

Vienna, July 2019

## TAKEOVER STREET ART & SKATEBOARDING

**Press conference:** Thursday, July 4, 2019, 10am, Wien Museum Karlsplatz  
**Opening:** Thursday, July 4, 2019, 6.30pm, Wien Museum Karlsplatz  
**Location:** Wien Museum Karlsplatz, 1040 Vienna  
**Duration:** July 5, 2019 until September 1, 2019  
**Opening times:** Thursday to Sunday, 2pm – 10pm, **Free Admission!**

The "old" Wien Museum will open its doors one last time, its now-empty galleries offering a rare and unique opportunity to interact with the space before the museum is renovated. More than 2000 square meters have been converted into an arena for street art and skateboarding, two subcultures that appropriate unused areas and challenge our understanding of how we shape public space.

Vandalism or art? Street art and skateboarding continue to polarize opinion. If the general public viewed these overlapping scenes as a disruptive nuisance during the 1990s and 2000s, today street art and skateboarding are regarded as pop-cultural phenomena. Not only do they lend cities an urban flair, they also contribute to tourism and the local economy. Even the art market has begun to take notice.

We are inviting visitors and prominent members of the street art and skateboarding scenes to transform the museum, offering opportunities to discover the broad spectrum of possibilities inherent to these scenes. The museum has been divided into two zones. The ground floor highlights DIY efforts, while the "Hall of Fame" on the floor above invites visitors to look and marvel at the works on display. The entire museum will become a space for street art and skateboarding. The already existing exhibition architecture constitutes the foundation for all the works, the only limit being the heritage-protected parts of the building.

## **Street Art in the Museum?**

Whose city? Graffiti and street artists play with our notions of urban space, characterized as it is by the omnipresence of advertising and established rules. These artists' works surprise, delight, and disturb, all the while interrogating existing power relationships. Vienna is their focus, even if their approaches are as diverse as the scene itself — by turns self-serving, political, feminist, and playful. More than thirty artists who have left their mark on the cityscape over the past twenty-five years have taken over the museum's walls. The result: creations that go beyond the artists' works in the public realm.

Paul Busk has broken through a wall with his writing, creating a massive stencil on the surface behind it, which he spray painted over with a fire extinguisher until "BUSK" emerged. Shue has taken an opposite tack, allowing his "writing" to grow out of the wall. From an altogether different angle, Thomas Mock has stuck an out-sized "Mr. Horse" sticker on the wall, a sticker size rarely seen on the streets. MALR has retreated from these immediately visible surfaces, instead transforming the washrooms into a "style spot." Knarf, on the other hand, has "hijacked" the poster walls from the Wien Museum's last exhibition, playing with the underlying subjects during the process of overpainting. Lym Moreno also works with old museum posters, which she has turned into a collage.

## **Female Empowerment**

Women remain conspicuously underrepresented in the realm of street art. Chinagirl Tile has used her "Hands off the Wall" female street art festival to achieve more visibility. For "girls who want to become street artists," she recommends "bringing a dinosaur." Indeed she has brought along her own 4 meter ceramic dinosaur to Takeover. The duo KLITCLIQUE distinguishes itself through strong messages of feminist struggle, while female empowerment is more subtly present in the works of the Ripoff Crew.

## **Murals on the Facade**

Artists will reconfigure not only the Wien Museum's interior but also its exterior. Several murals will grace the façade, one of which is a collaboration between Frau Isa and Nychos, Austria's most internationally renowned street artists. Nychos, who has since moved his atelier to L.A., will "dissect" one of Frau Isa's powerful female figures in his characteristic fashion. In addition, Perk\_up and Ruin, two artists who painted the Wien Museum's atrium during the 2016 Prater exhibition, will collaborate again in reimagining a wall surface. The Spanish duo Reskate works with fluorescent colours and doubled image planes. The duo will redesign the rear of the Wien Museum during the Calle Libre urban art festival.

## **Secret Society**

The street art scene has evolved into a tightly woven international network. “Crews” and collectives have come into being with the aim of mutual support, exchange, and collaborative painting — all with the greatest possible anonymity. An example is the Secret Society of Super Villain Artists (SSOSVA) initiated by Silent Bill. Based in England, SSOSVA now boasts 2000 members, one of whom is the Austrian street artist Chinagirl Tile. More than forty international artists have responded to a recent call put out by the society by sending their stickers, posters, placards, ceramics, and other small works. These will be on display during Takeover.

