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Austrian Newsletter

September & October 2017

DIGITAL ARTS FOCUS

This autumn the ACF London presents a programme of events, projects and exhibitions across the fields of digital, electronic and sound arts and experimental film. Austrian artists have been pioneers in digital arts for decades and this autumn sees a dedicated in-house exhibition of Austrian and UK artists, alongside Ars Electronica Linz at the V&A's Digital Design Weekend and Unconscious Archives Festival, celebrating the best of new media, performance and sound art.

ACF autumn exhibition

Emotion + the Tech(no)body

Visual Arts Thursday 21 September – Friday 17 November, ACF London; *Private View*: Wednesday 20 September, 6–9pm

Emotion + the Tech(no)body considers our cultural and emotional attachment to data and the relationship of our bodies to technology. The exhibition includes work by Austrian and international artists working across sound art, experimental film, software programming, laboratory culture, sculpture, ephemeral art, instrument building and post internet art.

Featured artists: Davide Bevilacqua & Veronika Krenn (IT/AT), Stephen Cornford (UK), Benedict Drew (UK), Graham Dunning (UK), Reni Hofmüller (AT), Ulla Rauter (AT), Audrey Samson (CA/UK), Christine Schörkhuber (AT) and Theresa Schubert (DE)

The exhibition is curated by Sally Golding and is part of Unconscious Archives Festival 2017.

Conny Zenk – Self[ie]DREAMER

Visual Arts Performance Thursday 19 October, 7pm, ACF London

Conny Zenk works across new media art, dance, film and visual culture to create performances which engage with the immediate audience space through participatory technology. To complement the exhibition she will present *Self[ie]DREAMER* a new solo work which seeks to capture the essential qualities of our bodies in conversation with our smartphone devices.



Conny Zenk, *Self[ie]DREAMER*, 2017, image courtesy of the artist



Leo Peschta, *Roboter 10pcs BM MK II*, 2011, image courtesy of the artist

V&A Digital Design Weekend

Design Saturday 23 & Sunday 24
September, V&A South Kensington and
ACF London

The Digital Design Weekend brings together artists, designers, engineers and technologists to celebrate and share contemporary digital art and design. For the second year Ars Electronica Linz, the celebrated Austrian institution working on the intersection of art, technology and society in Linz, will present five artists to showcase their work in person at the V&A. As part of Digital Design Weekend, the ACF London will host a series of events alongside the presentation at the V&A.

Featured artists: Davide Bevilacqua, Veronika Krenn, Leo Peschta, Irene Posch and Ebru Kurbak

Victoria & Albert Museum, Cromwell Road,
London SW7 2RL, www.vam.ac.uk

Bridging Open Borders

Design Friday 22 September,
6.30pm–8.30 pm, ACF London

An evening of performances to celebrate the launch of the V&A's Digital Design Weekend and its

publication *Bridging Open Borders*. With performances by Leo Peschta, Davide Bevilacqua and prazlab.

Let's Walk and Talk

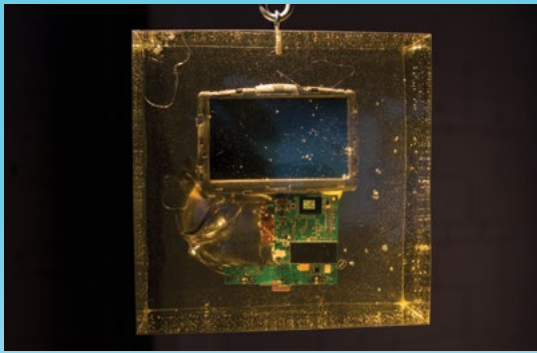
Design Saturday 23, 5pm & Sunday 24,
12pm, ACF London

Meet the artists and curators while walking! Starting at the V&A Grand Entrance join curators Manuela Naveau (Ars Electronica Linz) and Irini Papadimitrou (V&A/Digital Design Weekend) in a guided walk to the ACF London for performances, workshops, talks and drinks with artists.

Robotic Intervention and Sound Performances

Performance Saturday 23, 5.30pm,
ACF London

Davide Bevilacqua will present *Ursuppe*, a sound performance originally realized in collaboration with Alberto Boem and based on a bio-cybernetic system consisting of a series of insect-shaped analog sound devices electrically connected to a mixture of organic materials. Leo Peschta presents a robotic intervention of single track drum computers.



