

# radical clarity günther schützenhöfer

**OPENING: Wednesday, May 21, 2025, 7 pm**  
**Exhibition duration: May 22 until September 26, 2025**

In its summer exhibition, the *galerie gugging* presents the *Gugging Artist* **Günther Schützenhöfer** and gifts the master of abstraction and condensation with an extensive retrospective shortly before his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday, which you should not miss.

With his expressive, mostly black-and-white art, the *Gugging Artist* **Günther Schützenhöfer** has created a world of his own that makes the hearts of art collectors from Maria Gugging to New York City beat faster. The artist's oeuvre is classified as **art brut**, founded by **Jean Dubuffet**, and can be found in numerous private and public collections worldwide.

**Günther Schützenhöfer** was born in 1965 in Mödling, Austria, and has lived in the *House of Artists* in Gugging since 1999. The artist loves music and is a structured person, who appreciates and needs regular routines. This includes his drawing visits to the *galerie gugging* during opening hours, which have become a fixed point and until recently he preferred doing it together with the *Gugging Artist* **Heinrich Reisenbauer**, who passed away in February 2025. Here, the artist works on new works almost every day at 2 pm in the office of *galerie gugging* director **Nina Katschnig**. He only receives assistance with the regular sharpening of his pencils and coloured pencils.

**Schützenhöfer** is a master of abstraction and condensation. The direct, powerful way of pressing the pencil onto the paper has become his unique, unmistakable drawing style. Sometimes the work is even perforated by the intense strokes. This creates an unmistakable world that literally casts a spell over the viewer. While **Schützenhöfer** started out with a gentle stroke, his works have become increasingly dense over the years. *galerie gugging* director **Nina Katschnig** goes into raptures when she talks about his work: "The different degrees of hardness of the pencils used often create very exciting, one-of-

a-kind structures. **Schützenhöfer**'s signature is also unique, which, as with the Gugging Artist **Johann Hauser**, is not written but drawn."

While **Hauser**'s main themes are women and airplanes, **Schützenhöfer** draws everyday objects, occasionally from templates. The artist has always depicted bicycles, cars and flying objects from his imagination. In addition to his main drawing instrument, the pencil, he also adds accents with bold coloured pencils from time to time. **Alejandra Russi** and **Frank Maresca** from our New York partner gallery are also impressed by **Schützenhöfer**'s art: *"His drawings are minimal but magnetic – pared down to their essence and full of soul. They're meditations more than renderings. He revisits objects over and over again: bicycles, combs, shoes, vases, balls. With each iteration, the line becomes more resolved, the shape more his own. The repetition is not redundant, it's devotional. As if he's trying to fully understand the object, to live inside it, before releasing it back into the world in his unique visual language."* The paper sizes of **Günther Schützenhöfer**'s works range from postcard format to one-meter drawings, whereby the directness and intensity is never lost, even in larger works.

The artist's works on display in our current exhibition **radical clarity** impressively illustrate his transformation from the gentler early works around 2003 to his current, very dense works. A highlight of the exhibition is the *Helicopter*, one of the densest works from **Schützenhöfer**'s early creative period, the *Eiffel Tower* from 2016, a one-meter-tall *Locomotive* and the *Radio*, for which the artist used a radio receiver painted by the Gugging Artist **Johann Garber** from **Nina Katschnig**'s office as an inspiration.

We look forward to welcoming you to our opening in **Maria Gugging** on **May 21, 2025**, at **7 pm** in the presence of the Gugging Artist **Günther Schützenhöfer**.

**Yours Nina Katschnig & the galerie gugging team**