

FOTO WIEN. Month of Photography

20 March – 20 April 2019

The new FOTO WIEN. Month of Photography Festival is being held from 20 March to 20 April 2019. The Festival focuses on the medium of photography, showcasing the diversity and **potential of the local photography scene**. For a whole four weeks, photography is set to be the key theme of the city.

During FOTO WIEN 2019, more than **120 partners in the programme** – museums, exhibition venues, galleries, archives, photography institutions, art universities, artists initiatives, and off-spaces – will be exploring the local and international photography scene. The new FOTO WIEN Photography Festival is an opportunity to make many new discoveries and get excited about art photography with its multitude of facets.

Festival Headquarters at the Postsparkasse [Postal Savings Bank], with in-house productions and a range of discussions

For the purposes of the Festival, the Signa Holding Company will make Otto Wagner's Postal Savings Bank building in Vienna's first district (1010 Wien) available to FOTO WIEN for temporary use as a cultural venue. As the **Festival Headquarters** it is set to be a hub of activity for ten days, providing ample space for **photo exhibitions**, installations, a **Photobook Market**, **portfolio reviews** and **awards**. It will also be the venue for international exchanges and discussions on the big topic of photography as mediated through workshops, a symposium, presentations, talks, and debates.

The Festival Headquarters will be open from 20 March to 6 April 2019, Wednesday through to Sunday, from 2 pm to 8 pm.

FOTO WIEN's main in-house productions at the Festival Headquarters:***Urbane Zonen / Zones Urbaines***

Exhibition run: 20 March – 6 April 2019

Venue: Festival Headquarters and the courtyard of the MuseumsQuartier Vienna

The Month of Photography event sees its re-launch in Vienna as it explores the processual nature of a Festival that began in Paris and now extends across many of Europe's major cities. Austrian and French photographers are invited to examine the phenomenon of the city or urban zone and to explore the spheres of influence of life in urban spaces where different sociotopes condition one another and social action always occurs within a specific architectural setting.

The aim of the project is two-fold: firstly, to take a closer look at Vienna and Paris as cities

and, secondly, to examine the urban space as such and use the medium of photography to draw a bead on urban action and interaction from various perspectives. Invited artists include: **Sabine Bitter/Helmut Weber, Mohamed Bourouissa, Valérie Jouve, Aglaia Konrad, Claudia Larcher, Lise Sarfati.**

The exhibition is curated by Walter Seidl.

Bodyfiction

Exhibition run: 20 March – 6 April 2019

Venue: **Festival Headquarters**

The Bodyfiction exhibition is organised in conjunction with the partners of the European Month of Photography and features five artists nominated for the EMOP Arendt Award. It coincides with a publication by the team of curators of the festival cities of Athens, Berlin, Budapest, Bratislava, Luxemburg, Paris and Vienna, which is also to be presented at FOTO WIEN. FOTO WIEN is a member of the European Month of Photography (EMOP), which provides the framework for photography festivals in Athens, Berlin, Bratislava, Budapest, Ljubljana, Luxemburg and Paris. EMOP's aim is to strengthen international networking within the photography scene and intensify the exchange of experience and information at the European level.

As part of the programme of panel discussions and debates accompanying the exhibition numerous lectures and talks will be held on the topic of the 'representations of the human body in contemporary photography'.

Featured artists: **Alix Marie, Carina Brandes, SMITH, Weronika Gesicka, and Matthieu Gafsou.**

The exhibition is curated by Verena Kaspar-Eisert.

Exhibition by the University of Applied Arts

Photography Class of Gabriele Rothemann

Exhibition run: 20 March – 6 April 2019

Venue: **Festival Headquarters**

FOTO WIEN is inviting a photography class from Vienna's University of Applied Arts to attend the Festival Headquarters in order to provide a younger generation of artists with a platform of their own within the Festival.

