

brut favorites.! feilacher's choice

September 30, 2022 to March 5, 2023

museum gugging

Am Campus 2, 3400 Maria Gugging

As someone who can look back on a grand total of 52 exhibitions in his 16 years as curator and artistic director of [museum gugging](#), Johann Feilacher could fill a number of books just with his comments on these. However, in "brut favorites.! feilacher's choice" – his final exhibition as artistic director of *museum gugging* – the energetic curator looks ahead to the future of Art Brut while (as always) using the art from Maria Gugging to present us with a wider view of the world. A selection of personal highlights from Art Brut and other directions in art once again reveals his curatorial trademark: a lively juxtaposition of artistic positions invites visitors to question and expand art historical concepts and categories.

"When the artists from Maria Gugging are presented at the Collection de l'Art Brut in Lausanne, the Centro de Arte Oliva in Portugal, the Centre Pompidou in Paris, in Tokyo and, last but not least, at the Albertina modern in Vienna, this shows the recognition that the art from Gugging has achieved around the world," says Johann Feilacher, who launched the museum together with Nina Katschnig 16 years ago.

The exhibition is dedicated to internationally important Art Brut artists whose works have fascinated the curator over the decades. These include the Swiss artist [Louis Soutter](#)'s late finger paintings, which represent the pinnacle of his oeuvre. The artist created over 200 of these impressive works, and a representative selection will be shown at "brut favorites.!" [Mary T. Smith](#), from the southern US, is also one of Feilacher's favorites. Her bold painting can be seen, as can the organic textile sculptures of California's Judith Scott. The curator had already devoted a retrospective to Michel Nedjar years ago and is now presenting his personal favorites.

These international positions enter into a dialogue with works by August Walla being presented to the public for the first time. In keeping with his preference for "small format" works, little drawings by many *Artists from Gugging* will be presented. These include artists like [Josef Bachler](#), [Anton Dobay](#), [Franz Gableck](#), [Franz Kamlander](#), [Franz Kernbeis](#) and [Philipp Schöpke](#). Lesser-known works by [Johann Fischer](#), [Ernst Herbeck](#) and [Rudolf Horacek](#) are also represented. Last but not least, artists like [Laila Bachtiar](#), [Leonhard Fink](#) and [Jürgen Tauscher](#) reveal the present as well as the future of Art Brut in Gugging. The extraordinarily talented [Manuel Griebler](#) will also be presented as an *Artist from Gugging* for the first time.

The second part of the exhibition reflects Johann Feilacher's credo that Art Brut is an artistic current that is just as valuable as other directions and should be presented alongside them. Thus, the contemporary artist [Simone Pellegrini](#) has been invited to create his largest work to date for the presentation.

A selection of artistically impressive shields from the New Guinean highlands, which are defined by a visual idiom that has survived for millennia, illustrate the curator's intense occupation with Tribal Art. This art, which is culturally situated within the Stone Age due to the highland's inaccessibility until 1930, is every bit as valuable as contemporary art.

This presentation is also supplemented by Feilacher's selection of artifacts. These objects were created by chance during the artistic process but nonetheless reveal the distinctive hand of a given artist. These "side effects" – such as Pellegrini's printing matrices, the portfolios and desk pads that the *Artists from Gugging* filled with scribbles as they drew or the palette produced during the restoration of the August Walla room – will be presented as independent artworks, showing how well they fit into the context of contemporary art's reception.

"brut favorites.!" will do more than just present masterpieces of Art Brut. In this exhibition for the *museum gugging*, Johann Feilacher will once more demonstrate how the juxtaposition of (apparent) opposites can lead to discussion and dialogue. In doing so, he demands that visitors maintain an open mind: a demand that has lost nothing of its relevance since 1986, when he began his work in Gugging.

Opening

The exhibition opening will be held at 7:00pm (Central European Time) on Thursday, September 29, 2022. You can follow the livestream of the opening from anywhere in the world at www.museumgugging.at/eroeffnung. A shuttle bus will be available for guests travelling from Vienna. An opening in English will be held at 7:00pm (Eastern Standard Time, i.e. New York time) at www.museumgugging.at/opening.

Publication Accompanying the Exhibition

In early September 2022, Residenz Verlag is publishing a 256-page catalogue to accompany the exhibition. In addition to accounts of the 52 exhibitions realized, the book also meticulously lists the 25 publications that were created. Authors like Cornelia Manegold, Christian Berst, Nina Katschnig, Frank Maresca, Irina Katnik and, of course, Johann Feilacher have composed contributions on Gugging Brut, Louis Soutter, Mary T. Smith, Heinrich Anton Müller, Judith Scott, Michel Nedjar, Leoš Wertheimer, Martín Ramírez, Simone Pelegrini, the Tribal Art from New Guinea and the artifacts.

If you have any questions, please contact:

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