

KunstHausWien Museum Hundertwasser

Review 2024 Preview 2025



Mika Rottenberg, Lips (Study #3), 2016/19
© Mika Rottenberg, courtesy of the artist and Hauser & Wirth
Installation view, Museum Tinguely, Basel, 2024
Photo: Pati Grabowicz



Looking Back at 2024

Two key projects left their mark on the KunstHausWien in 2024 and ushered the museum into a sustainable future. In the first two months, the company was fully concentrated on the final stage of the first largescale renovation in the museum's history. The most important measures were the replacing of the building's technology, the changeover of the energy supply from fossil fuels to renewable sources, the restructuring of the permanent exhibition, and enhancing the visitor experience.

The heart of the modernisation was the introduction of hydrothermal energy. This enabled energy needs – measured in relation to the previously air-conditioned area – to be cut by 75%, the use of gas to be dispensed with completely, and CO₂ emissions to be reduced by around 86 tons annually. Parallel, the electrical and security systems in the entire building were updated to meet the latest standards: the fire safety and alarm systems, CCTV and an electrical entry system were upgraded or newly installed. Other investments included the refurbishing of the bathroom facilities, the renewal of all doors and the fitting of a new entry portal, the redesigning of the museum shop and improvements to accessibility. The foyer was substantially remodelled and Friedensreich Hundertwasser's unique architecture was ushered, with respectful sensibility and yet innovatively, into the 21st century.



Photo: KunstHausWien

Together with the Hundertwasser Private Foundation, the permanent exhibition of Friedensreich Hundertwasser's works, which meanwhile came across as somewhat stolid and out of date, was reinvigorated, the gastronomy premises were given a general overhaul and a new leaseholder found, whose



ideas and culinary specialities reflect the ecological and sustainable values advocated by Friedensreich Hundertwasser – Café Friedlich has meanwhile become an attractive fixpoint in Vienna’s local scene.

The reopening of the museum, now renovated and modernised to meet the highest sustainability standards, on 28 February, 2024, was a huge success: after the official opening ceremony with some 800 prominent guests, the public was invited over the three following days to inspect the new museum and building, with admission free – more than 12,000 visitors took advantage of this unique opportunity!

Review of the 2024 Programme

During the reopening month of March, the museum experience revolved around the new permanent exhibition dedicated to the artist and founder of the KunstHausWien, Friedensreich Hundertwasser. The first revision of the show since the museum’s founding in 1991, it attracted enormous interest, with more than 20,000 visitors viewing the new exhibition in March.

The **new presentation of the permanent exhibition** followed the fundamental idea of the museum’s repositioning – to show contemporary positions on the relationship between humans, art and the environment – and thus focused more intently on Hundertwasser’s active engagement in environmental issues.

From 5 April, 2024, the museum created another milestone in its history with the **first-ever Klima Biennale Wien**. Launched by the City of Vienna and staged by the KunstHausWien, this festival aimed to make the highly complex themes and issues of global ecological change a tangible experience and thus more comprehensible for a broad public, and by doing so utilise the illuminative power of art as a guidepost to greater climate justice in the future. Starting from the Biennale headquarters in the KunstHausWien and the specially developed festival grounds at Nordwestbahnhof, the first Klima Biennale Wien, together with over 100 cooperating institutions in Vienna and beyond, presented a diverse programme spanning 100 days.





Photo: festival grounds Klima Biennale Wien © Rudolf Strobl

The 87 different locations were used for exhibitions, discourse formats, talks, lectures, interactive ‘dilemma’ salons, dialogues, panels, concerts, symposia, processions, an activism camp, a climate summit, readings, interventions, performances, workshops, dialogue tours, traditional tours, and naturally partying. These diverse activities were played out not only in Vienna but partners of the initiative in Graz, Linz, Heiligenblut, St. Pölten, and the Salzkammergut also joined in. The 30 exhibitions held in total as part of the cooperation with the Klima Biennale Wien – including 5 in-house productions – attracted some 200,000 visitors. Around 25,000 persons took part in the 780 events. In total, the Klima Biennale Wien thus drew an audience of around 225,000 persons to the different venues and locations – an enormous success not only for the KunstHausWien but also for efforts to mobilise a broad public committed to creating an environmentally sustainable and just future.

Two outstanding exhibitions were the hubs of the new Biennale: *Into the Woods. Perspectives on Forest Ecosystems* in the Biennale headquarters of the KunstHausWien and *Songs for the Changing Seasons* at the festival grounds. After the conclusion of the Biennale in mid-July, the exhibition *Into the Woods* continued its run in the KunstHausWien until 11 August, 2024 – and overall 38,762 visitors took the opportunity to refine their sensitivity for the biosphere of woodlands and forests, its ecological processes but also the various threats it faces.

