

NATURE – blue & green

galerie gugging at viennacontemporary!

We are delighted to welcome you back this fall at **viennacontemporary**, Austria's leading international art fair. The fair will take place from **September 12 to 14, 2025**, in **Hall D** of **Messe Wien**. You will find us at **booth G92**. This year, under the title "**NATURE – blue & green**", the focus will be on works by artists **Marko Djurdjevic** (2001) and **Leopold Strobl** (1961). Vienna-born, self-taught artist Marko Djurdjevic processes his childhood experiences in the Klosterneuburg children's home through his art. His figurative visual language conveys profound emotions surrounding love, death, and loneliness. The striking use of blue functions both as a filter and as a means of self-healing. In contrast to **Djurdjevic's** impressive, large-format oil paintings, the *galerie gugging* presents the magical, small-format works of renowned self-taught artist **Leopold Strobl**, who was represented at the **60th International Art Exhibition La Biennale di Venezia** last year. Strobl's works feel like magnetic portals, making them a perfect complement to Djurdjevic's oeuvre.

Nina Katschnig, director of *galerie gugging*, sums it up: "*We are delighted to kick off Marko Djurdjevic's representation by showing his works for the first time at viennacontemporary together with last year's renowned Biennale artist, Leopold Strobl. The title "NATURE – blue & green" is programmatic and connects both artists in a very special way. While Marko Djurdjevic associates the color blue with beauty, Leopold Strobl makes the color blue rather "crazy," which is why he even colors the sky in his signature 'Strobl green'. Blue and green—beloved colors of both artists—also speak to a deeper connection: nature itself, which serves as a shared source of inspiration. Djurdjevic finds solace in nocturnal walks through the wetlands, capturing their spirit in his distinctive blue tones. Strobl, on the other hand, transforms newspaper photographs into vivid green dreamscapes. In addition, the theme of NATURE also stands for a "safe space"—a sanctuary, or Leo, as a retreat from the pressures and artificiality of our increasingly digital and fast-paced world.*"

SHORT BIOGRAPHIES OF THE ARTISTS

Marko Djurdjevic | Short Biography

Marko Djurdjevic was born in 2001 in Vienna. From an early age, he showed a strong interest in art, beginning to paint at just five years old. Self-taught in both painting and later woodcut techniques, Djurdjevic has continually developed his artistic practice. At nearly five, he entered the Klosterneuburg Children's Home, where he lived until his eighteenth year. The formative experiences of his childhood and adolescence now serve as crucial outlets for the artist's creative work, which is also informed by his formal training as a graphic designer. For Djurdjevic, the color blue is not only his favorite hue—central to his oil paintings, woodcuts, and wood sculptures—but also a source of strength that allows him to confront and process past events through his art. Many of his works are autobiographical, directly referencing his childhood memories in Klosterneuburg. Even then, painting was his refuge, offering him peace and freedom from external influences. His figurative visual language expresses deep emotions surrounding love, death, and loneliness, with the striking blue serving both as a filter and a tool for self-healing. In 2022, he was awarded the Cultural Promotion Prize of Klosterneuburg. Today, Marko Djurdjevic lives and works in Klosterneuburg, Lower Austria. galerie gugging is proud to represent him from autumn 2025 and to present his work for the first time at *viennacontemporary 2025*.

Leopold Strobl | Short Biography

Leopold Strobl was born in 1960 in Mistelbach, Austria, and has been a guest at the *atelier gugging* for over fifteen years. The ideas, templates rather, for his small-format drawings, which look like magnetic portals, come from local, daily, weekly and church magazines. Once he has selected a motif, he first devotes himself to the black areas, then the sky is coloured green and finally the border is 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 MoMA, USA, the Treger/Saint Silvestre Art Brut Collection, Portugal, in the abcd ART BRUT Collection, France, and in the State Collections of Lower Austria, Austria. The artist has also been represented at the 60th International Art Exhibition La Biennale di Venezia in 2024. He lives and works in Poysdorf and Kritzensdorf

viennacontemporary: www.viennacontemporary.at

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