

steirischer herbst '22

A War in the Distance

Festival 22.9.–16.10.22

Opening days 22.9.–25.9.22

steirischer herbst '22 opens on Thursday, 22 September. In a dense program of exhibitions, performances, and discussions, the 55th festival edition, *A War in the Distance*, addresses a topic that is often mentally kept at bay: the persistent presence of wars in close proximity to Styria, Austria, and Western Europe.

For her fifth edition, steirischer herbst director and chief curator Ekaterina Degot has again developed a festival concept between documentary realism and artistic fiction: “This year, the cruel reality of Russia’s attack on Ukraine overshadows everything else,” says Degot. In July, a **prologue exhibition** of videos by Ukrainian artists as well as films about Ukraine during and before the war already examined the Russian invasion. Most of these works can be seen a second time on the festival’s website from 22 September onward. “The continual war has caused us to revisit and rethink other wars that are inscribed into the history of steirischer herbst. The Cold War and memories of World War II had a great impact on the early years of the festival. Later editions took place with the Yugoslav Wars raging right next door. These close front lines have often been put at a distance, repressed, and ignored. What do they mean in today’s post-pandemic atmosphere, in a society marked by isolation?”

This year’s curatorial fantasy transforms part of the festival into a classical art museum. The centerpiece of steirischer herbst is a large **group exhibition at Neue Galerie Graz**, for which the gallery’s historical entrance in Neutorgasse will be reopened. Sculptures by Ukrainian artist **Zhanna Kadyrova** frame the entrance. They are made of materials from the Ukrainian front. Turned into smooth generic shapes, they poignantly comment on the commercialization of the war in the art world. With new commissions like this, *A War in the Distance* tells a very subjective story of wars and conflicts. The exhibition stages a series of encounters between 19th- and 20th-century artworks from the collection of Neue Galerie Graz, many of which are shown for the first time or long since, and contemporary works, most of which were created in dialogue with the collection.

***A War in the Distance*: Exhibition**

Surprisingly many works from the collection of Neue Galerie Graz refer to wars in the distance. Today, with Russia’s war of aggression in Ukraine, many of the repressed and silenced histories reemerge. They show a Europe divided between East and West, in which wars and their consequences ceaselessly inscribe themselves into the fabric of daily life.

Yet, the exhibition is not only about armed conflicts. It also deals with other repressed structures of violence and struggle, as they appear in artworks from the past. The focus is on narrative and figurative painting from the 19th and 20th centuries, often political, from both sides of the left-right-spectrum, and often from Eastern Europe. Neue Galerie Graz's interest in this region since the 1960s was pioneering, but also shaped by crypto-colonial prejudice toward former Habsburg domains. Through its curatorial narrative, the exhibition investigates the artistic reflection of an increasingly polarized world marked by the dismantling of empires, ongoing colonialism, and mounting class struggles. In doing so, it also questions what these mean for the festival's own deeper politics.

Exhibition artists list

Gabriel Abrantes	Yuriy Illienko	Navaridas & Deutinger
Friederike Anders	Iman Issa	Igor Friedrich Petković
Keti Chukhrov	Zhanna Kadyrova	Nihad Nino Pušija
Josef Dabernig	Rajkamal Kahlon	Mykola Ridnyi
Jannik Franzen	Iosif Király	Willem de Rooij
Aslan Goisum	KwieKulik	Augustas Serapinas
Assaf Gruber	Kateryna Lysovenko	Raed Yassin
Emil Gruber	Ekaterina Muromtseva	
Flaka Haliti	Henrike Naumann	

