

Press release  
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## **MARTIN KIPPENBERGER**

**Bank Austria Kunstforum**

**8 September - 27 November 2016**

Martin Kippenberger (born 1953 in Dortmund, died 1997 in Vienna) is one of the most important and simultaneously controversial artists of the twentieth century. "Self-promoter", "enfant terrible", art-punk", "bogey of the bourgeoisie", "unique artist" - the labels stamped on Kippenberger are as numerous as they are vacuous, but nearly always concentrate on the artist's exceptional personality. Kippenberger's complex work embracing painting, drawing, object art, writing, photography, installation and performance, also collecting and curatorial activities, leads all platitudes about being an artist and the art business by the nose. Humorously and mercilessly, Kippenberger lampoons the genius cult, "painter heroes", art criticism and Christian iconography just as he does likewise with concept and minimal art. His art pivots on dialogue and communication. The autumn exhibition of the Bank Austria Kunstforum Wien is devoted for the first time after the major Kippenberger-retrospectives in the London Tate, the New York MoMA and the Hamburger Bahnhof in Berlin to a single aspect: the medium of "language", which Kippenberger favoured throughout his oeuvre. His manic work tempo, the habit of integrating "everything and everyone" into his artistic work, also a unique ability to get scent of the contradictions in the zeitgeist, break ground primarily through language - on the level of the picture title, as text in picture, the pun and the bad joke, misunderstanding, the slogan, as rhyme or also in the form of artists' books, stickers and posters. "I'm more of a representative than anything else. Sell and communicate ideas. I am after all far more for people than just someone who paints pictures," said Martin Kippenberger, who, with language as the nucleus of his art, is aligned in the tradition of Dada and concrete poetry.

The exhibition is being produced in close cooperation with the Estate of Martin Kippenberger, Galerie Gisela Capitain/Cologne.

Curator: Lisa Ortner-Kreil

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## Mission Statement

The Bank Austria Kunstforum is the top address for art lovers, especially for classical modern painting of the post-war years. Every year, 300,000 people visit the temporary exhibitions held in this private institution, shows that are unique across the globe. Leading museums present their works here as well as private collectors. Whether van Gogh or Miró, Kandinsky or Chagall, Warhol or Lichtenstein, the great names of art are united here. Since 2000, there have also been exhibitions devoted to contemporary artists.

A modern, private cultural services concern.

The most successful house of exhibitions in Austria.

- **Frequented:** around 300,000 visitors a year.
- **Attractive:** one of the Top 10 of the most popular sightseeing spots in Vienna (alongside St. Stephen's Cathedral, Riesenrad, Kunsthistorisches Museum, the Zoo and Schönbrunn Palace).
- **Established:** exhibition partner of leading institutions including the Royal Academy, London; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; Guggenheim Museum, New York; Russian Museum, St Petersburg.
- **In demand:** international private collectors take pride in showing their treasures in the Bank Austria Kunstforum (Bernard Picasso, Ulla and Heiner Pietzsch Collection, Wolfgang Joop,...).
- **Renowned:** the Bank Austria Kunstforum has earned itself a great international reputation for continually setting new trends in conceptual approach and making art a new, fresh experience.
- **Pacesetter in ideas:** because of its presentation of international top exhibitions of classical modern art and its forerunners, and the avant-garde of the post-war years – most of which were shown in Austria for the first time.
- **Winning:** according to the MANOVA-Benchmarking Study 2004 – also involved were the Albertina, Kunsthistorisches Museum, Belvedere – the Bank Austria came out top as a service-oriented cultural concern.
- **Successful:** streamlined structures guarantee economic efficiency and flexibility.
- **Unique:** top priority for the creative, flexible team surrounding director Dr. Ingrid Brugger is the communication of art, with quality as the number one premise.

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