

steirischer herbst '22

A War in the Distance

Prologue exhibition 1.7.–1.8.22

Festival 22.9.–16.10.22, Opening days 22.9.–25.9.22

For its 55th edition, titled *A War in the Distance*, steirischer herbst addresses the looming presence of battles mentally kept at bay in a **dense program of exhibitions, performances, and discussions.**

Chief curator and director Ekaterina Degot outlines the concept of her fifth edition as follows:

“Wars are inscribed into the history of steirischer herbst. The Cold War overshadowed its early years while later editions took place with the Yugoslav Wars right next door. Painfully activating faded memories of World Wars I and II, Russia’s aggression in Ukraine is the newest entry to this long list of battles growling just around the corner.

Yet one still sometimes feels that in this cozy corner of Austria, like in many other snug places in Europe, wars and even conflicts are out of place. Outbursts of compassion towards individuals affected by wars happening “elsewhere” are sincere, no doubt, but at the same time, the world here is still safe and one simply “does not do war.” The frontline is put at a distance, unseen and unheard, until the repressed returns with a vengeance.”

As a prologue to the festival, a special exhibition running from 1 July to 1 August turns to Russia’s war in Ukraine—whose relevance and proximity are now impossible to ignore. In the show titled *A War in the Distance. Prologue: An Embattled Ukraine in Video Art and Film* at Neue Galerie Graz, steirischer herbst presents historical and contemporary video art and films about this war, curated by Mirela Baciak and David Riff. Participating artists include **Pavel Bräila, Oleksandr Dovzhenko, Dana Kavelina, Zoya Laktionova, Kateryna Lysovenko, Mykola Ridnyi, and Philip Sotnychenko.** The opening on 1 July is accompanied by artists’ talks and a panel discussion featuring journalist **Herwig G. Höller**, writer **Julya Rabinowich**, and historian **Peter Ruggenthaler** on the meaning of the war in Ukraine to Austria.

The festival in autumn is centered around a large **group exhibition** in both wings of the first floor of Neue Galerie Graz. The festival team has researched **lesser-known and forgotten works from the gallery’s collection** of 19th and 20th-century art, at times seemingly innocent and at times disturbingly political. These works are juxtaposed with **contemporary artists’ projects**, many of them newly commissioned.

The exhibition challenges classical modernist narratives and offers a **subjective and fragmented rereading of the collection, revealing traces of ignored wars, hidden histories, and repressed conflicts.** Drawing a link between the past and the present, it

explores the artistic reflection of an increasingly polarized world shaped by the dismantling of empires, ongoing colonialism, and mounting class struggles. Delving into these darker sides of modernity, it also engages in a self-reflection of the festival's own deeper politics. This exhibition is a **cooperation with Neue Galerie Graz / Universalmuseum Joanneum** and remains **open through 12 February 2023**.

The **performative program** of the festival activates other themes and memories related to wars and conflicts with newly commissioned productions by **Boris Charmatz, Boris Nikitin, Theater im Bahnhof, Giacomo Veronesi, Ming Wong, and Raed Yassin**.

In **Forum Stadtpark**, steirischer herbst shows an **exhibition of filmmaker Harun Farocki**, directed against the wars of the 20th and 21st centuries. It includes his lesser-known works and is accompanied by discussions and talks, as well as the newly inaugurated **herbst cabaret**, featuring **Verena Dengler, eSeL (Lorenz Seidler), and Les Trucs**.

In a new collaboration with the literary magazine *manuskripte*, steirischer herbst contributes a **special section with war diaries and poems from Ukraine** on the occasion of the festival, selected by the poet **Galina Rymbu**.

Artists

Gabriel Abrantes, Friederike Anders, Boris Charmatz, Keti Chukhrov, Josef Dabernig, Harun Farocki, Jannik Franzen, Aslan Goisum, Assaf Gruber, Emil Gruber, Flaka Haliti, Yuriy Illienko, Iman Issa, Zhanna Kadyrova, Rajkamal Kahlon, Kateryna Lysovenko, Ekaterina Muromtseva, Henrike Naumann, Navaridas & Deutinger, Boris Nikitin, Igor Friedrich Petković, Nihad Nino Pušija, Mykola Ridnyi, Willem de Rooij, Augustas Serapinas, Theater im Bahnhof, Giacomo Veronesi, Ming Wong, Raed Yassin; herbst cabaret with Verena Dengler, eSeL (Lorenz Seidler), Les Trucs; Zvezdana Fio, Franz Yang-Močnik, and other artists from the collection of Neue Galerie Graz

The full list of artists and collectives will be published in September.

Festival-within-the-festival

As always, steirischer herbst encompasses the festivals-within-the-festival **musikprotokoll** and **Out of Joint**. Under the direction of **Elke Tschakner**, **musikprotokoll 2022**, titled *Whodentity*, deals with current questions of belonging from 6.10. to 9.10. in concerts, performances, and installations. Conceived by **Klaus Kastberger**, **Out of Joint** – the literary festival within steirischer herbst, asks *Wer wir waren?* (Who were we?) from 11.10. to 14.10. and looks for alternatives to the status quo against the backdrop of large-scale destruction, armed conflicts, and the waste of resources.

Parallel Program

A varied program by about twenty institutions and artists from Graz and Styria complete steirischer herbst '22. As in previous years, the list includes well-known names as well as new collaborations. Bus tours are offered to projects outside Graz.

Partners in Graz

Annenstrasse 53,, APORON 21, esc medien kunst labor, Grazer Kunstverein, HALLE FÜR KUNST Steiermark, Kunsthau Graz, manuskripte, Steirische Kulturinitiative, and Theater Quadrat

Partners in Styria and beyond

ARGE Oper im Durchbruchstal (St. Barbara im Mürztal), eisenerZ*ART (Eisenerz), Haus lebt (Hartberg), Steirische Kulturinitiative (Maribor, Ruden, and Villach), Theater Quadrat (Oberzeiring), WIENDRAMA (Eisenerz, Fohnsdorf, Fürstenfeld, Gnas, Möderbrugg, Stainz)

Partners *Kunst der Verführung (Art of Seduction)*

Creative Industries Styria, designforum Steiermark, FH JOANNEUM | Institut Design & Kommunikation, Graz Museum, KULTUM. Zentrum für Gegenwart, Kunst und Religion in Graz, Kunsthau Graz, HDA – Haus der Architektur, FG Werbung & Marktkommunikation der WK Steiermark, Ankünder

Six exhibitions about graphic design in between art and advertising; a project initiated by Siegfried Gruber, coordinated by Creative Industries Styria

Ö1 Festival Podcast

For the third year in a row, steirischer herbst is collaborating with the public broadcaster Ö1 for a festival podcast. Focusing on contemporary art in its various forms, promoting interdisciplinarity in art, and providing sufficient space for reflection on current events—these are all topics that connect Ö1 and steirischer herbst. This year, too, the festival podcast will invite further conversations and thoughts—both on Ö1 and on radiothek.ORF.at.

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**.

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

The complete program is online from 1.9. Online ticket sales also start on 1.9.

Online accreditation for press and professionals opens in August 2022. For prior registration and further information, please contact press@steirischerherbst.at.

Images: www.steirischerherbst.at/press

About steirischer herbst

Every autumn since its founding in 1968, steirischer herbst has provided a platform for new productions, provoking and shaping public debates in a variety of forms across disciplines and media. Reinventing itself many times over, the festival has always redefined the terms of the conversation about what culture might mean in a changing contemporaneity, as seen in Graz, Austria's second most populous city.

If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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