Artists from the collection of Neue Galerie Graz

Archduke Karl Stephan of Austria (1860–1933)	Franz Ehrenhöfer (1880–1939)
Tina Blau (1845–1916)	Hans Mauracher (1885–1957)
József Borsos (1821–1883)	Wilhelm Mende (unknown)
Hugo Cordignano (1882–1959)	Dušan Minovski (1953–)
Constantin Damianos (1869–1953)	Leopold Carl Müller (1834–1892)
Josef Danhauser (1805–1845)	Anton Nowak (1865–1936)
Sandro De Alexandris (1939–)	Adolf Pirsch (1858–1929)
Leo Diet (1857–1942)	Carl Pischinger (1823–1886)
Anny Dollschein (1893–1946)	Rudolf Pointner (1907–1991)
Margarethe Donnersberg (1878–1966)	Johann Gualbert Raffalt (1836–1865)
DRAGO (Dragoš Kalajić) (1943–2005)	Eugen von Ransonnet-Villez (1838–1926)
Franz Ehrenhöfer (1880–1939)	Anton Romako (1832–1889)
Georg Eisler (1928–1998)	R. F. Rougon (unknown)
Zea Fio (1954–)	Paul Schmidtbauer (1892–1974)
Emanuel Fohn (1881–1966)	Alois Schönn (1826–1897)
Hans Fronius (1903–1988)	Gustav Seyfferth (ca. 1850–unknown)
Krzysztof Glass (1944–2000)	Fritz Silberbauer (1883–1974)
Gabriel von Hackl (1843–1926)	Rudolf Spohn (1905–1975)
Friedrich Holzhausen (1857–1923)	Josef August Stark (1782–1838)
Karl Jirak (1897–1982)	Heinrich Stegemann (1888–1972)
Ludwig Kainzbauer (1855–1913)	Karl Sterrer (1885–1972)
Eduard Klenk (1885–1944)	Johann Wachtl (1778–1839)
Alois Krenn (1952–2021)	Franz Yang-Močnik (1951–)

Curators of the exhibition *A War in the Distance*: **Ekaterina Degot** with **David Riff**, **Christoph Platz**, **Mirela Baciak**, **Barbara Seyerl** (steirischer herbst), with curatorial advice by **Gudrun Danzer** and **Günther Holler-Schuster** (Neue Galerie Graz / Universalmuseum Joanneum)

A detailed **exhibition guide** is published for the opening and available free of charge at Neue Galerie Graz and at the Visitor and Press Center. The exhibition is a **cooperation with Neue Galerie Graz / Universalmuseum Joanneum** and runs through 12 February 2023 (opening times: Tue–Sun 10:00–18:00). During the festival, it is accompanied by a varied program of performances.

Festival opening and performance premieres

For the festival opening on Graz's Hauptplatz on 22 September at 17:00, **Raed Yassin** remembers the Lebanese Civil War. Following the opening speech by the director, ***The Theatricality of a Postponed Death*** takes its cue from a theatrical puppet parade that took place in 1980s Beirut and deals with artistic resistance against all obstacles, including those of war. The performance ends in Joanneumsviertel, where the exhibition *A War in the Distance* opens at 18:30.

Augustas Serapinas's durational performance ***Margit, Maya, and Vanessa*** in the exhibition spaces premieres at the opening and continues until 25 September. During the museum's opening hours, it addresses interpersonal connections during wartime. Familiar spaces become hideouts, and Serapinas directs attention at details that are usually overlooked.

The last stop on the opening day is the premiere of **Ming Wong's** ***Rhapsody in Yellow: A Lecture-Performance with Two Pianos*** in Helmut List Halle at 21:00, which traces the Sino-American "ping-pong" diplomacy. Two pianists improvise a performative fusion of the sonic regimes of both countries, underscored by archival sound and film recordings. Following the performance, an afterparty with a DJ set by Roma Gavryliuk concludes the evening. On 23 September at 20:30, a second performance of Ming Wong's piece takes place, which is followed by an *Eat and Greet* with the artist.

Among the other premieres on the opening weekend are ***Noli me tangere: A Happening for Herz-Jesu***, a new performance by **Boris Charmatz [terrain]** that deals with the notion of *ekklesia* or gathering (24.9. and 25.9., 14:00–17:00). Here too, an *Eat and Greet*—a talk with the artist over dinner—follows the second performance.

