



Exhibition View: *Duet with Artist. Participation as Artistic Principle*
 Photo: Johannes Stoll, © Belvedere, Vienna, 2017

Vienna, 26 September 2017

21er Haus
 Museum for
 Contemporary Art

Quartier Belvedere
 Arsenalstraße 1
 1030 Wien

Opening Hours:
 Mon–Sun and all Public
 Holidays: 11am–6pm
 Wed and Fri: 11am–9pm

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Duet with Artist

Participation as Artistic Principle

27 September 2017 to 4 February 2018

Central to this exhibition is the audience and its role in the creation of a work of art. Approximately 30 historical and current perspectives demonstrate how artists can activate people and call them to action.

'In the 2017 exhibition year, we at the 21er Haus are focusing on the principle of participation in art. After exhibitions featuring Franz West and his *Artistclub* as well as the group exhibition *Instructions for Happiness*, *Duet with Artist* offers a thematically coherent conclusion. The exhibition also points to the year 2018, the programmatic approach for which will seek to revive the spirit of 1968,' this according to Stella Rollig, CEO and artistic director of the Belvedere and the 21er Haus.

'*Duet with Artist* addresses and demands visitors' active participation, while encouraging a critical and creative attitude. The selected works invite consumers to both intellectually confront the content as well as to participate directly in the creative process' adds curator Axel Köhne.

'Wer nicht denken will, fliegt raus' (those unwilling to think are dismissed). This quote by Joseph Beuys (1977) remains controversial and relevant. At the end of the 1960s, Beuys formulated the concept of 'social sculpture', which imbues art with the power to change society. As early as the 1950s – with performances, 'actions', and 'happenings' – it was the process of artistic production that became the focus for artists as well as the public. Fluxus and Body Art became pivotal art movements testifying to this development. Within this thematic range, the exhibition presents historical works that present participation as an artistic principle in a way that has decisively

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shaped the understanding of art across the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. To think of art as an essential part of life in which 'everyone' can participate underscores the fundamental democratic values of our society.

The contemporary perspectives featured in the group exhibition endeavour to go a step further by requiring the active participation of the viewers. The audience can create, control, or complete artistic processes on view. For example, Rirkrit Tiravanija's visitors are asked to play table tennis games; visitors are also invited to draw by David Shrigley or encouraged by Yoko Ono to write greeting cards. Images evoked by certain works can become works of art in and of themselves, like the carrying out of choreographic instructions and specific directives.

Not only does the exhibition focus on a duet between art and the public, but also on an exchange between museums, namely, the 21er Haus and the Morsbroich Museum in Germany, where the exhibit was earlier shown in the summer of 2017. In fact, this insistence on participation and the responsibility placed on the individual are linked to the Morsbroich Museum's particular history: it was founded shortly after the end of the Second World War to inspire the urban population, after years of dictatorship, to think critically and experimentally and to look towards the future. Likewise, today's 21er Haus has a similar story acting as an engaged, political place – formerly being the '20er Haus', originally meant as a temporary structure at the 1958 Expo in Brussels. Its open, modernist, pavilion-style of architecture evokes this idea of unrestricted, communicative encounters between people.

In this context, the exhibition also addresses the question of art's role in politics, as well as for artists and the museum within society. The exhibition expands upon the institution of the museum by calling for social action and creating space for encounters. The participation of the viewer within the artistic process gives rise to a creative space that exerts an influence on urban space, beyond just the exhibition and beyond the institution of the museum.

With works by

Vito Acconci, Robert Barry, Joseph Beuys, Stanley Broun, Angela Bulloch, John Cage, Claus Föttinger, Rodney Graham, Hans Haacke, Christine Hill, David Horvitz, Pierre Huyghe, Yves Klein, Tomas Kleiner, Krüger & Pardeller, Mischa Kuball, Dieter Meier, Bruce Nauman, Yoko Ono, OPAVIVARÁ!, David Shrigley, Gabriel Sierra, Juergen Staack, Rirkrit Tiravanija, Wolf Vostell, Franz West and Erwin Wurm

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Catalogue

Duet with Artist

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Editors: Markus Heinzelmann, Stefanie Kreuzer /
Museum Morsbroich; Stella Rollig, Axel Köhne / 21er
Haus

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Graphic Design: Mischa Kuball, Petra Hollenbach

Publisher: Verlag für moderne Kunst

Page Count: 156 pages

31,5 x 25,5 cm, loose-leaf binder

German & English in the same volume

Includes the Viennese supplement: Views and List of
Works of the 21er Haus Exhibition

ISBN 978-3-903153-34-9

Price: 24.00 euros

Conceived by Mischa Kuball and developed in collaboration with the designer Petra Hollenbach in the form of an open archive, editors are Markus Heinzelmann and Stefanie Kreuzer for the Morsbroich Museum and Stella Rollig and Axel Köhne for the 21er Haus, through the Verlag für moderne Kunst; it contains scientific essays by Raimar Stange and Friederike Wappler, a preface by Markus Heinzelmann and Stella Rollig, an introduction to the exhibition by Stefanie Kreuzer, as well as short texts reflecting on the artworks by Feodora Heupel, Stefanie Kreuzer, and Fritz Emslander (German/English).



General Information

Exhibition Title	<i>Duet with Artist. Participation as Artistic Principle</i>
Curator	Axel Köhne
Duration	27 September 2017 to 4 February 2018
Works	30
Location	21er Haus Museum for Contemporary Art Quartier Belvedere, Arsenalstraße 1, 1030 Vienna
Opening Hours	Wednesday to Sunday, and on all Public Holidays: 11am–6pm Wednesday and Friday: until 9 pm
Tickets	General Admission 7 euros 21er Haus Annual Ticket 21 euros Reduced 5.50 euros Children and Youth to Age 18 free
Web	21erhaus.at facebook.com/21erHaus twitter.com/21erHaus instagram.com/21erHaus #duetwithartist21

A collaboration with the Morsbroich Museum in Leverkusen, Germany

The press release and high-quality press images are available for download at the following link:
http://bit.ly/21erHaus_Duett_Press