With the exhibition *Anne Duk Hee Jordan. The End Is Where We Start From*, the KunstHausWien embarked on a new path in its engagement with ecology on 11 September, 2024: shifting away from pluralistic approaches, the focus was now more on the sensory contemplation of cycles, on acknowledging recurrence as



part of existence, on imagining a primal world as the beginning of all things, but also envisioning a robotic world in which the human and non-human merge. By the end of the year, the exhibition had attracted 25,347 visitors to the museum. The visitor experience was complemented by an extensive education and outreach programme, where robots could be built, meditation practised and experts listened to.

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Exhibition view Anne Duk Hee Jordan © Michael Strasser

Cooperation with the University of Applied Art

Together with the University of Applied Art Vienna, the seminar **Climate Action! Museums in (Climate) Change!** was held for the **first time in the winter semester 2024/25** as part of the MA course Expanded Museum Studies (Prof Julienne Lorz). The goal was to provide students with comprehensive preparation for meeting current and future challenges in the context of museums and climate change. Working in small groups, the students realised projects in collaboration with the KunstHausWien. In the process, theoretical aspects of a “Green Museum” were explored in depth through concrete examples and practically relevant knowhow, while sustainable museum work was presented on site. Within this framework, a **climate balance sheet** was compiled for the **KunstHausWien**, a **criteria catalogue for sustainable exhibiting** elaborated and a concept developed for an online archive of **Future Talks: Climate X Change**.

Summary 2024

The KunstHausWien looks back at a year of great challenges and successes: the first and only largescale renovation in the museum’s history was completed on schedule and within the set budget, while the first Klima



Biennale Wien was successfully held. Upon reopening, the museum was truly stormed: almost 12,000 people made use of the free admission offered during the Opening Days from 29 February to 3 March to explore the renovated ecologically sustainable building.

The museum has welcomed to the exhibitions and events held on site a total of **127,502 visitors** in the ten months since its reopening in 2024. Around 10,000 of these persons participated in the diverse programmes – ranging from guided tours and yoga and breathing workshops through to Prater walks or the Vienna Holiday Games for Kids. In addition, **50,822 visitors** took in the free admission exhibitions in the Garage Project Space. On its very first staging in 2024, the Klima Biennale Wien, with its extensive programme realised together with more than 100 partners, attracted around 225,000 visitors – a success to be built on in 2026.

Statements

Peter Hanke, Executive City Councillor of Finance, Business, Labour, International Affairs and the Vienna Public Utilities: “Climate neutrality by 2040 is Vienna’s top priority. To achieve this target we have to mobilise all our energy. The KunstHausWien has made a significant contribution in this direction with the environmentally friendly renovation of the museum building and changeover to renewable power sources. In 2025 the museum of the Wien Holding can now devote its efforts to its real task: employing art to sensitise its visitors to the need for a sustainable way of life and careful interaction with nature.”

Veronica Kaup-Hasler, City Councillor for Cultural Affairs and Science: “Climate change is one of the greatest challenges of the present and future. Culture, artistic work and a policy for culture that ensures climate justice are essential components in climate protection and sustainability. The KunstHausWien is setting standards in its resource-efficient and environmentally friendly operations. With its diverse exhibition programme, education and outreach services and not least the Klima Biennale Wien, the KunstHausWien has shown itself to be a driving force in sustainable development and made a crucial contribution to sensitising its visitors for ecological issues and practices.”



Kurt Gollowitzer, CEO Wien Holding

“The Wien Holding combines the sectors of property, digitalisation, mobility, culture and sport into a single entity and can therefore respond specifically to many of the challenges arising from the climate crisis. In this alliance the KunstHausWien is a marquee project that marks out new approaches to the environment by keeping in mind the inspiration of its founder, Friedensreich Hundertwasser.”

Gerlinde Riedl, Director of the KunstHausWien: “The alarming announcements both nationally and globally that measures to protect the climate are to be drastically reduced, reinforces the resolve of the KunstHausWien to maintain its positioning: as a centre for contemporary art and ecology and the only Hundertwasser museum in Austria, we will in 2025 continue to work unstintingly for a future that is more just in climate issues – together with two of the most innovative contemporary artists, with an ambitious education and outreach programme, and transdisciplinary exhibitions in the Garage Project Space, which places the community at the centre of attention. After two challenging years during which we have successfully created important milestones for the KunstHausWien, we are looking forward to a year of consolidation!”

