo from Estonia, GALERIST from Turkey, and Steve Turner as the only representative from the USA, presenting the emerging painter Brittany Tucker from New York and Yuma Radné, who are both currently studying and living in Vienna.

Voices of our exhibitors:

"There are many local collectors here, and we even noticed some from the USA. We managed to reserve, sell and negotiate some objects, so the beginning of the fair exceeded our expectations." - Markéta Stará Condeixa of Pedro Cera

"We are very excited to be a part of viennacontemporary, to explore the city and experience the energy of the fair. Things went pretty well for us on the first day and we want to get to know the people and the interesting art scene of Vienna better!" - Müge Çubukçu from GALERIST.

"This is our first time at viennacontemporary and so far we have done very well and can't wait to come back! Thank you for welcoming us here at the fair in Vienna!" - Iole Pellion Di Persano by Giorgio Persano



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Well-known participants of viennacontemporary also inspire with exciting presentations. Anita Beckers will show works by Annegret Soltau as well as works by the recently deceased Peter Weibl. Voloshyn Gallery presents Nikita Kadan, one of the best-known contemporary artists from Ukraine, and Mykola Ridnyi, who will open at the Secession next week with a newly commissioned work. EXILE decided to present a solo presentation by Abdul Sharif Oluwafemi Baruwa, GB, who is also featured in the special exhibition "Not Either Or, But And" at das weisse haus. Curated by Laura Amann, this special exhibition, open to the public free of charge as part of VCT STATEMENT "Political Homelessness and Contemporary Citizenship," explores themes of migration, co-decision rights, and power relations and will be on view through October 21.

British curator Francesca Gavin has curated ZONE1, which features ten solo presentations by promising emerging talents under the age of 40 with a connection to Austria. Anthony Akinbola, represented by Galerie Krinzinger, advocates the "democratization" of art here: Visitors draw a number and receive keys that give them access to a locker from which they can take home their personal small work of art.

The presentations at the fair are characterized by strong female positions. Krupa Gallery presents Kateryna Lysovenko, one of the most prominent younger contemporary painters from Ukraine, who is based in Vienna. FOG Gallery devotes a special presentation to three established but historically underrepresented Slovak women photographers: Oga Bleyová, Judita Csáderová, and Zuzana Mináčová. The Italian MLZ Art Dep brings the late painter Carol Rama into focus alongside young Austrian positions such as Anaïs Horn. Finally, Galerie CRONE not only dedicates a solo presentation to Carola Dertnig - the Austrian artist is also the winner of the VCT SCULPTURE PROJECTS, which was ceremonially opened today: Feldenkreis_FI_001_Lucia Westerguard is a tribute to the circus and vaudeville artist, dancer and saxophonist Lucia Westerguard (1912-2008), who played her saxophone in the Stadtpark until old age, and provides a female sculpture to the numerous male monuments in the Vienna Stadtpark.

Boris Ondreička, Artistic Director of viennacontemporary: *"Our goal is to internationalize viennacontemporary more and more by understanding our territory - the intersection between East and West, but also between South and North, both as a starting point and a destination at the same time. Internationalization means not only the valorization of certain artistic positions but also of the local market. It contributes to strengthening Vienna's position in this respect on a global level. Internationalization means increasing the share of galleries, but also involving collectors, critics, and other professionals from abroad."*

The announcement of the fair organization that viennacontemporary plans to move to



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the Messe Wien in the Prater next year in 2024 generated a lot of interest. This strategic decision aims to create additional space and the possibility for a larger number of exhibitors to participate. After two successful years at Kursalon Wien, the fair will be held in Hall D of Messe Wien from September 12 to 15, 2024, to meet the increasing demands and the constant growth of the international art scene.

Markus Huber, Managing Director viennacontemporary: *"There have been very successful and also difficult times, from which we have learned a lot, amongst others: that the internationality of our team is good for us to understand our international mission, which is, above all, a European bridge between East and West; and that a strong international art fair needs first and foremost a robust local base – we have already changed a lot in our own ownership and board structure in recent years, but probably the most important alliance for a strong international art fair in Vienna is a truly joint approach with the Viennese galleries. We thank all our long-time partners and supporters from the bottom of our hearts."*

We invite you to fully enjoy this last edition in the picturesque Kursalon in the heart of Vienna.

viennacontemporary | Bildrecht SOLO Award: Bildrecht honors **Abdul Sharif Oluwafemi Baruwa** and **EXILE Gallery** as winners of the viennacontemporary | Bildrecht SOLO Award 2023. After a tour of the preview, a jury of experts selected the fair's presence as the outstanding artist and gallery statement in an international context.

Jury statement:

"Abdul Sharif Oluwafemi Baruwa (*1975) convinced the jury with an installation of video, sculpture, drawing, and object. In it, one's own identity appears as a reflection of conflict-laden socio-political structures. The homeliness suggested by the images and objects is fragmented in itself and refers to current fault lines in society. Abdul Sharif Oluwafemi Baruw formulates explosive themes such as everyday racism, nationalism, and migration with a lightness that combines the poetic with the political. With this position, the stand represents the commitment of EXILE Gallery, which consistently establishes the link between art and political history."

The goal is to support art creators and galleries alike. At the same time, it honors the gallery's commitment. The award is endowed with a total of 4,000 euros.
Jury 2023: Rainer Fuchs (MUMOK, Vienna), Maximilian Geymüller (Kunsthalle Wien), Roman Grabner (BRUSEUM, Neue Galerie)



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"I am very happy that we received the viennacontemporary| Bildrecht Solo Award together with the artist Abdul Sharif Oluwafemi Baruwa. It's a very coherent, but also somewhat daring solo presentation in the context of the fair." - Christian Siekmeier of EXILE

VCC x viennacontemporary Collectors Prize:

After long deliberations, the Vienna Collectors' Club jury, consisting of Hannah Ostan Ozbolt, Waltraud Orthner, and Nina Gscheider, awarded the prize of 1,000 euros and an interview in VORmagazine to the artist **Irina Lotarevich**, represented by [SOPHIE TAPPEINER](#). Not only the interesting presentation of the stand at the fair but also the thoughtful, cross-media works attracted the attention of all jury members.

It was also unanimously decided to also award the work of the artist **Matthias Noggler**, represented by **Layr**, whose work impressed all the jury members.