

Press Release,, 12.9.18

steirischer herbst 2018 – Opening on 20 September

steirischer herbst 2018

Various locations in Graz, Austria

20.9.–14.10.18

Opening Days: 20.9.–22.9.18

Opening: 20.9., 17:00, Europaplatz

steirischer herbst 2018 opens at Graz's Europaplatz at 17:00 on 20 September 2018. Titled *Volksfronten*, it is the first installment curated by Ekaterina Degot and her festival team. The various contributions form a bigger, comprehensive narrative which takes the form of an extended overall exhibition that can be understood and experienced as such at numerous sites around Graz. Some of its elements are installations, others are performances, and others again are interviews or panel discussions—all of them are pinpoint items in the overarching program, in terms of both space and time.

The just-published Guidebook, including a map of the festival, guides you through the core *Volksfronten* program, but also presents musikprotokoll along with the wide range of exhibitions and events that go to make up the supporting program of the various art and culture institutions in Graz. For 29 Euro (reduced price 23 Euro), the newly introduced festival pass gives admission to all events and installations of *Volksfronten* and reduced admission to the events of the Collateral Program.

On the opening day, 20 September at 17:00, a speech by director and chief curator Ekaterina Degot at Europaplatz is followed by a parade into town staged by the legendary Bread & Puppet Theater company. Together with local participants, the aim is to probe the urban topography and current political developments. Anyone interested can register for the open workshop taking place from 12 to 19 September at breadandpuppet@steirischerherbst.at.

After the parade, at 19:30, the performer-poet Roman Osminkin presents an open-air performance based on Dmitri Aleksandrovich Prigov's *Coup. A Play for Two Loudspeakers* from 1990 on the Schloßbergstiege. The highlight of the opening day, finally, is a new stage production by the provocative Slovene group Laibach who are reprising and repoliticizing a beguiling Broadway version of Austria's dark past in *The Sound of Music*. The show starts at 21:00 sharp on the Schloßberg Kasemattenbühne (no late admission).

From Friday 21 September, all the venues of the *Volksfronten* program will be open. The public can expect a course of installations that includes Irina Korina's gigantic environment exploring the connection between nature and nationalism at Helmut List Halle, a forensic research installation by Milica Tomić revisiting the site of a forced labor camp near Graz at Forum Stadtpark, and Henrike Naumann's design store telling an alternative story of 20th century Austria at Haus der Architektur. Funda Gül Özcan revives a former Turkish bar with her flamboyant installation, Tony Chakar in collaboration with Nadim Mishlawi reinterpreting one of Graz's landmark hotels, Hotel Daniel, with a tragic science-fiction story.

A constellation of works including new projects by Ines Doujak, Martin Behr & Martin Osterider, Christoph Szalay, Victoria Lomasko, Ekaterina Muromtseva and Kozek Hörlonski together with Alexander Martinz, explores folksy phantasms and uncanny horror-stories, questioning kitschy notions of homeland. Projects deliberately located in public space address the still-recent Nazi past, including works by Yoshinori Niwa, ZIP group, Rossella Biscotti & Kevin van Braak, and Michael Zinganel & Michael Hieslmair. Artist Lars Cuzner will greet the audience in Graz in person as the Eternal Leader of his brand-new Intelligence Party.

The *Volksfronten* parcours on the opening weekend will also be accompanied by a series of performative works – with *The Iran Conference* by Warsaw-based Russian playwright and theater director Ivan Vrypaev, and a large-scale happening on a revolution of plants by Igor & Ivan Buharov. On Saturday, the opening weekend takes another turn with an evocative performance by choreographer Michiel Vandevelde based on one of the greatest forgotten literary classics of the last century, *Human Landscapes from My Country* by the Turkish dissident poet Nâzım Hikmet. The day concludes with a cinematic-performative-musical evening with artist Roe Rosen, performer Hani Furstenberg and Igor Krutogolov's Toy Orchestra.

As part of the festival's Collateral Program, Fiston Mwanza Mujila's *Tram 83* is set to premiere on Friday, while Saturday sees the start of the traditional tour of exhibitions—the projects at Kunsthaus Graz, Camera Austria, <rotor>, esc medien kunst labor, Grazer Kunstverein, and Künstlerhaus, Halle für Kunst und Medien open at hourly intervals, with the shows at Kunsthalle Graz, Kultur in Graz, Schaumbad – Freies Atelierhaus Graz, and the smallest gallery also open to the public the same day.

Artist discussions in the Public Program series and tours of the Office of Open Questions round off the program for the opening weekend; the festival's herbstbar opens on Friday, 21.9, 16:00 at the Postgarage Café with a discussion between Ekaterina Degot and Laibach's Ivan Novak.

The complete program of steirischer herbst '18 and the Vorherbst online magazine are available at www.steirischerherbst.at.

The *Volksfronten* parcours includes works by:

Martin Behr & Martin Osterider / Rossella Biscotti & Kevin van Braak / Christian von Borries / Bread & Puppet Theater / Igor & Ivan Buharov / Tony Chakar & Nadim Mishlawi / Lars Cuzner / Department of Ultimology / Ines Doujak / Funda Gül Özcan / Nicoline van Harskamp / kozek hörlonski & Alexander Martinz / Irina Korina / Laibach / Victoria Lomasko / Mazzaj & Ausländerbehörde / Ekaterina Muromtseva / Henrike Naumann / Yoshinori Niwa / Roman Osminkin / Michael Portnoy / Roee Rosen with Hani Furstenberg and Igor Krutogolovs Spielzeug-Orchester / Christoph Szalay / Theater im Bahnhof / Milica Tomić / Michiel Vandevelde / Ivan Vyrpaev / Oliver Zahn/Hauptaktion / Michael Zinganel & Michael Hieslmair / ZIP group

Press images as well as further information can be found in the press section at www.steirischerherbst.at.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

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Opening Days: 20.9.–22.9., 10:00–21:00

13.9.–14.10., 14:00–19:00