

PRESS INFORMATION



Military Base, Norway, 2020 © Gregor Sailer

UNSEEN PLACES. Gregor Sailer

15 Sept. 2022–19 Feb. 2023

Press conference: WED 14 Sept. 2022, 10:00 am

Opening: WED 14 Sept. 2022, 6:30 pm

In his photographic works, Gregor Sailer presents unusual structures and buildings in the peripheral zones of human civilization. The artist is interested in landscape transformed by man and in architecture's political, military, and economic implications.

This takes him to inhospitable parts of the world, to Potemkin villages and places that are only approachable and accessible for few. Gregor Sailer's works necessitate research over several months and sojourns under extreme conditions.

"The Kunst Haus Wien is the first museum with the Austrian Eco-label to dedicate itself to sustainability and climate protection – these issues are more important than ever nowadays. Gregor Sailer's artistic projects deal with explosive issues such as climate change and economic-political conflicts, which gives his paintings additional relevance. I am proud that KUNST HAUS WIEN has once again organised such an extraordinary exhibition," says Kurt Gollowitzer, Managing Director of Wien Holding.

For his most recent series entitled **'The Polar Silk Road'**, Sailer undertook several expeditions to the Arctic. With this comprehensive project he documents the global struggle for power in this remote region of the world, which is highly relevant in terms of ecology, economy, and security policy. Current disputes over claims to territory and new raw materials are also a consequence of climate change, for the melting of polar ice caps has opened up new and, above all, considerably shorter shipping routes offering enormous competitive advantages.

A group of works referred to as **'The Box'** shows a normally inaccessible mining gallery in the Tyrolean Alps that was used as a gigantic underground factory during World War II. In the so-called Messerschmitt Hall, forced labourers were exploited for the construction of fighter jets.

A diamond mine in Russia, refugee cities in the Sahara, drilling rigs in the Caspian Sea, or the mining centre near Chuquicamata in the Atacama Desert – exceptional places locked to outsiders – have been captured photographically in the series **'Closed Cities'**.

Questioning society's frequently absurd excrescences, Gregor Sailer's images from the series **'The Potemkin Village'** allow us to access a world of fakes and artificial sceneries. The pictures display military field exercise centres in the USA and Europe, replicas of European cities erected true to detail in China, or places in Sweden that have specifically been built for the testing of vehicles – as well as a Potemkin village in Russia, where entire rows of houses were covered with wallpaper and tarpaulins on the occasion of Putin's visit to Suzdal and the city of Ufa to pretend bustling activity in abandoned buildings.

'Not only are Gregor Sailer's pictorial worlds unique works of art, they are also irretrievable contemporary documents. There are stories behind these images that provide the framework for his artistic approach and tell us about the future. With this exhibition, KUNST HAUS WIEN continues its thematic focus on art and ecology, underscoring its position as an artistic venue that feels committed to its ecological and socio-political responsibilities,' emphasized Gerlinde Riedl, director of KUNST HAUS WIEN.

Gregor Sailer's photographs are devoid of human life, and the buildings depicted often give the impression of sculptures. Political conflicts or hermetically sealed territories – his pictures betray the dynamic forces leading to the existence of these places. *'Gregor Sailer goes in search of weird and sometimes dystopian sceneries around the globe,'* exhibition curator Verena Kaspar-Eisert analyses his work. *'Although you never catch sight of a human being, what he does reveals a great deal about humanity. Gregor Sailer is a photographer who gives a lot of thought to his compositions, and with his elaborate pictures counteracts the fast-moving, volatile floods of images by offering tranquillity and precision instead.'*

KUNST HAUS WIEN devotes to this photo artist his first major exhibition in Austria. His works have won multiple awards, have been presented in numerous publications and exhibitions on an international level, and are part of public and private collections.

Curator: Verena Kaspar-Eisert

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Gregor Sailer was born in Schwaz in Tyrol in 1980. Between 2002 and 2007 he studied visual communication at Dortmund Academy, placing his focus on photography and experimental film. In 2015 he received a master's degree in photographic studies. Having won multiple awards, Sailer's works have been on view in monographic and group exhibitions at home and abroad, such as in New York, Arles, Milan, Prague, Berlin, and Budapest. Many of his series of photographs have been published in the form of photo books, such as most recently in 'The Polar Silk Road'. The artist lives in Tyrol.

Press images are available for download at: <https://www.kunsthawien.com/de/presse/>

EXHIBITION FACTS

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| Venue | KUNST HAUS WIEN Untere Weißgerberstraße 13 1030 Vienna |
| Exhibition dates | 15 Sept. 2022–19 Feb. 2023 |
| Press tour | WED 14 Sept. 2022, 10:00 am |
| Opening | WED 14 Sept. 2022, 6:30 pm |
| Museum hours | daily 10:00 am – 6:00 pm |

SUPPORTING PROGRAMME

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| Public tours | SUN 18 Sept. 2022, 11:00 am SUN 9 Oct 2022, 11:00 am SUN 20 Nov. 2022, 11:00 am SUN 4 Dec. 2022, 11:00 am SUN 11 Dec. 2022, 11:00 am SUN 15 Jan. 2023, 11:00 am SUN 29 Jan. 2023, 11:00 am No registration required. Tours are held in German. |
| Dialogue tour | THU 13 Oct. 2022, 5:00 pm with Gregor Sailer and curator Verena Kaspar-Eisert |
| Photo walks: Unseen Places in Vienna | FRI 23 Sept. 2022, 3:00–6:00 pm – Wienbibliothek underground storage vault FRI 14 Oct. 2022, 3:00–6:00 pm – Simmering Power Plant FRI 11 Nov. 2022, 3:00–6:00 pm – Simmering Power Plant Tickets exclusively available at the online ticket shop |
| Tour and technical insights | SUN 6 Nov. 2022, 3:00 pm Large-size photography |
| Artist's lecture | TUE 22 Nov. 2022, 5:00 pm in the context of Vienna Art Week Gregor Sailer on his photographic expeditions |

Lecture TUE 6 Dec. 2022, 6:00 pm
Christoph Schaden: 'Non-perpetual Ice. On the Change of the Arctic's Image in Contemporary Photo Books'

Future Talk:
Climate X Change WED 25 Jan. 2023, 6:00 pm
'The Polar Silk Road'

Workshop with
Gregor Sailer THU 26 – SAT 28 Jan. 2023

Further information on the programme of the exhibition [UNSEEN PLACES. Gregor Sailer](#) can be found on our website www.kunsthausewien.com

Admission according to current COVID-19 protective measures.

Admission Museum Hundertwasser € 11
Temporary exhibitions € 9
Combination ticket € 12
Annual ticket € 22
Annual ticket for two € 42
Youngsters between 11 and 18,
students under 26 € 5
Free admission for children under 10

PRESS CONTACT

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