



Installation view *Werner Feiersinger. overturn*, Photo: Johannes Stoll, © Belvedere, Vienna

11 October 2018

Belvedere 21

Arsenalstrasse 1
1030 Vienna

Opening hours:

Wed to Sun 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Wed and Fri until 9 p.m.
(also on public holidays)

Press downloads:

belvedere21.at/presse21

Press contact:

Irene Jäger
+43 664 800 141 185
i.jaeger@belvedere.at

WERNER FEIERSINGER

overturn

12 October 2018 to 6 January 2019

In his work, Werner Feiersinger combines his knowledge of the history of art, design and architecture with a laconically reduced design vocabulary. The Austrian sculptor is reinventing the exhibition space at the Belvedere 21 with an extensive sculptural intervention that draws on the building's history.

For many years, Werner Feiersinger has been exhibiting his objects in relation to his photographs and realising sculptures in public spaces. His minimalist work always subverts conventional viewing habits and is steeped in a profound sense of humour.

"Werner Feiersinger has adopted a sculptural vocabulary that looks Modernist and geometrical, but nevertheless remains open to all that is subjective and human. In dialogue with art history, he creates a very specific poetry and puts the human aspect back into sculpture," says CEO Stella Rollig.

"With his precise work, Feiersinger restructures the space he encounters. He literally has an architectural icon of post-war Modernism overturned and occupies it with new sculptural bodies. The starting points for his latest work are a detail of Schwanzer's architecture, the exhibition space itself, and the proximity to the Fritz Wotruba Privatstiftung," adds curator Axel Köhne.

Werner Feiersinger's sculptural intervention alludes to the building in which it is shown. It was planned by the Viennese architect Karl Schwanzer as the Austrian pavilion for the 1958 World's Fair in Brussels and awarded the Grand Prix d'Architecture. Later, the building was transferred to Vienna and

modernised by Adolf Krischanitz between 2007 and 2011. Karl Schwanzer planned the grid of the façade as a visual modular system of vertical steel girders that have punched holes at regular intervals and are structured using cross-beams. Werner Feiersinger appropriates this structure and turns its monochrome vertical steel grid 90 degrees to the horizontal. Like a kind of carpet, the sculpture lies on the floor and serves as the substructure for three other works. All four pieces assert their autonomous character while at the same time exploring fundamental issues of sculpture. The objects are positioned in a strained relation to the space, as a result of which they transform it.

The individual parts of the work admit various interpretations thanks to their different references, which cannot be unequivocally identified. The necessity of support is, for example, a key characteristic of Feiersinger's art. As such, the overturned structure on the floor of the exhibition space is reminiscent of both linked ladders and, at the same time, an oversized toy due to its holes. Two cantilever abstract forms on a base plate resemble gravestones protruding obliquely from the floor. This can be interpreted as a formal reference to Fritz Wotruba's Cubist sculptures that are housed in the depot of the Fritz Wotruba Privatstiftung at the Belvedere 21.

Feiersinger has even concealed an architectural link to India in his work. The grid on the upper floor of the Belvedere 21 reminds the artist of the red, vertically rhythmic structure in Le Corbusier's façade for the parliament building in Chandigarh. This building was constructed in the years from 1951 to 1964, so roughly at the same time as the former World's Fair pavilion. Whereas Schwanzer's architecture seems rationalistic to Feiersinger, he describes that of Le Corbusier as subjectivist. The sculptor transfers the subjectively irregular intervals in Le Corbusier's building façade to the grid of his work at the Belvedere 21.

All objects are made by the artist himself; their surfaces are often moulded. The colours and the workmanship are of vital importance. Mostly, Feiersinger uses seemingly unfinished primers and plays with raw surfaces. Despite their apparently industrial precision and the severity of their materials, therefore, his works do have a human aspect.