Audrey Samson, *Goodnight Sweetheart*, 2015,
photo by Alexis Bellavance

Workshop: Handcrafting the Digital

Design Sunday 24, 11am–12.30pm,
ACF London

Join artist Irene Posch for a workshop exploring tools for the use of textiles in the production of digital technologies.

Unconscious Archives Festival

Exploring materiality and embodied liveness across sound art and electronic music, experimental new media and audiovisual art, Unconscious Archives Festival presents three live events to complement the onsite exhibition *Emotion + the Tech(no)body* at the ACF. The festival showcases over thirty international artists with a special focus on Austrian artists.

Compositional Constructs

Visual Arts Performance Sunday 24
September, 7.30pm, Café OTO

A live event showcasing the vibrant systems of artist-made technology and performance interventions. Featuring Myriam Bleau (CA), Mariska de Groot (NL), Leafcutter John (UK), and Dawid Liftinger (AT).

Café OTO, 18–22 Ashwin Street,
London E8 3DL; www.cafeoto.co.uk

Haptic Somatic

Music Thursday 28 September,
8.30pm–2am, Corsica Studios

An enlivened club night featuring artists working with electronic music as medium, including Ziúr live (DE) album launch, Ewa Justka (PL/UK), Yaxu (UK), Phantom Chips (AU/UK), Spatial (UK), Laurie Tompkins (UK), Marta Forsberg (SE), Billy Roisz & dieb13 (AT), DJS Chloe Frieda and Tristan Bath.

Corsica Studios, 4/5 Elephant Road,
London SE17 1LB
corsicastudios.com

Narrativize

Film Visual Arts Saturday 30
September, 7pm, Close-Up Film Centre

An evening of live film, digital art and performative actions exploring de/construction of narrative. Featuring James Holcombe & Secluded Bronte (UK), Esperanza Collodo (ES), Foxy Moron (UK), and Jörg Piringer (AT). Plus artist Q&As.

Close-Up Film Centre, 97 Sclater Street,
London E1 6HR
closeupfilmcentre.com

Full festival programme:
ua2017.unconscious-archives.org

Stefan Zweig Season

Each month in 2017 the ACF's Cineclub screens a film based on and inspired by the works of Austrian author Stefan Zweig to celebrate the release of the film *Farewell to Europe* based on the author's life in exile.



Still from *Mary Queen of Scots*

Mary Queen of Scots

Thursday 7 September, 7pm, ACF London

Mary Queen of Scots is a Swiss period drama which portrays the inner life of Mary, the Queen of Scotland. The film is based on Stefan Zweig's 1935 biography, *Mary Stuart*, a long-term bestseller in Germany and France but out of print in the UK and the US for decades until 2010.

Switzerland/France, 2014, 119mins
English and French with English subtitles
directed by Thomas Imbach

Marie Antoinette

Thursday 5 October, 7pm, ACF London

From ballroom to boudoir to guillotine, the film *Marie Antoinette* is regal romantic adventure. Based on the 1933 biography by Stefan Zweig the film released in 1938 is a historical drama focusing on the Austrian princess Marie Antoinette, played by Norma Shearer, who became the Queen of France.

Germany, 1938, 149 mins, English
directed by W.S. Van Dyke

New Austrian Cinema

In 2017 Cineclub launched a dedicated series to highlight some of the best new Austrian cinema. Featuring emerging directors, contemporary subjects and a variety of film genres this series is an opportunity to experience the diversity and talent of Austria's thriving film scene.

A Decent Woman

Thursday 14 September, 7pm, ACF London

Austrian-born, Argentinian-based director Lukas Valenta Rinner's latest film, *A Decent Woman*, is a blunt, startling satire



Still from *A Decent Woman*

about social canons. A housemaid, working in an exclusive gated community in the outskirts of Buenos Aires, embarks on a journey of sexual and mental liberation in a nudist swinger-club.

Argentina / Austria / South Korea, 2016
204 mins, Spanish with English subtitles
directed by Lukas Valenta Rinner

Agonie

Thursday 12 October, 7pm, ACF London

Agonie takes an understated approach to a grisly real-life murder. A young man murders his girlfriend, dismembers the corpse and disposes of the body in different parts of Vienna. Rather than presenting the viewer with a traditional 'who-dunnit' crime film, the story follows two very different young men and builds up to the murder. Austrian director David Clay Diaz will introduce his film and participate in a Q&A following the screening.