Exhibition Programme 2025

Exhibition spaces 3rd/4th floor

Mika Rottenberg. Antimatter Factory

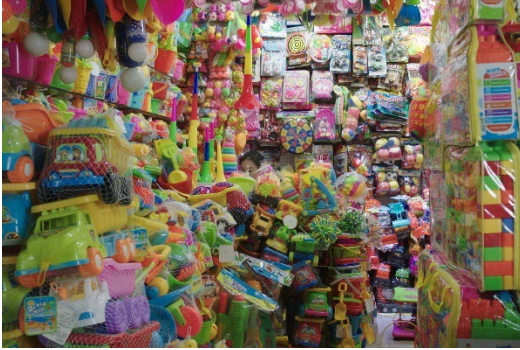
27.02. – 10.08.2025

Opening: 26.02.2025

Curated by Barbara Horvath and Sophie Haslinger

With the exhibition *Antimatter Factory* the KunstHausWien is presenting an extensive and varied insight into the multifaceted work of Mika Rottenberg, including her best-known films and installations from the years 2003 to 2022, a selection of kinetic, in part interactive sculptures with surreal functional and material compositions from the years 2020 to 2022, as well as her most recent work group, *Lampshares* from 2024, which combines natural organic structures with coloured lampshades made of recycled plastic.





Mika Rottenberg, *Cosmic Generator*, 2017 (video still) © Mika Rottenberg, courtesy of the artist and Hauser & Wirth

The title of the exhibition, *Antimatter Factory*, refers to the name of a research department at the CERN in Geneva which conducts experiments on antimatter. During her time there as artist-in-residence, Rottenberg found the inspiration for her work *Spaghetti Blockchain* (2019–2024), which examines how energies, objects and humans interact and communicate.

Mika Rottenberg creates worlds of fantasy which vibrate with a seductive sensuality and an irritating logic. From a Marxist perspective – which is very much tongue-in-cheek – and focusing on the human body, she examines the prevailing conditions of capitalist production and the value of labour. From a pearl farm to a large Chinese wholesale market specialising in cheap plastic goods and the production of ready-to-eat meals: Rottenberg’s works disclose the grotesque mechanisms of global supply chains, industrial manufacturing and work harnessed solely to profit, while showing up the scrupulous exploitation of humans and resources. With a humour that is once absurdist and disarming, the artist illuminates our ever-increasing alienation in a hyper-capitalist world and reminds us of the urgent need to disengage from these structures.

Questioning the boundaries between reality and imagination runs like a golden thread through Mika Rottenberg’s film installations. People and things appear to be set in motion, while space and time, past and future blend into one another. The people in her films are involved in absurd activities: they sneeze steaks, rabbits, lightbulbs or even whole meals on tables and plates; they moisten hair, feet or buttocks; they sit amidst plastic goods or glittering garlands, waiting for customers. Rottenberg’s multifaceted work can be understood as a mirror reflecting our globalised age, an age “in which nothing disappears anymore and everything is amassed through frenetic archiving” (Nicolas Bourriaud, *The Radicant*, 2009).



Biography

Born in Buenos Aires in 1976, Mika Rottenberg grew up in Israel before moving to the USA in 2000. There she studied at the School of Visual Arts and Columbia University in New York. In 2019 Rottenberg was awarded the Kurt Schwitters Prize, in 2018 the James Dicke Contemporary Artist Prize of the Smithsonian American Art Museum. In recent years the artist's work has been presented internationally in a series of solo exhibitions, amongst others at the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal (2022), the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art (2021), the Museum of Contemporary Art Toronto (2020), the Sprengel Museum Hannover (2020), the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago (2019), the Kunsthau Bregenz (2018) and the Palais de Tokyo (2016). Mika Rottenberg lives and works in New York.

Online catalogue

The exhibition is accompanied by an online catalogue that through a playful navigation based on the artist's aesthetics presents the pivotal themes of her work. Along with views of the exhibition from the three partner institutions, the Museum Tinguely Basel, the KunstHausWien and the Lehmbruck Museum Duisburg, the catalogue features excerpts from video works as well as interviews and texts by Chen Qiufan, Heather Davis, Hsuan L. Hsu, Gunn Khatri, Barbara Latacz, Filipa Ramos, James Taylor-Foster, Mahyad Tousi, Mika Rottenberg and Roland Wetzl, and is supplemented by biographical and bibliographical information.



The exhibition *Mika Rottenberg: Antimatter Factory* is a cooperation of the KunstHausWien with the Museum Tinguely in Basel and the Lehmbruck Museum in Duisburg.



