



# PREVIEW

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## Bank Austria Kunstforum Wien

Address: 1010 Vienna, Freyung 8  
Opening hours: daily, 10 am to 7 pm  
Tel.: +43 1 53733 26  
E-Mail: [office@kunstforumwien.at](mailto:office@kunstforumwien.at)  
Website: [www.kunstforumwien.at](http://www.kunstforumwien.at)

## Media Contact

leisure communications  
Dr. Wolfgang Lamprecht  
Tel.: +43 664 8563002  
E-Mail: [wlamprecht@leisure.at](mailto:wlamprecht@leisure.at)

Alexander Khaelss-Khaelssberg  
Tel.: +43 664 8563001  
E-Mail: [akhaelss@leisure.at](mailto:akhaelss@leisure.at)

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## ROBERTO MATTA

24 February – 2 June 2024

curated by Ingrid Brugger



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Roberto Matta (1911-2002) is considered one of the most visionary painters of the 20th century. He not only left his mark on art history, but also significantly influenced numerous artists, including Arshile Gorky, Dorothea Tanning, Jackson Pollock and Robert Motherwell, or brought them to art in the first place.

His biography is that of a cosmopolitan: born in Santiago, Chile to Spanish-French parents, he lived and worked in South America, France, Mexico, the USA, Italy, Spain and England. In 1934, at his father's request, he joined Le Corbusier's office in Paris, but did not pursue a career in architecture; instead, he began painting in 1938 and exhibited at the legendary Exposition Internationale du Surréalisme in the same year. At the end of the 1930s, he emigrated to New York, where he soon had his first solo exhibition at the Julian Levy Gallery. In New York, Matta became a figurehead for the later New York School of Painting in particular, but unlike the representatives of Abstract Expressionism, he never abandoned representationalism for his art.

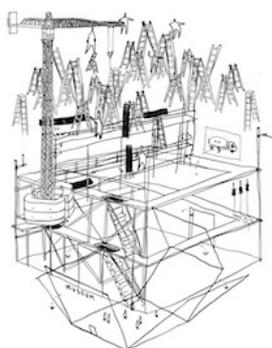
His work is just as international as his biography: Matta himself coined the term "technique of psychological morphologies". His paintings always depict a kind of "inner landscape", which Matta called "inscape". One searches in vain for a vanishing point in Matta's painterly cosmos. Transcendence, mysticism and the automatism so important to surrealism are Matta's constant companions. Technically, the application of paint with a sponge is typical; only then did Matta work on his canvases with a brush. Fluidity and the blasting of boundaries as well as topical political references are - and this continues to make Matta a pillar of contemporary art production – essential conditions of his artistic output. His politically alert mind and his unconditional commitment to an open society also make him appear from today's perspective as a pioneer of an art that not only demanded the social responsibility of artistic endeavour, but actively lived it.

The exhibition at the Bank Austria Kunstforum Wien presents Matta's artistic galaxies in seven rooms. The project is being realised in collaboration with the Roberto Matta Estate.

## ALDO GIANNOTTI – HOUSE OF CONSTRUCTS (IN COLLABORATION MIT KARIN PAUER)

13 June – 30 June 2024

curated by Lisa Ortner-Kreil



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What is an exhibition space today? How do we use it? Turning the exhibition space into a construction site where the line between art and labor gets blurred and distorted through time, visual artist Aldo Giannotti and choreographer Karin Pauer, together with the curator Lisa Ortner-Kreil, have developed an extraordinary project in search of answers to these questions.

“HOUSE OF CONSTRUCTS” is a site of various practices of building meaning collectively, opening a field of negotiations between the perception of time, labor practices and the canonized approach to an exhibition space. Visitors are encouraged to a self-determined engagement with the project which takes place between exhibition, performance, participation, and music. The exhibition rooms of the Bank Austria Kunstforum Wien – used since 1989 for exhibitions of fine art in the classical format – are transformed into a space for encounters and a site for the unfinished, the process, the vulnerable in-betweens where art is created.

Walls become the surface for constantly growing messages and drawings, the spectators perform work themselves. Stages, scaffoldings, and ropes are tools for fulfilling the common goal. Sound, video and the museum guards are integrated in the process in order to spread the message and take a stance.

## PAUL GAUGUIN

**3 October 2024 – 19 January 2025**

curated by Evelyn Benesch



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In autumn and winter 2024, the Bank Austria Kunstforum Wien will present a major retrospective of Paul Gauguin's work – the first in Austria since 1960.