Germany / Austria, 2016, 93 mins
German with English subtitles
directed by David Clay Diaz



Still from *Agonie*

Ugly

Tuesday 17 October, 7pm, ACF London

Ulrich Seidl protégé Juri Rechinsky offers a perversely downbeat film about love, loss and suffering. Seidl also co-produced this feature which will appeal to fans of challenging and fearless Austrian cinema. The film tells the story of a woman in a car accident and the fates of those around her.

Austria / Ukraine, 2017, 91 mins, English,
German & Russian with English subtitles
directed by Juri Rechinsky



Still from *Ugly*

September

Austria in Transit: Displacement and the Nation State

Conference Thursday 31 August – Saturday 2 September, King’s College London

This conference examines cultural responses to issues of transit and the place of the nation state in an era of international displacement. Its contributions will focus on responses to the current refugee crisis, questions of human displacement and mass migration in the Austrian context.

Registration essential: Iga Nowicz
iga.nowicz@kcl.ac.uk



Still from *Little Alien* (2009), Nina Kusturica

Lampedusa in Winter: Film Screening & Workshop

Film Thursday 31 August, 3.40–6pm, Nash Lecture Theatre, King’s College London

An integral part of the conference *Austria in Transit* is a documentary film programme featuring films such as Jakob Brossmann’s award-winning documentary *Lampedusa in Winter* (2014). The director will discuss the island’s desperate struggle for basic infrastructure as it seeks to support growing numbers of refugees.

King’s College London, Strand, WC2R 2LS
www.kcl.ac.uk

Little Alien: Film Screening & Panel Discussion

Film Friday 1 September, 6.30pm, ICA

The ICA hosts this *Austria in Transit* screening of Nina Kusturica’s award-winning documentary *Little Alien*. The film follows unaccompanied minors on their journey to Europe. Kusturica, born in Bosnia and Herzegovina, lives and works in Austria. She will participate in a panel discussion following the screening.

Institute of Contemporary Arts, The Mall, London SW1Y 5AH; www.ica.art

Ruth Beckermann Film Retrospective

Film Sunday 3 – Sunday 24 September, Close-Up Film Centre, London

Ruth Beckermann has been creating essay films and documentaries for 40 years and is well known internationally as one of Austria’s most courageous and spirited filmmakers. Ruth Beckermann will introduce the first programme featuring films such as *The Missing Image* (2015/16) and *Arena Squatted* (1977) on Sunday 3 September and participate in a Q&A following the screening.

Close-Up Film Centre,
97 Sclater Street, London E1 6HR
www.closeupfilmcentre.com



Still from *Towards Jerusalem* (1990), Ruth Beckermann



Assunta Abdel Azim Mohamed, *I am not old enough to die for your mistakes*, 2016

burning with pleasure

Visual Arts Friday 8 – Saturday 30
September, *Seen Fifteen*, London

This exhibition looks at contemporary image culture through artists' books and will include a special focus on the publications by artists for their own exhibitions at the Vienna Secession.

Seen Fifteen, Bussey Building,
133 Rye Lane, London SE15 3SN
archipelagoprojects.com



burning with pleasure

Emigration from Nazi-Occupied Europe to British Territories Overseas after 1933

Conference Wednesday 13 – Friday 15
September, *University of London*

This conference, organised by the
Research Centre for German & Austrian
Exile Studies, will focus on emigration

from Nazi-occupied Europe to British
territories overseas and is the first ever
to cover the full range of its subject.

Room G22, Senate House, University
of London, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU

Assunta Abdel Azim Mohamed

Visual Arts Saturday 16 September –
Saturday 21 October, *Danielle Arnaud
Gallery, London*

Assunta Abdel Azim Mohamed's powerful
drawings are at once a satire of her
generation in Vienna and a deeper
study of the human condition. At only
24 Assunta has won numerous awards
and is currently undertaking a major
public commission. This will be her first
exhibition in the UK.

