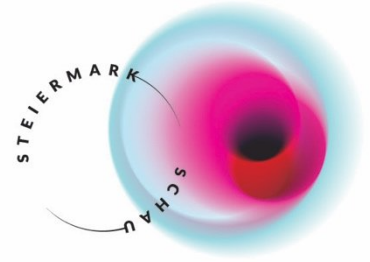


STEIERMARK SCHAU

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SHOWING STYRIA

Universalmuseum Joanneum
Mariahilferstraße 4, 8020 Graz
www.steiermarkschau.at

presse@steiermarkschau.at
Telephone +43-664/8017-9211

what will be Towards a Plurality Of Futures

Kunsthhaus Graz, Lendkai 1, 8020 Graz

Opening: 09 April 2021

Duration: 10.04.–31.10.2021

Project management: Barbara Steiner

Curated by Katrin Bucher Trantow, Martin Grabner, Barbara Steiner

Curatorial and scientific collaboration: Joana Grah, Michaela Humpel, Katia Huemer, Leo Kühberger, Isabel Lesjak, Monika Holzer-Kernbichler, Dirk Raith, Elisabeth Schlögl, Klaus Schrefler, Eva Taxacher, Alexandra Trost, Edith Zitz

In cooperation with the Visitor Services section of the UMJ

Exhibition design: studio itzo (Martina Schiller, Rainer Stadlbauer), Christian Konrad, Viktoria Hohl

Information: +43-316/8017-9200, www.steiermarkschau.at

The Kunsthhaus Graz exhibition *what will be* explores traces of the future that can be found in the here and now. From our current position, distant and not so distant developments are made tangible, holding the prospect of shaping society in a multidimensional way. Instead of one single grand design for the future, we find a plurality of futures. The exhibition at the Kunsthhaus looks at various areas of society and seeks to identify pioneering scenarios that open up perspectives for political, economic, ecological, social and cultural action in the near or distant future.

Themes

The exhibition investigates urgent issues around the climate crisis, digitalisation and the distribution of resources and space, gender equality and digital ethics. Cross-disciplinary projects examine new ideas for care, the responsible use of soil and energy, building with renewable raw materials such as wood or mycelium, sustainable packaging, ecological management and sustainable mobility. The focus is also on inter-school education, learning with VR, co-determination, participation, protest and – last but not least – the transformational role of art and culture in shaping a discursive society. Key aspects are the approaches of complete cycles and systemic networking, which shape both the recycled and recyclable design and the concept of this collectively researched and assembled exhibition.

The exhibition

The exhibition combines local initiatives, academic research and artistic works. It unfolds across all levels of the Kunsthhaus, from the foyer to the exhibition spaces to the Needle, spilling out over the forecourt and onto the Internet. *what will be* makes use of existing networks and builds new ones. Ecological, economic, social and cultural issues are tackled from a range of perspectives in an interdisciplinary and diverse way, while remarkable projects and developments from different areas of society are brought together and presented to a broad public.

In this way the exhibition opens up to the public a multi-dimensional network examining the exchanges between present, the past and the future; between research, mediation and artistic visions; between reality and imagination, and between possibilities and realities.

Activities

A wide range of activities will accompany the exhibition. Six theme-specific nights on digitalisation, (un)learning, resources, transformation, activisms and collaboration, workshops, lectures, discussions, film evenings, city walks and excursions with various cooperation partners, podcasts, devised in close cooperation with the art education section and in part between institutions with the Folklife Museum and the History Museum, presenting a diversity of voices that recognises and reflects the diversity of the audience.

Statements

Christopher Drexler, Minister for culture, Government of Styria

The exhibition at the Kunsthhaus Graz explores *what will be*. Many events in the past and especially in 2020, the year of the coronavirus pandemic, have made us realise that it would be almost foolhardy to want to plan the future in detail. And yet we must actively consider potential future developments and try to develop possible strategies to deal with these. This is why the Kunsthhaus exhibition considers visionary ideas and notions of how the future could be shaped from different perspectives. This approach also takes the past into account and examines visions of the future that were developed in previous decades. I do hope that you will join us for SHOWING STYRIA at the Kunsthhaus Graz from 9 April onwards, reflecting not just on one possible future but engaging with the wide range of approaches adopted in the projects shown – with a plurality of futures.

Günter Riegler, City Councillor for Culture

The exhibition at the Kunsthhaus Graz as part of SHOWING STYRIA dares to take a critical look at the issues posed by an age of digitalisation and growth. Only by having the courage to think in a visionary way will we be able to deal with these challenges. I would like to congratulate Barbara Steiner and her team on a show that illuminates an array of perspectives on the future, and which urges us to reflect on our position.

Barbara Steiner, Director of the Kunsthhaus Graz

The starting point of the Kunsthhaus exhibition is the current situation in Styria. The examples shown reveal just how closely the region is interconnected with other parts of the world in terms of culture, science, technology and the economy. The Kunsthhaus highlights the polyphonic and diverse nature of Styria, a region living and thriving on exchange with others.

Katrin Bucher Trantow, Chief Curator at the Kunsthhaus Graz

Major challenges such as the climate crisis, digitalisation and the distancing of our society can only be solved in dialogue and respectful exchange with each other. These issues touch all of our lives. *Towards a Plurality of Futures* opens up a platform for encounters. The exhibition traces multiple perspectives on innovation and adaptation, on new and old forms of social structures, on education, distribution and use—an invitation to form fresh opinions and rethink our own position.

Martin Grabner, Assistant Curator

Natural resources are finite, yet our use of them is not always responsible. Artists and researchers, entrepreneurs and activists are currently developing speculative, innovative and possible futures around this great challenge. The show at the Kunsthaus Graz presents an interconnected array of the richly diverse positions found in the specific context of Styria.