

## ***galerie gugging at the viennacontemporary for the first time in its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary year!***

We are looking forward to welcoming you to **viennacontemporary** this fall. The art fair will take place from **September 12** (preview day) to **September 15, 2024**, at the **Messe Wien Hall D**. Our presentation will focus on the works of the renowned, self-taught artist **Leopold Strobl**, who is also represented at the 60<sup>th</sup> International Art Exhibition **La Biennale di Venezia** this year. Works by the *Gugging Artist Oswald Tschirtner* will also be on display. **Tschirtner** is one of the classics of **art brut** and has long been established in the contemporary art scene. His international appeal even inspired **David Bowie** to purchase a work for his private collection and to visit Gugging. **Tschirtner** became famous for his “head-footers”, reduced figures without distinguishing attributes such as clothing or gender. The third artist on display is **Loys Egg**, who has already been shown at the *galerie gugging* as part of the exhibition **L. E. & O. T. – LOYS EGG & OSWALD TSCHIRTNER**. It was impressively demonstrated how **Loys Egg**’s sculptures harmonise with **Tschirtner**’s works on paper and canvas and enter into an exciting dialogue.

Gallery director **Nina Katschnig** is delighted to be present at the **viennacontemporary** for the first time in the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the *galerie gugging*: “Our Biennale artist **Leopold Strobl** manages to reduce complex pictorial content to the essentials with his artistic approach and is the perfect complement to the Gugging old master **Oswald Tschirtner** and his reduced masterpieces. Like **Tschirtner**, **Loys Egg** is a minimalist and ideally completes our master of reduction trio.”

## SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF THE ARTISTS:

### Leopold Strobl | Short biography

Leopold Strobl was born in 1960 in Mistelbach, Austria, and has been a regular guest at the *atelier gugging* for over fifteen years. He finds the ideas, i.e. templates, for his small-format drawings, which look like magnetic portals, in local daily, weekly and church newspapers. Once he has selected a motif, he first devotes himself to the black areas, then the sky is coloured green and finally the edges are emphasised. For his works, he uses coloured pencils in black, light green, three different shades of yellow and rarely the colour red. His works can be found in the collections of the MoMA, USA, the Treger/Saint Silvestre Art Brut Collection, Portugal, the abcd ART BRUT Collection, France, and in the State Collections of Lower Austria, Austria. The artist is also represented by our international partner galleries Ricco/Maresca Gallery, USA, and the gallery christian berst art brut, France. This year, the artist is also represented at the 60<sup>th</sup> International Art Exhibition La Biennale di Venezia. He lives and works in Poysdorf and Kritzendorf.

### Oswald Tschirtner | Short biography

Oswald Tschirtner was born in 1920 in Perchtoldsdorf, Austria, and lived in the *House of Artists* in Gugging from 1981 until his death in 2007. He became known for “his head-footers”: reduced figures with no distinguishing attributes such as clothing or gender. The artist worked on postcard-sized paper, on canvases or house facades and used pen and ink, acrylic paint or Edding marker, depending on the dimensions. He is regarded as a master of minimalist formal language. In 1990, he and the *Gugging Artists* were awarded the Oskar Kokoschka Prize. His works can be found in the Setagaya Museum, Japan, the Collection de l'Art Brut, Switzerland, and in the Museum of Modern Art Ludwig Foundation, Austria.

### Loys Egg | Stations:

Born 1947 in Bern / Switzerland. Lives and works in Klosterneuburg since 2018. Studied at the Akademie für angewandte Kunst, Wien (University of Applied Arts, Vienna) and Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna. 1972 – 1984 Lecturer at the University of Applied Arts, Vienna. 1983 – 1992 Artdirector of the Vereinigten Bühnen Wien / Vienna. Member of the Vienna Secession (Artists' Association). Member of the Grazer Autorenversammlung (Writers' Association). 1978 co-founded the band “Hotel Morphila Orchester” (with Peter Weibel), 1982 founded the band “Orphila” (with Joe Berger). Works can be found in: Albertina, Vienna, mumok, Vienna, Neue Galerie Graz.

**viennacontemporary:** [www.viennacontemporary.at](http://www.viennacontemporary.at)

For interview requests, please contact gallery director Nina Katschnig.