The exhibition follows Gauguin from his beginnings as a post-impressionist to his pioneering role as one of the fathers of modernism and encompasses all facets of his oeuvre: painting, graphic art and sculpture. Gauguin, who grew up in Paris in the 1860s as a successful banker, only decided in favour of fine art late in life. His first joint exhibitions with the Impressionists launched a career full of obstacles and rejections. His artistic intentions, focussed on questioning tradition and outdated viewing habits, aimed at developing a new formal language that paved the way for modernism – Abstraction, Fauvism and Expressionism. From the reduction to the surface, from the re-evaluation of colour in terms of form and content and the concentration of the pictorial language on the essentials, Gauguin developed a pictorial concept that also led to the definition of the picture well into the 20th century – and which inspired artists not only of his generation in many ways.

Closely linked to a longing for the new and distant, both in his visual language and his way of life, he was hostile and misunderstood throughout his life. Today, under the aspects of post-colonialist discourse and debates on sexism and abuse, we scrutinise the figure and attitude of an artist whose formally aesthetic, new and exciting work continues to inspire us.

The exhibition features over 80 works on loan from major international museums and important private collections.

## REBECCA SAUNDERS – ROCKABY (2017–2024)

9 March – 28 April 2024

curated by Bettina M. Busse



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A musical collage for five musicians and 220 musicboxes

With her distinctive and remarkable tonal language, Berlin-based British composer Rebecca Saunders is one of the leading international representatives of the contemporary music scene. In spring 2024, Saunders will perform a musical collage in the tesor of the Bank Austria Kunstforum Wien and present an installation conceived especially for this space. At the same time, the Wiener Musikverein will dedicate a concert series to the composer.

Saunders is very interested in the plastic and spatial properties of organised sounds. In the installation conceived for the Bank Austria Kunstforum Wien, up to 200 individual music boxes, ranging from collector's items to kitsch, will be presented. For almost 30 years, Saunders has been using some specimens from her own collection of music boxes in various works. At the Bank Austria Kunstforum Wien, the entire collection will be on display for the first time. Turning the music box keys reveals a variety of auditory diversity: an overlay of tiny melodic fragments to a collective polyphonic composition that projects soundscapes into acoustic space.

Together with the Ensemble Mosaik, the tesor becomes an auditory collage in which the individual compositions played by the musicians and the mechanics of the music boxes merge. The musicians are distributed spatially, making the space resound. The audience finds itself in a continuously moving sound sculpture – a spatial and musical polyphony.

In addition to the concert evenings, visitors have the opportunity to actively participate. Through the interactive collaboration of the visitors, a unique collage is created; a collective melody that generates a constantly evolving cacophony.

“Rockaby” is a continuation of the installation “Myriad”, which was created in 2015 in collaboration with Martin Rein-Cano and Topotek. “Myriad”, together with Saunders' compositions, later became the artistic series “Myriad I-III”, which ran from 2017 to 2023.

The project is created in collaboration with the Wiener Musikverein.

## BANK AUSTRIA STUDIOS – GRADUATION EXHIBITION

15 Mai – 30 June 2024

curated by Bettina M. Busse and Contemporary Matters



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For two years they have populated the Bank Austria Studios in Vienna (Seestadt Aspern, Creative Cluster) and Linz (Atelierhaus Salzamt), and in spring 2024 they will now present a joint exhibition in the tresor of the Bank Austria Kunstforum Wien to mark the end of the project: Karolin Braegger, S()fia Braga, Contemporary Matters, Sarah Fripon, Jojo Gronostay, Katharina Hoelzl, Camille Holowka, Bianca Phos, Sarah Rinderer and Julia Zastava. – Artists we will hear from more often in the future.

The promotion of art and culture is a central concern of UniCredit Bank Austria; support for young art is understood as a sustainable investment in the future of our society. This is precisely where the Bank Austria Studios come in, offering young artists a comprehensive programme to help them take the first steps in their careers: In addition to the rent-free use of the studios, the participants are supported with a promotional programme ranging from practical workshops and financial training to the development of a national and international network in the art and culture sector.

The final exhibition in the tresor of the Bank Austria Kunstforum Wien is created in collaboration with the artists of the Bank Austria Studios and curated by Contemporary Matters and Bettina M. Busse. Contemporary Matters is a Vienna-based platform that creates critical awareness of the role of the “contemporary” in the increasingly transdisciplinary field of art history. They are known for their critical discourse, which they promote in exhibitions and debates.