

To the press

**Val Minnig «adult/sensitive»
Gernot Wieland «Diebstahl und Gesänge»**

29 August – 22 November 2020

Press preview: Friday, 28 August 2020, 11 a.m.

Opening Day: Saturday, 29 August 2020, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.



The exhibitions «adult/sensitive» and «Diebstahl und Gesänge» by Val Minnig and Gernot Wieland explore social relationships in everyday situations and question them in different ways. Coming from different generations, both artists examine (hidden) power structures in their practice and question how these structures shape human relationships and our living together. Investigating and always with autobiographical traits, the two artists also direct a critical gaze at the ambivalent relationship between “Western” society and animals.

In the installative works Val Minnig employs simple materials, partly found on the street, to create room-spanning interventions. The pieces not only create a state of fragility, but often refer to the immediate surroundings of a place. At the same time, Minnig examines technical constructions and structures that reflect the tension in the human-animal relation between control and fascination and shows how these have an influence on animal behaviour. In «adult/sensitive» the artist searches for possibilities to break up habitual relationships and to propose different forms of encounter by means of a reduced formal language and often proceeding from subjective sensations. In the main hall of the Kunst Halle Sankt Gallen, Val Minnig realises a site-specific room installation, which influences the behaviour of the visitors by using nets, e.g. as a protection from birds, and thereby turns conventional force relations upside down in an experienceable way.

The artistic practice of Gernot Wieland is based on the deconstruction of narratives. His works float humorously between the fictional and the documentary and illustrate the absurdities of everyday life, be it with humans or animals. Scientific and para-academic research is the foundation of his reflections, which are concretised in the exhibition space as sketches, diagrams, lecture performances, photographs, and 16mm films, and are supplemented by his own – often early childhood – memories. Wieland thus explores aspects of power and control conditions in social norms and their processing in collective and also very personal consciousness. In addition, animals also play a role in «Diebstahl und Gesänge» (engl.: Thievery and Songs), as the works presented explore their domestication and the fixation on wanting to humanise them over and over again. Wieland criticises Sapiens' position at the top of the natural ladder and questions the idea of humans as the ideal measure of all things. The show displays several new films by the artist and was created in cooperation with the Salzburger Kunstverein.

Val Minnig (*1991, Chur/CH) lives and works in Zurich/CH. Minnig completed their Master in Fine Arts in 2020 at the Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK). Exhibitions (selection): SALTS, Birsfelden/CH (2020); Môtiers 2020 – Art en plein air, Môtiers/CH (2020); Saint Luke, Zurich/CH (solo, 2020); Espace 3353, Geneva/CH (solo, 2020); o.T. Raum für aktuelle Kunst, Lucerne/CH (2019); Haus Konstruktiv, Zurich/CH (2018); Swiss Art Awards, Kiefer Hablitzel | Göhner Kunstpreis, Basel/CH (2018 and 2016); Off Kunsthaus Glarus, Glarus/CH (2018), Museum Folkwang, Essen/DE (2018); Helmhaus, Zurich/CH (2015); Koryo Youkobo Art Space, Tokyo/JP (2015).

Gernot Wieland (*1968, Horn/AT) lives and works in Berlin/DE. He studied at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, Vienna/AT and at the Berlin University of the Arts (UdK), Berlin/DE. Exhibitions and screenings (selection): Salzburger Kunstverein, Salzburg/AT (solo, 2020); 36th Short Film Festival, Hamburg/DE (2019); EMAF – European Media Art Festival, Osnabrück/DE (2019); Belmacz, London/UK (solo, 2019); Vdrome, London/UK (solo, 2019); Kasseler Kunstverein, Kassel/DE (2018); Kunsthaus Pasquart, Biel/CH (2018); Museo Berardo, Lisbon/PT (2015); Kunstverein Nürnberg, Nuremberg/DE (2014); Video_Dumbo, New York/US (2011); Liverpool Biennial, Liverpool/UK (2010); 27. Kasseler Dokumentar- und Filmfestival, Kassel/DE (2010).

Events and Educational Programme:

Opening Day

Saturday, 29 August 2020, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Guided Tour

Tuesday, 1 September 2020, 6 p.m.

(afterwards **Introduction for Teachers**)

Art Snack – Short guided tour and a snack

Thursday, 17 September 2020, 12.30 p.m.

Thursday, 22 October 2020, 12.30 p.m.

Admission: CHF 10/members CHF 7; registration at info@k9000.ch

Workshops for School Classes

From 2 September 2020 on we offer workshops in the exhibition.

See www.k9000.ch (Art Education/Workshops for School Classes)

High-resolution images can be found in the press kit on our website under Information/Press. For further questions please contact Giovanni Carmine (carmine@k9000.ch) or Céline Matter (matter@k9000.ch).

The exhibition by Val Minnig is supported by Dr. Georg und Josi Guggenheim-Stiftung, Stiftung Erna und Curt Burgauer and SWISSLOS/Kulturförderung, Kanton Graubünden.

The exhibition by Gernot Wieland is supported by Österreichisches Kulturforum Bern.

The Kunst Halle Sankt Gallen is supported by Stadt St.Gallen, Kulturförderung Kanton St.Gallen, Swisslos, Migros-Kulturprozent, Ernst und Olga-Hablützel Stiftung, E. Fritz und Yvonne Hoffmann-Stiftung, Martel AG und Kulturförderung Appenzell Ausserrhoden. Das Vermittlungsprogramm wird ermöglicht von Raiffeisen.

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Opening times:
Tues to Fri 12 – 6 p.m.
Sat & Sun 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.