

WIENER AKTIONISMUS MUSEUM

KLAUS ALBRECHT SCHRÖDER AS NEW CEO OF THE WIENER AKTIONISMUS MUSEUM.

Vienna, 8 September 2025 **On 1 September 2025, Klaus Albrecht Schröder was appointed as CEO of the WIENER AKTIONISMUS MUSEUM. He follows Philipp Konzett, who will remain with the museum as an advisor.**

'I am very grateful to Philipp Konzett for his work in establishing the museum. His decades of dedication to Viennese Actionism and his knowledge of this crucial avant-garde movement of the 1960s were indispensable in the founding phase of this institution and ultimately led to this important collection of documents, photographs, films and artworks by Hermann Nitsch, Günter Brus, Rudolf Schwarzkogler and Otto Muehl. In addition, together with our director, Julia Moebus-Puck, he has made this institution a centre of excellence for Vienna Actionism. We are determined to maintain this.'
Klaus Albrecht Schröder

The founders and shareholders of the WIENER AKTIONISMUS MUSEUM now expect Schröder to further develop the museum and its sphere of influence.

Refocusing, Renovation and Expansion

The reorientation of the WIENER AKTIONISMUS MUSEUM begins with its renovation under new management: from relocating the main entrance and expanding the museum to upgrading the air conditioning, lighting and security technology.

'We will implement all these measures over the next six months. However, the modernisation and repositioning of the museum do not end with the tripling of exhibition space. There will also be significant changes to the exhibition program.' Klaus Albrecht Schröder

Opening Exhibition in March 2026 on Hermann Nitsch's early work

The opening exhibition in March 2026 will be dedicated to a section of **Hermann Nitsch's** work that has never before been shown on this level: his important early work from the 1960s, which was formative for his thinking. These were the years in which Hermann Nitsch formulated his theory of the Orgien Mysterien Theater (Theatre of Orgies and Mysteries). Years in which his monumental oeuvre first revolved around the myth of the sacred and was at the same time closely intertwined with the work of his friends in the Vienna Actionism movement.

The opening exhibition is a collaboration with the nitsch museum Mistelbach, which will simultaneously show his work from 1980 until his death. The curator of both exhibitions is Julia Moebus-Puck, director of the collections of the WIENER AKTIONISMUS MUSEUM.

Otto Muehl Retrospective in September 2026

Following a presentation of masterpieces from the collections of the WIENER AKTIONISMUS MUSEUM, the second major special exhibition under the new management will open in **September 2026: a retrospective of Otto Muehl** on the occasion of his 101st birthday in 1925. This exhibition will be curated by Klaus Albrecht Schröder himself.

'For me, engaging with Muehl's work presents a particular challenge. After all, it involves presenting a body of work that in some respects is linked to Otto Muehl's social utopia: a utopia celebrated widely in the 1970s that envisaged overcoming the nuclear family, communising property and analysing actions on the basis of Wilhelm Reich's psychoanalytic theory.'

However, two decades later, these utopian hopes for the liberation of society turned into a dystopia and ultimately led to the artist being sentenced to the maximum penalty of seven years in prison. What all this has to do with Otto Muehl's art, how we answer the question of the autonomy of art in view of the art-theoretical interlocking of art and life in actionism, or conversely, how we regard it as a reflection of life: all these questions will be the subject of this retrospective, alongside the presentation of his extensive actionist and painterly oeuvre.' Klaus Albrecht Schröder

Exhibition Program

The exhibition will subsequently present those actions by **Günter Brus and Rudolf Schwarzkogler** that **did not** take place **for** or **in front** of an audience, but were intended from the outset to find their aesthetic form in staged photography: meticulously composed and prepared like a painting. This work by the two Austrians will be juxtaposed with the cinematic and photographic work of Bruce Nauman and the self-thematisations of Egon Schiele.

Exhibitions on the **history of the Muehl commune** and its national and international context, as well as on the **feminist** transformation of Vienna Actionism in the work of Valie Export, Renate Bertlmann and Birgit Jürgensen, will follow, as will thematic exhibitions on **'Obscenity in Art'** and **'The Monochrome Image'**.

A valuable pillar of the museum landscape in the federal capital Vienna

'An exciting new chapter in my professional life is now beginning for me. After carefully considering several offers from Austria and abroad, I have decided to take on the task of repositioning and further developing the WIENER AKTIONISMUS MUSEUM. Together with commercial director Jürgen Boden, I have set myself the goal of making the WIENER AKTIONISMUS MUSEUM a valuable pillar of the museum landscape in the federal capital Vienna within the next few years.

After leading the Albertina for over a quarter of a century and transforming it into a new, large art museum with five collections at three locations, I am now delighted to be responsible for the scientific research and content-related reorientation of a specialised museum that owes the core of its collections to one of the most radical and significant periods in Austrian art history.' Klaus Albrecht Schröder

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