In *Palais Schloßberg: Unterirdische Träume werden wahr—in Graz!!!* (Schloßberg Palace: Subterranean Dreams Come True—in Graz!!!), Theater im Bahnhof casts an ironic glance at real estate development on Schloßberg, a proven crisis-proof property with redevelopment potential right in the center of the city—at least according to the real estate brokers imagined by the artists (24.9., 30.9., 2.10., 11.10., 14.10. at 18:00; press preview 23.9. at 18:00).

In the course of the festival, other themes and memories of war and conflict are activated in further commissions. In *A Safe Space for Male Bodies*, Giacomo Veronesi focuses on those mobilized in wartime: young men, whose bodies are trained, armed, and finally destroyed in the name of peace (8.10. and 9.10., 18:00, 19:30, and 21:00). On 8.10. at 22:00, there's an opportunity to talk to the artist, ask questions, and discuss the work during an *Eat and Greet*.

In a new solo format, Boris Nikitin addressed his own, previously hidden family history—a result of the 20th century and its displacements. *Magda Toffler: Versuch über das Schweigen* (Magda Toffler: Essay on Silence) tells of Nikitin's grandmother, who kept her origin and family history a secret to her death (14.10., 15.10., 16.10. at 19:00). Following the premiere on 14.10., herbst Education invites the audience to an *Eat and Greet* with Boris Nikitin and Barbara Stelzl-Marx, researcher on the consequences of war.

Based on workshops with children during the festival, artist duo Navaridas & Deutinger develop performative tours for grown-ups in December in *Emancipation of Wonder*, in which they explore the artworks of *A War in the Distance* without adult prejudice and with the unique poetic vision of children (1.12., 2.12., 3.12., 8.12., 9.12. at 17:00).

***Harun Farocki against War*, discourse program, Artist Talks, and herbst Cabaret**

In Forum Stadtpark, steirischer herbst presents *Harun Farocki against War*, an exhibition curated by Antje Ehmann on renowned filmmaker Harun Farocki, who resolutely opposed the wars of the 20th and 21st centuries. It includes lesser-known works and is complemented by Armin Linke's photographs of Farocki's library with its many titles analyzing the dynamics of war and capital (22.9.–16.10., Tue–Sun 10:00–18:00, free admission).

The exhibition is framed by Artist Talks and a discussion program, which connects the festival to its prologue in summer. Among the artists participating in talks are Ketii Chukhrov, Josef Daberning, Assaf Gruber, Flaka Haliti, Iman Issa, Zhanna Kadyrova, Kateryna Lysovenko, Willem de Rooij, Augustas Serapinas, and Raed Yassin (23.9., 11:00–17:30). The panel discussions feature Tom Holert, Olexii Kuchanskyi, and Asia Bazdyrieva (24.9., 20:00); Armina Pilav, Nour Shantout, and

Yosh (1.10., 17:00); Michael Marder and Anton Tarasyuk (8.10., 17:00); as well as Oleksiy Radynski and Herwig G. Höller (13.10., 17:00).

In addition, steirischer herbst is reviving the tradition of political cabaret in the newly renovated basement of Forum Stadtpark, with three hard-hitting and contemporary shows: *Fighting Art Fantasy* by eSeL (Lorenz Seidler) (1.10., 21:00), *Nach uns die Synthflute* (After Us, the Flute) by Les Trucs (8.10., 21:00), and *Amadeus Mossad und die Probleme unserer Zeit* (Amadeus Mossad and the Problems of Our Time) by Verena Dengler (15.10., 20:00).

Literature at steirischer herbst

The festival's literary focus is expanding with a new collaboration: literary magazine *manuskripte* features a special section in its autumn issue curated by poet Galina Rymbu with war diaries and poems by authors such as Anastasiya Afanaseva, Friedrich Chernyshov, Andriy Holosko, Dana Kavelina, Halyna Kruk, Kateryna Lysovenko, Marta Mokhnatska, Sergo Mushtatov, Anton Polunin, Siarhiey Prylucki, Iryna Shuvalova, Ostap Slyvynsky, Marichka Stashko, and Jurij Zawadski.

