

steirischer herbst '24 – *Horror Patriae* 19.9.–13.10.

The 57th edition of steirischer herbst is titled *Horror Patriae*. With its multilayered program, this year's festival aims to examine the fatherland with poetic wit and disruptive discourse. In more than four hundred events, steirischer herbst '24 questions ubiquitous narratives, such as that of the autochthonous nation or the apparent necessity of "roots." It wants to shed light on the artificial in the authentic and the hierarchy in the "grassroots" and analyze the soil on which nationalism and other isms grow.

Director and chief curator Ekaterina Degot on this year's topic:

"Contemporary art expresses the spirit of time, not of a place. Unlike folklore, it is only very indirectly related to Heimat. To think otherwise might lead us to dangerous conclusions."

Therefore, a centerpiece of this edition is an exhibition at Neue Galerie Graz that offers a humorous albeit critical alternative to conventional national museums. Various performances by local and international artists complement the exhibition and delve deeper into the festival's themes. The herbst deathmatches debate essential topics of the future, while satire reigns in the herbst cabaret.

Opening weekend (19.9.–22.9.)

This year, steirischer herbst sets off in a historic courtyard, the Lesliehof. The building was erected for the Benedictine monastery of St. Lambrecht in Upper Styria and was later owned by Count Leslie. It is therefore a place where two decisive powers of the last thousand years joined hands to cultivate the narrative of the fatherland for their own purposes. In her speech, director **Ekaterina Degot** renders this fiction visible, while **Natalia Pschenitschnikova** mischievously shows how deconstruction can succeed musically in her performance *A.E.I.O.U.*

Afterward, steirischer herbst and Neue Galerie Graz invite you to the vernissage of the exhibition *Horror Patriae*. **Mélange Oriental** will spread cosmopolitan joy with their melodies and grooves on Joanneumsviertelplatz. Drinks are available, dancing is encouraged.

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At Helmut List Halle, the transnational collective **La Fleur** concludes the evening with the premiere of their performance *The Phantom of the Operetta*, followed by a party in Halle D.

Even before the official opening, **Yoshinori Niwa's** new installation and durational performance *Cleaning a Poster During the Election Period Until It Is No Longer Legible* can be seen on Kapistran-Pieller-Platz between 14.9. and 13.9.

The opening weekend continues on Friday with newly commissioned performances: **Ari Benjamin Meyers** has children sing adults to sleep on a tennis court. **Augustin Maurs** reinterprets the favorite songs of dictators and despots, freeing them from their dark shadows.

Also on Friday, Artist Talks with **Pablo Bronstein, Marko Tadić, Madison Bycroft, Jakub Jansa, Helene Thümmel, Piotr Urbaniec, Jan Peter Hammer, and Roe Rosen** form a first highlight of the discursive program. **herbst education** also kicks off its artist tours and popular *Eat and Greets*, where the audience is invited to have dinner with and talk to artists after their performances.

In the Partner Program, **Josef Dabernig's** exhibition *Lacrimosa* opens at **Grazer Kunstverein**, while **Haus lebt** presents its play *Zreißteiff*. The **herbst café** is launching a DJ series offering beats and grooves from fringe to ambient a total of eight times on Fridays and Saturdays.

On Saturday, 21 September, **Clara Ianni**, the winner of the Werner Fenz Grant for Art in Public Space, brings discarded props back to life in her performance *Resurrection*. Also on this day, guided tours of the exhibition with artists **Assaf Gruber** and **Jan Peter Hammer** take place, while the **herbst deathmatches** start at Orpheum Extra with their first two matchups: **Boris Buden** and **Eric Frey** as well as **Keti Chukhrov** and **Ingo Niermann**. A performance-party-happening hybrid appropriately titled *Amalgam* rounds off Saturday's program at **Forum Stadtpark**.

Among the highlights on Sunday, 22 September., are the premiere of **Franz von Strolchen's** *EMPIRE: Rooting for the Anti-Hero* at Theater am Lend, where a twelve-piece gamelan orchestra takes to the stage to trace the bizarre imperialistic journey of the Graz football club SC Straßenbahn to Indonesia in 1934. In addition, **Thomas Köck's** *Chronik der laufenden Entgleisungen: Austria revisited* premieres at Schauspielhaus Graz—a coproduction with Schauspielhaus Wien in cooperation with **steirischer herbst** that already caused quite a stir in the media. In addition, there is a guided tour of the exhibition *Horror Patriae* with **Ekaterina Degot** on this day. For the dense program of **Haus lebt** in Hartberg, **herbst education** is offering a free bus shuttle.

Exhibition *Horror Patriae* (20.9.24–16.2.25)

A centerpiece of steirischer herbst '24 is the exhibition *Horror Patriae*, a cooperation between steirischer herbst and Neue Galerie Graz / Universalmuseum Joanneum. In the historical building of Neue Galerie Graz, it imagines an alternative museum of national complexes and dark fantasies. The exhibition combines works and objects from the Universalmuseum Joanneum's various collections with works by contemporary artists (many of them new commissions). Divided into several fictitious departments, it tells stories that depart from local myth and reach out into the wider world. The exhibition examines how grand imperial gestures coexist with the folksy fetishization of parochial homelands to weave the narrative of the fatherland.