Other education centres specialising in art photography are also taking part in FOTO WIEN as programme partners. They include the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna, the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, and the Austrian Federal Education and Research Institute for Graphic Arts.

Photo book exhibition & Photo Book Prize 2019

Exhibition run: 20 March – 6 April 2019

Venue: Festival Headquarters

Photo books are a pivotal element of photography. They are one of the main analogue media for making photographic works and projects accessible to a wider audience. To illustrate the continuing relevance and importance of the photo book in the digital age, FOTO WIEN is to stage a photo book exhibition at the Festival Headquarters. FOTO WIEN invites photographers, artists and publishing companies to submit photo books published after 2017 for inclusion at the exhibition. The FOTO WIEN Festival Headquarters will be showcasing the most interesting publications of the last two years: included alongside books by established publishing companies will be hand-made book dummies, exceptional exhibition catalogues, specialist magazines and self-published photo books.

PHOTO BOOK PRIZE 2019: An international jury will select three winners among the photo books on show at the exhibition. The first-placed photo book will receive prize money of EUR 1,500.-, with EUR 750.- of prize money going to the books in second and third place. The prize money is donated by Peter Coeln, owner of Vienna's OstLicht Gallery and keen photo book collector. Once the exhibition has closed, the photo books will be incorporated into the OstLicht Gallery's photo book collection, which is publicly accessible.

Portfolio Reviews

Run: 20 March – 6 April 2019

Venue: **Festival Headquarters**

The FOTO WIEN Portfolio Reviews provide an opportunity for photographers and artists to get together with a wide range of international photography experts and discuss their ideas in one-to-one meetings. They are able to present a selection of their works and, in turn, receive constructive feedback and the possibility of establishing new contacts. The experts include publishers, picture editors, critics, gallery owners, and curators, with their names announced on the Festival website at www.fotowien.at in December 2018.

FOTO WIEN Photobook Market hosted by Fotohof edition

23 – 24 March 2019

Venue: Festival Headquarters

The Photobook Market features works by renowned artists and is designed to promote established and up-and-coming talents, publishing companies, designers, printers, curators and booksellers. The FOTO WIEN Photobook Market is organised and hosted by Fotohof, the renowned Salzburg gallery and publishing company.

A look at the discussion programme:

Artist talks and round tables on topical photography issues are to be held either with a direct link to the exhibitions or to address topics relating to photography collection (Collectors' Days), techniques, reflections on the medium itself, and photo institutions, etc.

- Urban zones as a trope for photographic studies
- Art photography and the conflicting interests of analogue and digital
- The institutional establishment of photography practices in the early 1980s
- Art photography as a representation of current institutional practice
- The significance of art photography in print media
- Bodyfiction: the photographic representation and showcasing of the human body in the digital age

A FOTO WIEN in-house production is to be held beyond the scope of the Festival Headquarters, with a theme that is entirely in keeping with the KUNST HAUS WIEN's positioning as a 'green museum':

Symposium on Poisoned Pictures – Photography & Ecology

In co-operation with the **European Society for the History of Photography**

Symposium: 5 April 2019

Venue: **KUNST HAUS WIEN**

From the moment the medium itself was first invented, photographic images of nature have played a crucial role in the way we perceive nature. In the natural sciences, photography provides a scientific epistemological methodology, but also visual evidence for the exploration of nature during early expeditions into unknown landscapes. Today, thanks to the medium of photography, we are able to explore remote jungles and alpine mountain ranges without leaving the comfort of our own living rooms. Photography is highly influential in shaping our ideas and perceptions of nature and landscape. It now also plays a key role in highlighting the catastrophic impact on nature of our extreme capitalist consumerism and the environmental destruction it entails. Through its lectures and discussions featuring international experts, the symposium entitled *Poisoned Pictures – Photography & Ecology* will explore from a range of perspectives the role of photography in our perception of nature – from the early days of the medium right through to the present – and the implicit possibilities for a new environmental awareness.