Danielle Arnaud Gallery, 123 Kennington Road,
London SE11 6SF; www.daniellearnaud.com

Everything We See Could Also be Otherwise (My Sweet Little Lamb)

Visual Arts Wednesday 20 September –
Saturday 11 November, *The Showroom,
London*

Taking selected works from the Vienna-
based Kontakt Art Collection as its point
of departure, including seminal pieces



Mladen Stilinović, *Red-Pink Queen*, 1976

by some of the most prominent artists from Central, Eastern and South-East Europe since the 1960s, the exhibition stages an interplay between these and newly produced works that interpret and critically examine the collection.

The Showroom, 63 Penfold Street,
London NW8 8PQ
www.theshowroom.org

Papanek Symposium 2017

*Conference Friday 22 September,
Austrian Ambassador's Residence, London*

Questions of design and ethics take on a new currency, form and prescience in a postindustrial, 'post-truth' landscape. Bringing academics and designers into dialogue, this year's symposium aims to generate new ideas and critical thinking on the state of ethics in design and architecture today.

Residence of the Austrian Ambassador,
18 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PX
Registration essential: papanek.org/symposium

Vienna Mozart Trio: Maria Theresia Anniversary Concert

*Music Friday 22 September,
Wigmore Hall, London*

This special concert, hosted by the Ambassador of Austria, commemorates the tercentenary of Empress Maria Theresia's birth with works written in Vienna in the years following her reign.

The Ambassador Dr Martin Eichinger will give a pre-concert talk on the life and legacy of the Austrian monarch.

Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore St,
London W1U 2BP; wigmore-hall.org.uk

Positioning Nigerian Modernism

*Conference Thursday 28 – Friday 29
September, Tate Modern*

On the occasion of the centenary of Nigerian artist Ben Enwonwu (1917–1994) a major international conference at Tate Modern will explore new perspectives on Nigerian modernism in a pan-African context. Professor Christian Kravagna from the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna has been invited to present 'Collecting Modern African Art: 1950–2017'.

Starr Auditorium, Tate Modern,
Bankside, London SE1 9TG
www.tate.org.uk



Ben Enwonwu working on a bronze of Queen Elizabeth II, copyright The Ben Enwonwu Foundation

October

Skipton Puppet Festival

Theatre Friday 29 September – Sunday 1 October, Skipton, North Yorkshire

The International Skipton Puppet Festival is back for its 7th year to inspire the imagination, to delight, amaze and enthrall. Austrian puppet and object theatre company Wild Theatre have been invited to present a new production entitled *Seiltänzerin*.

www.skiptonpuppetfestival.co.uk

Philipp Fleischmann: Installation Views

Visual Arts Monday 2 October – Saturday 11 November, Belmacz, London

In his practice Austrian artist Philipp Fleischmann develops site-specific cameras designed to formulate unique relations between the material of the footage and the subject of the recording. Past projects include an installation in the Viennese Secession as well as the Generali Foundation in Vienna. For his upcoming show at Belmacz, Fleischmann will show new 16mm film works.

Belmacz, 45 Davies Street, London W1K 4LX
www.belmacz.com

Staged Reading: United Nations by Clemens Setz

Theatre Literature Tuesday 3 October, 7pm, ACF London

The Actors Touring Company present the first translation by David Tushingham of acclaimed Austrian author Clemens Setz's blistering new play *United Nations*.

The work examines whether authenticity can exist in a digital world. Who needs morals, when you can have ratings instead?

Philipp Fleischmann Talk

Visual Arts Talk Friday 6 October, 7pm, ACF London

On the occasion of his exhibition at Belmacz, London, Austrian artist Philipp Fleischmann will give a special illustrated talk and discussion with curator Georgia Holz and Mark Rappolt from Art Review at the ACF London .

Österreich Tag 2017

Seminar Saturday 7 October, 9.30am – 5pm, ACF London

The annual Österreich Tag presents topical information aimed at German language teachers. Two seminars will give participants the chance to learn about Austria-specific teaching content and get inspiration for class. The participation fee of £10 will include a traditional Austrian lunch.

Registration essential: Geoff Brammall
geoffbram1@btopenworld.com
www.all-languages.org.uk

LEY YA Live in London

Music Monday 9 October, 8pm, Hoxton Square Bar & Kitchen

Vienna-based experimental pop duo LEY YA employ an esoteric combination



LEY YA



Maja Osojnik, photo by Rania Moslam

of melancholy and electronica in their music. Following the release of their widely acclaimed debut album *Spanish Disco*, the duo put out two infectious trip hop gems and took their unique sound to festivals across Europe.