Artists

Sarnath Banerjee	Renate Bertlmann
Anna Boghiguan	Sergey Bratkov
Pablo Bronstein	Madison Bycroft
Ieva Epnere	VALIE EXPORT
Peter Friedl	Robert Gabris
Tomislav Gotovac	Assaf Gruber
Jan Peter Hammer	Thomas Hörl
Jakub Jansa	Nikolay Karabinovych
Alina Kleytman	David Kranzelbinder
Ingo Niermann and Erik Niedling	Paulina Ołowska
Michèle Pagel	Hannes Priesch
Roe Rosen	Daniel Rycharski
Marko Tadić	Helene Thümmel
Piotr Urbaniec	Andreas Werner

From the collection of Neue Galerie Graz

AES+F	András Felvidéki
Wolf Gössler	Hans Werner Poschauko
Drago Julius Prelog	Paolo Tessari
Norbert Trummer	Franco Vaccari
Und weitere	

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Second week (23.9.–29.9.)

Marta Navaridas's *Once upon a Time in the Flames: Our Firebird Ballet* celebrates its premiere in the second week. Igor Stravinsky's *Firebird* was the starting point for this "punk ballet" of untamed rebellion against patriarchal violence.

Moreover, the exhibition *Kunst Heimat Kunst Revisited* opens on Friday, September 27, at Forum Stadtpark. It deals with Werner Fenz's archive, in particular materials related to the exhibition series *Kunst Heimat Kunst* (1992–94), and takes place on the occasion of the opening of the Werner Fenz Collection at steirischer herbst.

The herbst cabaret has been a fixture of recent steirischer herbst editions. This year, it starts on 27 and 28 September with a double bill: in the basement of Forum Stadtpark, **László Göndör** presents his program *I Incest*, **hannsjana** their show *Die Genderpolizei* (The Gender Police). Until shortly before midnight, the herbst café hosts DJ **Mala Herba**.

In the Partner Program, **KRA's** performance *Mission Mutter Teresa: Auf Tuchfühlung mit der katholischen Kirche* (Mission Mother Teresa: Unveiling the Catholic Church) premieres. Plus, there are several exhibition openings: *Auslöschung* (Erasure) by **Zlatko Kopljär** at **KULTUMUSEUM**, *Bioclimatic Actions!* at **HDA – Haus der Architektur**, and *WHO IS PLAYING WITH US?* at **esc medien kunst labor**. herbst education is also offering a tour of the exhibitions in the Partner Program.

On Sunday, September 29, steirischer herbst is focusing on Austria's national elections after an exhibition tour with **Helene Thümmel** and a guest performance by **Gerald Straub's** *Corridos Estiria* on Graz's main square. **Yoshinori Niwa** will give his election poster a final wash and from 17:00 the festival team invites you to an election watch party at the herbst café, with music by **holiday haensn**.

Third week (30.9.–6.10.)

ORF musikprotokoll im steirischen herbst starts on Thursday, 3 October. Under the title *Spaces of Freedom*, concerts, performances, and workshops explore various approaches to open spaces in music until 6 October. A special press conference on 1 October at 10:00 gives a detailed overview of the program.

On Sunday, 6 October, **Theater im Bahnhof's** newly commissioned performance *Spiel mir das Lied von Knittelfeld oder die Pubertät der FPÖ* (Once upon a Time in Knittelfeld, or The Freedom Party's Puberty) retraces the internal putsch at the Freedom Party's 2002 congress. Meanwhile, on Mooskirchen's marketplace, **Bernadette Laimbauer** presents her new performance.

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In Graz, the herbst cabaret presents another double bill on Friday and Saturday. In *Fruchtgenuss* (Usufruct), **Bernadette Laimbauer** asks what is to be done with a useless inheritance, while **Piotr Urbaniec** involves the audience in a surreal eye examination to reflect on the eternal (futile) efforts to control the weather and nature.

At **Kunsthhaus Graz**, **KURS** present their performative installation *We have always received something in exchange that we lived. On laziness*. And at Neue Galerie Graz, an expert talk with **Ulrich Becker** reveals what representations represent. An artist tour with Thomas Hörl is also scheduled there for 6 October.

Fourth week (7.10.–13.10.)

Major recommendations for the last week include the premiere of **Thomas Verstraeten's** *Wanderlust Warenhaus* at Kastner & Öhler on 12 October: the artist, a member of the collective FC Bergman, creates an immersive experience in Graz's largest fashion store, inviting the audience on an expedition to reflect on the appropriation of nature. On the last day of the festival, **Felix Hafner and his ensemble** take us back to Abyssinia in 1925 with their new performance *Ein Volksliederabend in Addis Abeba* (An Evening of Folk Songs in Addis Ababa).