## **What Remains?**

Street art und graffiti use the city itself as a canvas. The constant transformation of urban space reveals new kinds of lettering, stickers, stencils, and murals to careful observers on a daily basis. Yet these discoveries often disappear just as quickly as they appear — painted or pasted over, or simply scrubbed away. It is precisely because of this ephemerality that documentation plays an important role. Often it’s only a photo that remains. Works by photographers such as Herbalizer, the 78ers, and Spraycity will be on display in the photocorner. These photos document Vienna’s street art and graffiti, sometimes staging them artistically as well.

## **Skate Area**

Skaters occupy public spaces or disused land in a playful manner, making them into their “hangout spots.” For many skaters, skateboarding is not just a sport but rather a way of life and a means of actively shaping their own environment. Loud, dangerous, and illegal: these are characteristics commonly attributed to this still strongly male-dominated scene. Today, the skateboard is, above all, a symbol of coolness, one that has also been put to use for marketing purposes.

Vienna is home to an active skater scene that has left its mark on public space. Arising from a desire to ride better obstacles, a group of skateboarders took the initiative in 2011 to convert concrete into skatepark topographies. Since then, they have turned 420 tons of concrete into ramps — partly illegally, partly on the basis of interim use contracts. Spoff Parks will use the old exhibition architecture of the Wien Museum to build a concrete skatepark. The photo projects “Freizeit Baustelle” and “A Skateboarder’s Romance” shed light on the inexhaustible DIY character of the scene along with the philosophy of skateboarding.

## **More Than Seventy Events**

An action-packed program of events will accompany Takeover over the course of the entire summer. Suitable for all age groups, events range from skateboard courses for children to classic guided tours, and from street art to drawing and video workshops for young people. A “Vienna Wall” has been set up in front of the museum for visitors to paint or spray paint. Panel speakers will discuss themes such as “The Mystique of Graffiti” and “(No) Space for Street Art and Skateboarding.” Visitors can acquire art at two large-scale events, “Graphic Vienna Extended” and “Artslam!” Numerous collaborative efforts round out the program, including: films within the context of Kaleidoskop, a new film festival on Karlsplatz; music during Popfest along with regular DJ sets by the likes of Res.Radio; and a revolving lineup of pop-up stores.

The history of the Viennese graffiti and street art scene dates back to the 1980s — strictly speaking, even to the beginning of the nineteenth century, when Joseph Kyselak (1798-1831), a Viennese court chamber official, carved his name everywhere during his numerous travels. Wolfgang Hartl has dedicated an entire graphic novel to the numerous legends surrounding the “world’s first tagger,” excerpts of which will be on view for the first time during Takeover.

### **With works by:**

Abend, Paul Busk, Cane, Chinagirl Tile, Deadbeat Hero, die 78er, Frido Fiebinger, Flör, Christian Fischer, Frau Isa, Emanuel Jesse, Friend, Golif, Wolfgang Hartl, Herbalizer, Olivier Hölzl, Junek, Leopold Kessler, KLITCLIQUE, Knarf, Kollektiv Kimäre, Kryot, MALR, Keno Meiners, Thomas Mock, moiz, Monsterzeit, Lym Moreno, NDZW, Nychos, Peks, Perk\_up, Phekt, Jamy Preiml, Ripoff Crew, Ruin, Jan Schiefermair, Maximilian Schneller, Philipp Schuster, Gitti Scholz, Seco, Secret Society of Super Villain Artists (SSOSVA), Shue, Skero, Skirl, Speaker-23, Spraycity, Spoff Parks, Tabby, Video Oner, Vienna Murals, among others.

**Free Admission!**

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**Production:** Karina Karadensy, Heimo Watzlik

**Graphic design:** HFA Studio

**Accompanying Program:** Christine Koblitz

**Skate Park:** Spoff Parks

**Cooperation Partners:** ADED, Calle Libre, Creative Mornings, dasWERK, FM4, Jan Arnold Gallery, Hands off the Wall, Kaleidoskop, Leap Art Prints, Oxymoron Galerie, Popfest Wien, SAE, Wiener Wand, Wien Kultur

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