Out of Joint, the literary festival within steirischer herbst, attempts to change perspectives and look at our present from the future with *Wer wir waren?* (Who We Were?) from 11.10. to 14.10. Conceived by Klaus Kastberger, the festival takes its cue from Roger Willemssen's last, unfinished book and asks what alternatives there are to the existing situation. Against the backdrop of large-scale destruction, military aggression, and the excessive consumption of resources, *Out of Joint* is looking for answers in a series of readings and lectures with Maja Haderlap, Tim Wolff, Raoul Schrott, Esther Kinsky, Barbara Frischmuth, Valerie Fritsch, Peter Stephan Jungk, and Josef Winkler—as well as a new episode of the literature show *Roboter mit Senf* with Yvonne Völkl, Olga Flor, and Kurt Fleisch.

Music at steirischer herbst

From 6.10. to 9.10., the 55th musikprotokoll, under the direction of Elke Tschakner, addresses urgent questions about identities with *Whodentity*. In its concerts with the Ensemble Modern, the vocal ensemble Cantando Admont, and the RSO, the festival exclusively premieres music by women composers. musikprotokoll 2022 is completed by further concerts within the SHAPE+ program, by the Styrian Improvisers Orchestra, Kateryna Suprun, Ensemble Zeitfluss, and Goat Song Project, as well as installations and performances by Alexander Schubert; Dominik Grünbühel, Norbert Unfug and Sebastian Pirch; Marko Ciciliani; Seppo Gründler, Robert Lepenik, Eva Ursprung, and Martin Brachvogel; Pia Palme; as well as the

premiere of **Christof Ressi's** opera *Avatara*. The musikprotokoll team holds a press conference on 4.10. at 10:00 to present the program in detail.

Program in Styria

Also renewed this year is the festival's strong **presence outside Graz**. **Bus tours** visit Hartberg for *Haus lebt*, a temporary cultural center in a landmark Baroque building, or Eisenerz and other Styrian towns to see the work of architect and anti-fascist **Herbert Eichholzer**. At **Schloss Retzhof**, **six writers and a video artist** trace the fading memory of a refugee camp that at one time housed 21,000 people for the project *Kartografie der Lücke* (Mapping the Gap).

In Styrian theaters, **Theater Quadrat** stages a novel by artist and writer Werner Schwab, while **Bernd Watzka** and **WIENDRAMA** present their adaptation of Reinhard P. Gruber's Styrian cult novel *Aus dem Leben Hödlmosers* (Scenes from the Life of Hödlmoser). And in the Mürz valley, *Regina – Ein Fest*, a participatory opera, celebrates diversity and utopia. Tours beyond Styria by **Steirische Kulturinitiative** visit Maribor, Ruden, and Villach for a project on the traces of modernism in industrial architecture.

Further partner projects in Graz

Further highlights of the 55th festival edition include the many partner projects in Graz, such as **Hito Steyerl's** solo exhibition at **Kunsthhaus Graz**; *Kunst der Verführung* (The Art of Enticement), a six-part exhibition series on graphic design between art and advertisement, initiated by **Siegfried Gruber**; as well as a varied program by the association APORON 21 in a former furniture store. Literary magazine *manuskripte* invites the audience to commission a literary text in their archive—and challenge constraints in art. The first recipient of the **Werner Fenz Scholarship by the City of Graz for Art in Public Space**, **Hannes Zebedin**, presents his sculptural intervention in Rösselmühlpark. **Annenstrasse 53**, dedicates an exhibition, film screenings, and a talk to the **Sudanese Film Group**. Further exhibitions take place at **HALLE FÜR KUNST Steiermark**, **esc medien kunst labor**, and **Grazer Kunstverein** with details available online. Moreover, there are two Parallel Program Tours this year, on the opening weekend, **24.9. from 11:00 to 19:00**, and on **9.10., from 14:00 to 18:00**.