To supplement the sculptural intervention, design drawings are on display. The origin of Feiersinger's sculptures always lies in the drawing that he produces in spontaneous improvisation sessions by employing his subconscious. Often this results in "inter-objects" that give the impression of being useful but that are in fact useless. They illustrate the artist's search for answers to questions about proportions, dimensions, volumes and material.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Werner Feiersinger

1966	born in Brixlegg
1984–89	University of Applied Arts Vienna, masterclass in sculpture
1991	Artist in Residence, Chicago
1991–93	Jan van Eyck Academie, Maastricht
1993–95	Artist in Residence, Rotterdam
1999	Visiting lecturer at the École nationale supérieure des beaux arts de Lyon, Lyon
2002–06	University lecturer at the Technische Universität Wien
2006–08	Visiting professor at the University of Applied Arts Vienna, Art and Communication Practices department
2015	Artist in Residence, Rome

Lives and works in Vienna

Solo exhibitions (selection)

2018	overturn, Belvedere 21, Vienna (cat.)
2017	Intrinsic (with Gary Kuehn), Galerie Stadtpark, Krems
2016	Galerie Martin Janda, Vienna italomodern 1 + 2: Architecture in Upper Italy 1946 – 1976 (with Martin Feiersinger), Kunst Meran / Merano Arte, Merano
2015	italomodern 2. Architektur in Oberitalien 1946 – 1976 (with Martin Feiersinger), aut. architektur und tirol, Innsbruck (cat.) italomodern 1. Architektur in Oberitalien 1946 bis 1976 (with Martin Feiersinger), vai. Vorarlberger Architektur Institut, Dornbirn Künstlerhaus Palais Thurn und Taxis (with Gerold Tagwerker), Bregenz
2014	Vorzeichen, RLB Kunstbrücke, Innsbruck (cat.) Giuseppe Gambirasio e Italomodern (with Martin Feiersinger), Perofil, Bergamo
2013	Passage, O&O Depot, Berlin (cat.)
2011	italomodern. Architektur in Oberitalien 1946 bis 1976 (with Martin Feiersinger), aut. architektur und tirol, Innsbruck (cat.)
2010	Galerie Martin Janda, Vienna
2008	Vienna Secession, Vienna (cat.)
2006	Skulpturen, Schloss Damtschach, Wernberg
2005	Galerie Martin Janda, Vienna Austrian Cultural Forum, Bratislava
2004	FreeSpace, Z33, Hasselt
2001	Galerie Martin Janda, Vienna

- 1999 Raum Aktueller Kunst Martin Janda (with Christine Hohenbüchler), Vienna
 1998 Jos Jamar Galerie (with Jon Thompson), Antwerp
 1997 Ausstellungsraum Schloss Büchsenhausen, Innsbruck
 1993 Raum Aktueller Kunst, Vienna

Group exhibitions (selection)