Out of Joint, the literary festival within steirischer herbst, this year examines *Die Welt von Gestern / Die Welt von Morgen* (The World of Yesterday / The World of Tomorrow). It kicks off on 8 October with a lecture by well-known author **Robert Menasse** at **Literaturhaus Graz**.

In the Partner Program, the performance *FILM BEIGE* by **Das Planetenparty Prinzip** premieres at Schubertkino on 9 October, followed by an *Eat and Greet*. **Xava Kasimir Mikosch** explores *chimeric tendencies* on three consecutive days. Here, too, there's an *Eat and Greet* following the premiere on 10 October. On the same evening, **Kunsthhaus Graz** has scheduled a film screening and discussion with **Candice Breitz**.

On Friday, 11 October, and Saturday, 12 October, herbst cabaret is inviting you for a final *Amuse-Bouche* by **Alex Franz Zehetbauer** and **Annina Machaz's** show *Zämerisse!* (Pull Yourself Together!). Before that, **Thorsten Mense** and **Hans-Peter Weingand** meet for a final herbst deathmatch to discuss whether the local is always reactionary. The herbst café also hosts its final DJ sets, with **Turbo** and **Top*S**.

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Details on all events and artists can be found at www.steirischerherbst.at as well as in the **program book** (DE/EN), available for free at the herbst café and all *Horror Patriae* venues.

Artists and collectives

Sarnath Banerjee, Renate Bertlmann, Anna Boghiguan, Sergey Bratkov, Pablo Bronstein, Madison Bycroft, Ieva Epnere, VALIE EXPORT, La Fleur, Peter Friedl, Robert Gabris, Tomislav Gotovac, Assaf Gruber, Felix Hafner and ensemble, Jan Peter Hammer, Thomas Hörl, Clara Ianni, Jakub Jansa, Nikolay Karabinovych, Alina Kleytman, David Kranzelbinder, Augustin Maurs, Ari Benjamin Meyers, Marta Navaridas, Ingo Niermann and Erik Niedling, Yoshinori Niwa, Paulina Ołowska, Michèle Pagel, Hannes Priesch, Natalia Pschenitschnikova, Roe Rosen, Daniel Rycharski, Franz von Strolchen, Marko Tadić, Theater im Bahnhof, Helene Thümmel, Piotr Urbaniec, Thomas Verstraeten

Ö1 Festival Podcast

Ö1 is once again accompanying steirischer herbst with a festival podcast. Ö1 editors report on events, talk to artists, and explore how the festival affects the city of Graz. Building bridges between positions and venues, creating entryways and networks, connecting opposing perspectives, promoting discourse—this is the goal that the cultural broadcaster has set itself together with the festival team. The coverage of steirischer herbst '24 is part of the Ö1 podcast *Hört, hört! Festivals mit Ö1*.

Broadcasting dates: 19.9., 23.9., 26.9., 30.9., 3.10., 7.10., 10.10., 14.10., um 17:09

In *Kulturjournal*: oe1.ORF.at/kulturjournal

As a podcast: sound.orf.at/podcast/oe1/festivals

herbst café

Neutorgasse 44

8010 Graz

10.9.–13.10.

Tue–Sun 10:00–22:00

(19.9.–13.10., Fri and Sat until 24:00)

Ticket desk

Tue–Sun 10:00–18:00

+43 316 81 60 70

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The herbst café is located in a vacancy directly opposite Neue Galerie Graz. It is the first place to go for anyone interested in the festival—and a hangout or coffeehouse for friends and fans. Visitors can get tickets and information about the various programs of steirischer herbst. Journalists and professionals can pick up their credentials. Of course, the herbst café also offers food and drinks, and from Tuesday to Friday even a lunch menu (by The Underground Kitchen), with a vegan option. And, it hosts music and education events.

Partner Program

This year, twenty projects from Graz and Styria are part of the festival. The 2024 partners are: APORON 21, Camera Austria, *Corridos Estiria – Double Club*: Ein Projekt von Gerald Straub, esc medien kunst labor, Forum Stadtpark, Grazer Kunstverein, Haus lebt 2024, HDA – Haus der Architektur, KULTUMUSEUM, Kunsthaus Graz, KRA, Bernadette Laimbauer, manuskripte, Xava Kasimir Mikosch, Das Planetenparty Prinzip, QL-Galerie, Schaumbad – Freies Atelierhaus Graz, Schauspielhaus Graz.

steirischer herbst '24 is curated by Ekaterina Degot, David Riff, Gábor Thury, and Pieterl Vermoortel, assisted by Beatrice Forchini and Tobias Ihl, and created by all participating artists, speakers, and partner institutions, as well as the festival's whole team.

For accreditation for the opening days or additional premieres during the festival, please contact press@steirischerherbst.at.

Images can be found at: www.steirischerherbst.at/press

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

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