Julius von Bismarck

10.09.2025 – 08.03.2026

Opening: 09.09.2025, 7:00 pm

Curated by Sophie Haslinger

“In my opinion, the way we look at nature directly influences nature. The aim of my work is to examine and influence the perspective we as humans take on the (surrounding) world, for instance the forces of nature.”

Julius von Bismarck

In powerful images, with technological inventions and exceptional experiments, Julius von Bismarck examines human perception and the relationship between humans and nature. Whether storms, lightning, masses of water or fires – elementary forces of nature and extensive research expeditions are often the starting point for his work groups, which combine an artistic perspective with scientific and technological approaches.

In spectacular actions Julius von Bismarck has flogged the sea, captured lightning flashes and vacuum sealed plants in their original habitat. The resulting photographs, video works, kinetic sculptures and installations are visually powerful and are not shy of grandiose gestures.

In autumn 2025 the KunstHausWien is staging the German artist's first large solo exhibition in Austria. Along with a selection of works spanning several different media from the last 15 years, Julius von Bismarck will create for the show a new work in which non-human entities come to life as actors. Von Bismarck's artistic research reveals the limits of the human perspective and challenges us to question the consequences our actions have on the environment.





Julius von Bismarck, I like the flowers, 2017/2023, installation view When Platitudes Become Form, Berlinische Galerie, Berlin, 2023; courtesy of Julius von Bismarck, alexander levy, Berlin; Sies + Höke, Düsseldorf © Julius von Bismarck; VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn 2024, Photo: Roman März

Biography

Julius von Bismarck was born in 1983 in Breisach am Rhein (Germany) and grew up in Riad (Saudi Arabia). He studied at the University of the Arts, Berlin, the Hunter College New York (USA) and the Institute for Spatial Experiments founded by Ólafur Elíasson at the University of the Arts, Berlin. He lives and works in Berlin and Switzerland.

The artist has already created numerous solo exhibitions, for example at the Berlinische Galerie (2023), the Bundeskunsthalle Bonn (2020) and the Palais de Tokyo in Paris (2019). He has also taken part in diverse international group exhibitions and biennales, including *Abenteuer Abstraktion* in the Sprengel Museum Hannover (2023), the Mercosul Biennale in Porto Alegre (2022), STUDIO BERLIN in the Berghain Berlin (2020), *Power to the People* in the Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt (2018), the first Antarctica Biennale (2017) and the Architecture Biennale Venice (2012). In 2008 he was awarded the Prix Ars Electronica, in 2012 he was the first artist-in-residence at CERN, the European Organisation for Nuclear Research.



Garage Project Space

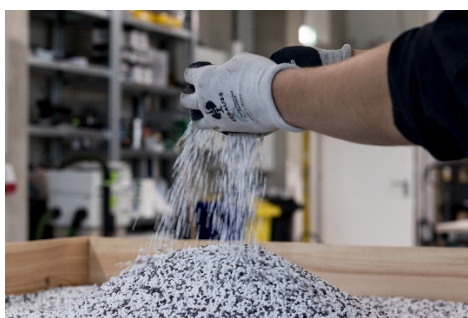
The Garage Project Space is a location for contemporary art at the interface of ecology, community and (social) sustainability. Transdisciplinary and process-oriented exhibitions invite active participation and discuss key topics in current debates. Site- and thematic-specific works create a space that enables the familiar to be questioned and something new to be experienced. Admission is free.

Plastic Matters

27.02. – 25.05.2025

An exhibition in cooperation with Fantoplast and Precious Plastic Vienna
Curated by Stephan Kuss & Veronika Hackl

With Plastic Matters the KunstHausWien is proposing a change of perspective in how we deal with plastic: from a waste product to a valuable material. Under the motto “Long live plastic”, workshops devoted to the topic of recycling demonstrate the multifaceted process of recycling and sharpen awareness for the growing problem of plastic products. Plastic is here to stay – and must therefore be thought of as a valuable resource in the production cycle. The exhibition shows the possibilities and potentialities of the material beyond the usual processes of industrial utilisation. After all, plastic affects everyone of us.



Gravel mix © Tom Zeitlhuber

The exhibition shows the possibilities and potentials of the material beyond the usual processes of industrial utilisation.



Grüne Wäsche Wien / Green Washing Vienna

14.06. – 28.09.2025

An exhibition in cooperation with the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, Art and Image Dept | Context

Curated by Stephan Kuss, Veronika Hackl & Tomash Schoiswohl

Green Washing Vienna explores the tension between measures for protecting the climate and greenwashing in the global context. In exchange with local artists and activists, the students challenge prevailing concepts of sustainability and ecology in the city. Two- and three-dimensional works as well as performances in public space actively inscribe a presence in current debates. The exhibition also creates connections to the history of the Weißgerber district: here tanneries once dominated, today it is tourism.

