

## “over above...” – leopold strobl & arnulf rainer

**Opening Day: Wednesday, December 16, 2020, 10am – 7 pm**

**Duration: November 19, 2020 until March 14, 2021**

With “over above...”, the *gallery gugging* invites you to the summit meeting of two exceptional Austrian artists of overpainting and overdrawing. The old master **Arnulf Rainer** meets the shooting star **Leopold Strobl**, who celebrates his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday this year and will be presented by the gallery with a show of 60 works, which illuminates his entire artistic spectrum. It will be presented together with 15 works by Arnulf Rainer, one of Austria’s most famous artists.

Strobl and Rainer are united by overdrawing or overpainting over what already exists until it corresponds to their respective, very personal aesthetics. However, the approach to each individual work and the choice of their working material are completely different. While Leopold Strobl exclusively overdraws photographs from newspapers, Arnulf Rainer overpaints his own works. The aim of both is the perfection of what already exists.

*“There is much more than we can see ... there is much more ...”*,  
says Leopold Strobl about his way of working.

Leopold Strobl has been artistically active since his youth. Six years ago, he found his unmistakable style, which immediately gained worldwide recognition and even prompted the renowned MoMA (Museum of Modern Art) in New York to purchase works by the artist for its collection.

Since 2014, Leopold Strobl overdraws photographs, which are illustrated in Austrian daily newspapers. Early in the morning – in the light that is perfect for him – he creates a work almost every day, which he then skillfully applies to a white sheet of paper and

signs on the back with his name, the date and a heart. This process is like a ritual for him. Through overdrawing and his ability to use light skillfully, Strobl's works radiate both something mysterious and something very calming. Both are combined in a seemingly magical way and make the viewer involuntarily pause and risk a second glance. Strobl devotes himself to a wide variety of themes and overdraws landscapes, architecture, streets, people and animals.

Leopold Strobl knows Arnulf Rainer personally and describes the encounter, which took place in the *open studio gugging*, as "quite pleasant". Rainer was and is someone who has always been enthusiastic about art outside the mainstream and has thus visited many studios over the years. Rainer has paid regular visits to the *Gugging Artists* since 1965. He was also one of the first to take an interest in their work and presented it to a broad public in 1969, when he showed his collection for the first time at the Vienna Secession and the "Galerie nächst St. Stephan". Thus, the common circle of Arnulf Rainer and the art from Gugging is closed.

Rainer himself says about his artistic approach: "*Covering up the weak points of a painting, one by one, until I can't see anything anymore has brought me to the overpaintings. Out of love and the urge for perfection. I wanted to make even more beautiful works of art out of it, everything else are rumors.*"

Don't miss this opportunity and dive into the artistic worlds of Leopold Strobl & Arnulf Rainer in the *gallery gugging*.

**We are looking forward to your visit!\***

\*Due to the current regulations, we invite you to visit us on the first day of our exhibition! From 11 am to 7 pm you can take a leisurely stroll through our exhibition and enjoy a personal guided tour. No registration is necessary.

+++ *We look forward to welcoming you in our 450m<sup>2</sup> large, high, always well-ventilated rooms in a private atmosphere. Surrounded by wonderful nature, the gallery gugging is the ideal destination for a spontaneous trip. Your health is our top priority. For this reason, we continuously adapt our safety requirements to your well-being based on the latest regulations. We kindly ask you to use your mouth and nose protection in the exhibition spaces!* +++