

gugging inspires.! from bowie to roth

March 30 to September 24, 2023

museum gugging

Am Campus 2, 3400 Maria Gugging

The [Gugging Artists](#) began to draw the attention of the art world following [Leo Navratil's](#) publication of the book *Schizophrenie und Kunst* (Schizophrenia and Art) in 1965. While it was initially the Austrian avant-garde that became interested in the *Art from Gugging*, there was soon an international audience. For the first time, the [special exhibition "gugging inspires.! from bowie to roth"](#) gathers together works from the fields of music, painting, photography, literature and fashion design to present them alongside the works by *Gugging Artists* that inspired them.

"For decades, going back to the very beginning, the [Gugging Artists](#), their art and the [House of Artists](#) – as the place where they live and work – have been inspiring the creators of a great variety of art forms. Gugging has been a magical place for artists since the 1960s," explains the exhibition's curator [Nina Ansperger](#), regarding the idea behind it. The new artistic and scientific director of the [museum gugging](#) goes on to list the examples included in the show: "The *House of Artists* served as a source of inspiration for [David Bowie](#) for his album *1. Outside*. The photographer [Christine de Grancy](#) accompanied [David Bowie](#) back then, as he interacted with [August Walla](#), [Oswald Tschirtner](#) and [Johann Garber](#). The Austrian writer [Gerhard Roth](#) has immortalized the *Gugging Artists* in his literary as well as his photographic work. [Arnulf Rainer](#), [Peter Pongratz](#) and Johann Rausch have also sought a closer connection with Maria Gugging. Scottish fashion designer [Christopher Kane](#) got inspired by the motifs of [Heinrich Reisenbauer](#) and [Johann Korec](#)."

[Peter Pongratz](#) was one of the first artists to contact [Leo Navratil](#), who was chief physician at that time. Pongratz encouraged the [Gugging Artists](#) to create etchings. These then represented an important foundation for the first exhibition of the [Gugging Artists](#), which was shown under the title "Pareidolien" (Pareidolias) at Vienna's Galerie nächst St. Stephan in 1970. Pongratz's *Lobpreisungen der Schizophrenie* (Praises of Schizophrenia) were substantially influenced by [Johann Hauser](#), whom he considered to be "one of Austria's best painters."

[Arnulf Rainer](#) not only regularly sought the company of the [Gugging Artists](#), he was additionally a passionate collector of works of international Art Brut and the [Gugging Artists](#), particularly [Johann Hauser](#). He makes reference to these works in many of his own pieces, such as *Manisch Mädel* (Manic Girl). [Arnulf Rainer](#) overpainted the exhibition poster for "Pareidolias." In 1995, in connection with an exhibition entitled "Miteinander – Gegeneinander" (With Each Other – Against Each Other), he finally succeeded in arranging the creation of collaborative works, in cooperation with [Johann Fischer](#), [Johann Garber](#), [Johann Hauser](#), [Franz Kamlander](#), [Franz Kernbeis](#), [Johann Korec](#), [Oswald Tschirtner](#) and [August Walla](#).

The Austrian writer [Gerhard Roth](#) also became aware of the [Gugging Artists](#) through the book *Schizophrenia and Art*. He visited Gugging for the first time in 1976, in order to meet the poet [Ernst Herbeck](#). From that point on, he formed a bond with Gugging and was interested not just in the artworks but in the personalities of the artists, as well. These artists left their mark on his novels *Das Labyrinth* (The Labyrinth), *Orkus: Reise zu den Toten* (Orcus: Journey to the Dead) and *Die Imker* (The Beekeepers) as well as his empathetic body of photographic work, particularly in his book *Im Irrgarten der Bilder* (In the Labyrinth of Images) in 2012.

[David Bowie](#) visited the [House of Artists](#) in Maria Gugging on September 8, 1994, with musician and music producer [Brian Eno](#) and multimedia artist [André Heller](#). The photographer [Christine de Grancy](#) had already been familiar with Maria Gugging since the 1970s, and it had provided the subject matter of several of her photographic works. She was also there with the star musician, and our exhibition presents her concentrated photos of exemplary moments – images that were not presented publicly until 2017, after the death of [David Bowie](#), when the Galerie Crone exhibited them and *ZEIT MAGAZIN* paid tribute to them with a 10-page photo essay. The extremely ambitious and experimental album *1. Outside* from [David Bowie](#), which was inspired by Gugging, was released in 1995. In February 1996 [David Bowie](#) invited the [Gugging Artists](#) to attend a concert from his *Outside* tour at Vienna's Stadthalle. [David Bowie's](#) art collection, which was auctioned off by Sotheby's in 2016, included works by [Johann Garber](#), [Johann Fischer](#), [Oswald Tschirtner](#) and [August Walla](#).

A documentary film drew [Christopher Kane's](#) attention to the [Gugging Artists](#). As he was researching the [Gugging Artists](#), Kane then came across [Johann Hauser](#) and his 1966 drawing *Gelbe Frau* (Yellow Woman). He was delighted that it reminded him of a dress from his *Princess Margaret on Acid Collection* from the spring of 2011. The highly expressive works of [Arnold Schmidt](#) also fascinated him. He finally designed a portion of his *Pre-Fall Collection 2017* under the inspiration of motifs by the [Gugging Artists](#) [Heinrich Reisenbauer](#) and [Johann Korec](#).

The Austrian artist Johann Rausch shares a passion for text with [August Walla](#). He considers "Ewigkeitsende" (Eternity's-End), a term invented by [August Walla](#), to be the "cleverest word in the world." In July 2022 he was allowed to spend eight days in the room formerly occupied by [August Walla](#), who had painted it from the floor to the ceiling, including its furnishings. This led to the creation of numerous works inspired by [August Walla](#) as well as [Johann Garber](#). Johann Rausch's fourteen portraits feature [Johann Garber](#), [Manuel Griebler](#) and [Jürgen Tauscher](#), among others, bringing together three generations of [Gugging Artists](#).

[Nina Ansperger](#) has been artistic and scientific director of the [museum gugging](#) since succeeding the museum's founder, [Johann Feilacher](#), on January 1, 2023. She has worked with the [museum gugging](#) for thirteen years as a curator, educator, catalogue author and head of exhibition production. Prior to that, she studied art history and European ethnology at the [University of Graz](#) as well as educational management and image science at the [University of Krems](#). Her career has brought her to the [museum gugging](#) by way of the [Kunsthau Graz](#), [KindermuseumFRida & FreD](#) and [Galerie Westlicht](#).

Press Breakfast and Opening

[Nina Ansperger](#) invites you to join her for a press breakfast and tour of the new exhibition on Wednesday, March 29, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. The opening will also be held on Wednesday, March 29, 2023: It will be presented at 7:00 p.m. by [Nina Ansperger](#) and a [representative of the Federal State of Lower Austria](#). Star musician [Lukas Lauermann](#) will be presenting his Gugging-inspired piece *Sensitive Figure [for Gugging]* at the opening.

Exhibition Catalogue

The catalogue accompanying the exhibition is being published with Residenz Verlag and will be available from the start of the show. This softcover book measures 240 x 270 mm and contains 232 pages featuring numerous illustrations as well as contributions by [Nina Ansperger](#), Clara Ditz-Rainer, Richard Maréchal, Sarah Mower and [Christopher Kane](#), Walter Moser, [Peter Pongratz](#), Johann Rausch, Ulrich Rüter and [Uwe Schütte](#).

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact:

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