Fuzzy Earth. the belly knows before the brain

Tekla Gedeon & Sebastian Gschanes

16.10.2025 – 25.01.2026

Curated by Stephan Kuss & Veronika Hackl



Fuzzy Earth, Warm Rain, 2024, exhibition view
1111 Galéria, photo: Dániel Ránki, copyright & courtesy of the artists

With speculative design methods Fuzzy Earth (Tekla Gedeon & Sebastian Gschanes) examine the interrelationship between humans, nature and technology, probing into the regenerative cycles of the earth. Their exhibition follows the silent and ancient trail of phosphor – from its geopolitical conflict-ridden quarrying, its use as fertiliser in agriculture through to its current impact on our environment. They combine scientific methods and traditional knowledge of soils with art and design. An installation specially created for the KunstHausWien is to become a location for sharing thoughts and ideas on the relationship between humans and soil, compost and nutrients, decay and regeneration.



Education Programme

In the area of education and outreach the KunstHausWien focuses on initiating broad dialogues with theorists, scientists, artists and experts of the everyday, while inviting visitors to become actively engaged and contribute within the framework of the respective programme.

Accompanying the currently running exhibitions and in relation to Hundertwasser's specific themes, the programme features **workshops under the guidance of artists, talks and various dialogue formats**. The popular **"In dialogue"**, a discussion between art educators and external experts, has become a fixpoint with several dates annually. These new programme focal points are to appeal especially to young adults and the local population. The diverse **tours for school classes** of all ages and the programme for families have proven invaluable. **"Family Sunday"** will be increased to every two weeks. It offers a richly varied programme for children from 4 to 10 and the accompanying adult.

Projects and tours are also conceptualised for outside the museum walls and integrate the surrounding area. The format **ArchitecTOUR** – originally initiated while the museum was closed for renovation work – is meanwhile a fixed component in the education programme. The tour takes place in the direct neighbourhood around the KunstHausWien and shows Hundertwasser's built works in Grätzl, reflecting on various ideas for economically sustainable architecture. Inside the museum walls, ecology tours for the entire building are being developed, which, besides Hundertwasser's visions, focus on the museum's sustainable innovations and contemporary exhibitions. In addition, the KunstHausWien is looking to expand inclusion services and facilities with tours in Austrian sign language, tactile solutions for objects and tactile tours in a building that is admittedly some way from being barrier-free.

Cooperative events in the area of education are being developed with the Vienna Holiday Games for Kids (WIENEXTRA), the KinderuniKunst (Kids' Art Uni) and Kultur-Transfair.



Programme Mika Rottenberg

Artist Talk

Mika Rottenberg in conversation with the curator Barbara Horvath

Wed 26.02.2025, 6:00 – 7:00 pm

In English

Curators' Tours

With Barbara Horvath

Sat 22.03.2025, 3:00 – 4:00 pm

With Sophie Haslinger

Thu 08.05.2025, 6:00 – 7:00 pm

Future Talk: Climate X Change

Plastic and the Consequences

Thu 10.04.2025, 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Tour: In Dialogue

With the transformation psychologist Irina Nalis

Wed 04.06.2025, 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Public Tours

Sun 23.03.2025, 11:00 am

Sun 27.04.2025, 11:00 am (Austrian sign language)

Sun 25.05.2025, 11:00 am

Sun 22.06.2025, 11:00 am

Sun 27.07.2025, 11:00 am

Regular programme updates are available at:

[Events – Kunst Haus Wien. Museum Hundertwasser](#)

Programmes for groups and adults:

[Gruppen & Erwachsene – Kunst Haus Wien. Museum Hundertwasser](#)

[Schulprogramm – Kunst Haus Wien. Museum Hundertwasser](#)

[Familie, Kinder und Jugend – Kunst Haus Wien. Museum Hundertwasser](#)



Facts & Figures

KunstHausWien. Museum Hundertwasser
Untere Weißgerberstraße 13, 1030 Wien

Tickets and Opening Hours

Daily from 10 am to 6 pm

Full price ticket: 15 EUR

Annual ticket: 29 EUR

For information on other prices, see: [KunstHausWien Ticketshop](#)

For more press information and photographs, see: [Presse – Kunst Haus Wien. Museum Hundertwasser](#)

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The KunstHausWien has been awarded the Austrian Ecolabel



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