

Lentos Kunstmuseum

The Best of All Worlds!?

20 Years of the Cardinal König Prize

18.10.24 to 02.02.25

The Lentos Art Museum is celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Cardinal König Art Prize with an exhibition showcasing new works by past prize winners.

The Cardinal König Art Prize, awarded every two years, is considered one of the most significant awards for contemporary art in Austria. With its openness to the world and its intense engagement with central social and ecological issues, it has left a lasting mark on the art scene. "The Cardinal König Art Prize has played a crucial role in strengthening the contemporary art scene over the past 20 years. Its clear structure and multi-stage selection process have earned the prize an excellent reputation. Looking back over 20 years, it becomes clear that all ten prize winners have had highly professional and successful careers in the field of contemporary art," explains Hemma Schmutz, director of the Lentos Art Museum.

The prestigious prize was established in 2004 through an initiative by Prelate Johannes Neuhardt of the Archdiocese of Salzburg and its then-Archbishop Alois Kothgasser. "For 20 years, the Cardinal König Art Prize has been an outstanding example of the fruitful dialogue between art and the Church. The founding of the prize not only created a platform to foster artistic potential but also provided an opportunity for Church and art to communicate as equals," emphasizes Antonia Gobiet, managing director of the Cardinal König Art Fund.

The anniversary exhibition at Lentos, in cooperation with the Cardinal König Art Fund and Bildraum Bodensee, features works by the prize winners that address important topics like climate change, social upheaval, and alternative life models. "The Cardinal König Art Prize winners address pressing issues of our time in their works – from ecological crises to social and cultural challenges. The exhibition invites us to reflect on our actions and to develop new perspectives for a shared future," says curator Brigitte Reutner-Doneus. The exhibition focuses on the latest works of the ten prize winners, which explore topics such as the aftermath of the pandemic, the possibilities of human pioneering spirit, and the treatment of representative architectural monuments. "The artistic works impressively demonstrate how contemporary art from Austria provides valuable impulses for engaging with current social processes. This exhibition is an important contribution to the cultural discourse in our city," emphasizes Doris Lang-Mayerhofer, City Councillor for Culture in Linz.

With works of her series *Schüttlöcher [Pouring Holes]*, Angelika Loderer directs our focus of perception to the habitats of small animals. In a video piece by Nicole Six and Paul Petritsch, the possibilities afforded by the human pioneering spirit interfere at various time levels. Kathi Hofer recounts the personal story of a sustainable and alternative concept of living. Nika Kupyrova's works focus on the questioning of stereotypical gender roles. Michèle Pagel poses questions which are critical of her milieu and self-reflective. Kerstin von Gabain and Julia Haller address aspects of perception in an art-specific context. An ensemble of historical wooden objects newly reworked by Christian Kosmas Mayer deals with the architectural redesign of the Berlin Palace. Marko Lulić's video film *The Building* confronts a post-war modernist town hall building with the architectural theory of Le Corbusier, Walter Gropius and Zaha Hadid, among others. Lastly, a large-sized object by Hans Schabus presents bizarre poster announcements dating back to the pandemic.

The exhibition is on view at the Lentos Art Museum until February 2, 2025. A diverse program with curator-led tours and discussions on the Cardinal König Art Prize accompanies the show.

Program

Guided Tours

Tour

Thu 12.12.24, 6:00 PM–7:00 PM

Combined tour through the exhibition and the Lentos collection presentation.

Cost: €4 plus admission

Tour with Sign Language Interpreter

Sat 14.12.24, 4:00 PM–5:00 PM

Free admission for deaf visitors

Registration/Information: +43 732 7070 3614 or online at [lentos.at](https://www.lentos.at)

Curator's Tour

Thu 31.10.24, 6:00 PM–7:00 PM

Brigitte Reutner-Doneus guides through the exhibition she curated.

Cost: €4 plus admission; registration requested at +43 732 7070 3614 or online at [lentos.at](https://www.lentos.at)

20 Years of the Cardinal König Art Prize

Thu 21.11.24, 6:00 PM–7:00 PM

Thu 16.1.25, 6:00 PM–7:00 PM

Tandem tour through the exhibition with the prize's managing director Antonia Gobiet and jury member, long-time chief curator at mumok – Museum of Modern Art Ludwig Foundation, Vienna, Rainer Fuchs

Cost: €4 plus admission; registration requested at +43 732 7070 3614 or online at [lentos.at](https://www.lentos.at)

Children & Family

Baby Tour

Tue 26.11.24, 10:30 AM–11:30 AM

A relaxed tour through the exhibition, tailored to the needs of visitors with babies.

Cost: museum admission only

Event

Lentos off-site – Artist Talk

Sun 8.12.24, 2:00 PM–3:00 PM

Visit to the artistic memorial "*Wetterleuchten am Horizont*" for the Nazi martyr Johann Gruber at the University of Education of the Diocese of Linz. Discussion with the artist Christian Kosmas Mayer and Martina Gelsinger, the art consultant of the Diocese of Linz.

Meeting point: Private University of Education, Salesianumweg 3, 4020 Linz

Participation is free; registration required at +43 732 7070 3614 or online at [lentos.at](https://www.lentos.at)

Factsheet

Exhibition title	The Best of All Worlds!? 20 Years of the Cardinal König Prize
Exhibition periode	18.10.24 to 02.02.25
Credits	Curator: Brigitte Reutner-Doneus
Artists	Kerstin von Gabain, Julia Haller, Kathi Hofer, Nika Kupyrova, Angelika Loderer, Marko Lulić, Christian Kosmas Mayer, Michèle Pagel, Hans Schabus, Nicole Six und Paul Petritsch
Exhibition venue	Basement
Publication	A catalog accompanying the exhibition will be published by Mury Salzmann, Salzburg, featuring contributions from Rainer Fuchs, Antonia Gobiet, Michael Max, Johannes Neuhardt, Brigitte Reutner-Doneus, Hemma Schmutz, and Franz Schuh. 120 pages, €25. This and other publications will soon be available at the Lentos Shop or online (shop.museenderstadtlinz.at).
Cooperation	In cooperation with the Cardinal König Art Fund and Bildraum Bodensee.
Opening hours	Tue–Sun 10am–6pm, Thu 10am–8pm Closed on Mondays. Special opening hours can be found at www.lentos.at
Admission	€ 11, reduced € 9 / € 5
Press contact	Clarissa Ujvari-Hanten M: +43 650 48 49 706 T: +43 (0)732 7070-3603 clarissa.ujvari-hanten@lentos.at Ernst-Koref-Promenade 1 4020 Linz
Web & Social Media	www.lentos.at facebook.com/lentoslinz instagram.com/lentoslinz

Images

Press images and exhibition views are available for download on our website for the duration of the exhibition at <https://www.lentos.at/museum/presse/pressekit-20-jahre-kardinal-koenig-kunstpreis-18-10-24-bis-02-02-25>. Royalty-free use is permitted only for current reporting on the exhibition, provided that image credits are included.