Hoxton Square Bar & Kitchen,
2–4 Hoxton Square, London N1 6NU
hoxtonsquarebar.com

Royal College of Music Lunchtime Concerts: European Horizons

*Music Monday 9 & Monday 23 October,
1pm, ACF London*

Students of the Royal College of Music will perform a series of lunchtime concerts every second Monday at the ACF London this autumn. Award winning musicians will explore European musical culture in all its dazzling variety.

Assunta Abdel Azim Mohamed Talk

*Visual Arts Talk Wednesday 11 October,
7pm, ACF London*

On the occasion of her first exhibition in London at Danielle Arnaud Gallery, Austrian artist Assunta Abdel Azim Mohamed will be joined by curator David Lillington for a special presentation and discussion of her work.

Maja Osojnik & Patrick Wurzwallner: Let Them Grow

*Music Wednesday 18 October, 7pm,
ACF London & Thursday 19 October,
7.30pm, Café OTO*

Vienna-based Slovenian electronic musician and vocalist Maja Osojnik will perform two special concerts in London. The first is a solo set at the ACF London. The following day she will be joined by Austrian drummer Patrick Wurzwallner at Café OTO where they perform a programme of experimental and new music alongside improvisation.

Café OTO, 18–22 Ashwin Street,
London E8 3DL
www.cafeoto.co.uk

English Songs by Karl Rankl

*Music Workshop: Saturday 21 October,
10am–5pm, ACF London
Informal concert: Sunday 22 October,
11am–2pm, ACF London*

Norbert Meyn (Royal College of Music) and Joseph Breinl (Kunstuniversität Graz) explore the songs of Karl Rankl (1898–1968) in a workshop (open to interested observers) with singers and pianists from the Royal College of Music and Ensemble Émigré, culminating in an informal performance of selected songs.

September

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- 3–24 Ruth Beckermann Film Retrospective
- 7 Cineclub: Mary Queen of Scots
- 8–30 burning with pleasure
- 13–15 Conference on Emigration after 1933
- 14 Cineclub: A Decent Woman
- 16–21.10 Assunta Abdel Azim Mohamed
- 20 Emotion + the Tech(no)body Private View
- 20–11.11 Everything We See
- 22 Papanek Symposium 2017
- 22 Vienna Mozart Trio Concert & Ambassador Eichtinger's Talk
- 23&24 V&A Digital Design Weekend
- 24–30 Unconscious Archives Festival
- 28&29 Positioning Nigerian Modernism
- 29–1.10 Skipton Puppet Festival

October

- 2–11.11 Philipp Fleischmann exhibition
- 3 Staged Reading by Clemens Setz
- 5 Cineclub: Marie Antoinette
- 6 Philipp Fleischmann Talk
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- 9 LEYYA Live in London
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- 11 Assunta Abdel Azim Mohamed Talk
- 12 Cineclub: Agonie
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- 18&19 Maja Osojnik & Patrick Wurzwallner
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- 21&22 English Songs by Karl Rankl

Visitor Information

The Austrian Cultural Forum London promotes cultural contacts between the UK and Austria by organising events and supporting artists and projects in the fields of music, performing arts, Visual Arts, literature, film and science.

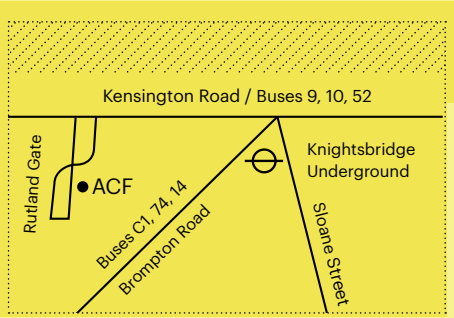
Austrian Cultural Forum London
28 Rutland Gate, London SW7 1PQ

Opening Hours
Monday to Friday, 9am–5pm

T 020 7225 7300
E office@acflondon.org
www.acflondon.org

Cover: Stephen Cornford, *Saturation Trails*, 2017,
image courtesy of the artist

Design by Polimekanos



Events at the ACF London are FREE.
Space is limited so please book in advance.

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