- 2018 Body / Building, Galeria Madragoa, Lisbon
 2017 Armando Ronca, Architecture of the Modern in South Tyrol, Kunst Meran / Merano
 Arte, Merano
 Spielraum. Kunst, die sich verändern lässt, Landesgalerie Linz, Linz
 2016 Béton, Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna
 2015 AAA: Art Altstetten Albsrieden, Art in Public Space, Zurich (cat.)
 Sleepless: The Bed in History and Contemporary Art, 21er Haus, Vienna (cat.)
 SECTOR 17, Galerie Martin Janda, Vienna
 2014 The Present of Modernism, Museum moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig Wien, Vienna
 Artists Engaged? Maybe, Fundação Gulbenkian, Lisbon
 2013 Rain, Steam and Speed, Sommer & Kohl, Berlin
 arttirol. Kunstankäufe des Landes Tirol 2010–2013, Tiroler Landesmuseum
 Ferdinandeum, Innsbruck (cat.)
 2012 Expanded Field, Galerie Bob van Orsouw, Zurich
 The Collection #2, 21er Haus, Vienna
 DLF 1874. Die Biografie der Bilder, Camera Austria, Graz; Halle 14, Leipziger
 Baumwollspinnerei, Leipzig (cat.)
 2011 In the first circle, Fundació Antoni Tàpies, Barcelona
 Envisioning Buildings: Reflecting Architecture in Contemporary Art Photography, MAK,
 Vienna (cat.)
 Zacherlfabrik 2011, Zacherlfabrik, Vienna
 In Between. Austria Contemporary, CAC, Vilnius
 2010 MINIMAL: Art and Furniture from the MAK Collection, MAK, Vienna
 Die perfekte Ausstellung, Heidelberger Kunstverein, Heidelberg (cat.)
 2009 Fifty Fifty: Art in Dialog with the 50ties, Wien Museum, Vienna (cat.)
 2008 Die Lucky Bush, M HKA, Antwerp (cat.)
 2007 HARD ROCK WALZER, Villa Manin Centro d'Arte Contemporanea, Codroipo (cat.)
 Who remembers where they are from?, Galerie Martin Janda, Vienna
 Grund, Künstlerhaus Palais Thurn und Taxis, Bregenz (cat.)
 2005 Kollaborationen, Tiroler Kunstpavillon, Innsbruck (cat.)
 Socha A Objekt X, Bratislava (cat.)
 2004 Kunstpreis der Raiffeisen-Landesbank Tirol AG, RLB-Kunstbrücke, Innsbruck (cat.)
 Adriana Czernin, Werner Feiersinger, Gregor Zivic c/o Galerie Martin Janda, Austrian
 Cultural Forum, Prague
 2003 Transfer Wien, Aktuelle Kunst aus Wien in der Sammlung Falckenberg, Kulturstiftung
 Phoenix Art, Hamburg

- Discussing Sculpture, Galerie Martin Janda, Vienna
 Art dans la ville. 9 artistes autrichiens, Saint Étienne (cat.)
 2002 Bilanz 2001, Tiroler Landesmuseum Ferdinandeum, Innsbruck (cat.)
 2001 Unter freiem Himmel, Skulptur im Schlosspark Ambras, Galerie Elisabeth & Klaus
 Thoman, Innsbruck (cat.)
 2000 Die Desorientierung des Blickes, De Beyerd, Breda (cat.)
 1999 Freespace, NICC, Antwerp (cat.)
 1998 Austria – Arquitectura en el Siglo XX, Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporáneo, Sevilla
 1996 De Appel Foundation, Amsterdam (cat.)
 1995 Quarters, Oude Bonnefantenmuseum, Maastricht
 Skizzen, Modelle, Notizen, Raum Aktueller Kunst, Vienna
 1994 100 Umkleidekabinen. Ein ambulantes Kunstprojekt, Bad zur Sonne, steirischer herbst,
 Graz (cat.)
 1992 4th International Cairo Biennale, Cairo (cat.)
 Galerie Paul Andriessse (with Christine & Irene Hohenbüchler), Amsterdam
 Galerie Paul Andriessse (with Willem Oorebeek, Henri Jacobs, Gottfried Hundsbichler,
 René Daniels), Amsterdam
 1991 Zeitsprünge. Kunstwerke im Dialog, Neue Galerie am Landesmuseum Joanneum, Graz
 (cat.)
 Unknown Europe, Pałac Sztuki, Krakow (cat.)
 1990 Österreichische Skulptur – Sammlung Erste Allgemeine Generali Foundation, Vienna
 Secession, Vienna (cat.)
 1986 Junge Szene Wien, Vienna Secession, Vienna (cat.)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Exhibition title	<i>Werner Feiersinger. overturn</i>
Curator	Axel Köhne
Duration	12 October 2018 to 6 January 2019
Venue	Belvedere 21 Arsenalstrasse 1, 1030 Vienna
Opening hours	Wednesday to Sunday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Long evenings: Wednesday and Friday until 9 p.m. Also on public holidays
Tickets	Regular €8 Belvedere 21 Annual Ticket €21 Reduced €6 Children and teenagers under 18 free
Web	belvedere21.at facebook.com/belvedere21 twitter.com/ belvedere21wien instagram.com/belvedere21wien
	#overturn21

The press release along with high-resolution press photographs are available for download at:
belvedere21.at/presse21