herbst Education

Tours and workshops by herbst Education are dedicated to the many perspectives on war and conflict that arise from the festival program. At the center are formats related to the main exhibition *A War in the Distance*, offered in **cooperation with the education team from Neue Galerie Graz**. *In der Ferne?* (In the Distance?) is conceived as a chapter overview of the exhibition. *Aus der Nähe* (Up Close) expands this overview tour with smaller, individual sessions. The workshop *Frühwarn-Fernmelder:innen* (Early-Warning Forecasters) at Neue Galerie Graz imagines the role of artists in preventing future wars. *Drink and Overthink* invites visitors to (over-)think every Thursday after the exhibition tour *Aus der Nähe*. In a similar vein, herbst Education is relaunching the relaxed, informal *Eat and Greet* dinners with artists immediately after their performances. **Curators' tours** provide insights into the creation of the exhibition and the work of curating itself. For the **ORF-Lange Nacht der Museen** on 1.10., **hourly exhibition tours** take place at Neue Galerie Graz and at Forum Stadtpark.

Ö1 Festival Podcast

For the third year in a row, steirischer herbst is accompanied by its own **festival podcast**. It is curated and presented by Austrian public radio **Ö1** and extends an open invitation to all to critically engage with the festival's artworks, their discourses, and the participating artists.

Air dates: 19.9., 22.9., 26.9., 29.9., 3.10., 6.10. 10.10., 17:09
On Ö1 and at oe1.ORF.at/steirischerherbst

herbstbar at Feinkost Mild

This year's **herbstbar** is located at **Feinkost Mild**. The legendary Graz playwright Wolfgang Bauer was a regular and spent many evenings there. Visitors can expect drinks at reduced prices and a special steirischer herbst sandwich. With the *steirischer herbst Quiz*, they can also learn more about this year's edition and, with some luck, win one of many prizes from the festival's archive.

Visitor and Press Center

The **Visitor and Press Center** of steirischer herbst '22 is located inside **Palais Attems** at Sackstraße 17, which has housed the festival's offices since 1983. It is open from **13.9.** onward, **Tuesdays to Sundays from 10:00 to 18:00** to provide information, tickets or tour and workshop bookings with the education team. Journalists and professionals can get details and pick up their credentials.

At Neue Galerie Graz's **historical entrance Neutorgasse**, steirischer herbst '22 also operates an **information booth**. Here, visitors can receive information about the various programs of the festival.

Visitor and Press Center
Sackstraße 17, 8010 Graz
13.9.-16.10.
Tue-Sun 10:00-18:00

Information booth
Neue Galerie Graz
Neutorgasse 45 (historical entrance), 8010 Graz
23.9.-16.10.
Tue-Sun 10:00-18:00

Accreditation

Press and professionals are now welcome to apply for accreditation for the opening days' program as well as the performances and premieres during the festival: www.steirischerherbst.at/accreditation.

Tickets

Single tickets for performances and herbst Cabaret shows can be purchased at the **Visitor and Press Center**, at the **box office** at the respective venue one hour before the performance, or at **oeticket offices** all over Austria. Tickets are also available at www.steirischerherbst.at/tickets.

Single tickets: **16/12 euros**

SPECIAL: If you purchase three or more tickets for different events, each ticket is only 13 euros. This offer is only valid for ticket purchases made at the Visitor and Press Center.

Tickets for the exhibition at Neue Galerie Graz are only available via Neue Galerie Graz.

About steirischer herbst

steirischer herbst '22 is created by all **participating artists, partner institutions, thinkers, philosophers**, as well as **Ekaterina Degot**, Director and Chief Curator, **Henriette Gallus**, Deputy Director, **Christoph Platz**, Head of Curatorial Affairs, **David Riff**, Senior Curator, **Dominik Müller**, Curator, **Mirela Baciak**, Curator, **Gábor Thury**, Curator, and the **whole team of steirischer herbst**. With curatorial advice by **Goran Injac**.

The **full program** of steirischer herbst '22 is online at www.steirischerherbst.at.

Press images: www.steirischerherbst.at/press

We are happy to be of assistance for interview requests and any further information.

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