

WIENER AKTIONISMUS MUSEUM

OTTO MUEHL: At the Abyss

PRESS PREVIEW Thursday, September 8, 2026, 10am (new date)

VENUE WIENER AKTIONISMUS MUSEUM, Weihburggasse 26, 1010 Vienna

DURATION OF THE EXHIBITION September 10, 2026 – January 10, 2027

OPENING HOURS Daily 11am – 6pm (except Monday)

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Vienna, August 6, 2026

From September 10, 2026, the **WIENER AKTIONISMUS MUSEUM** embarks on a challenging project: an exhibition of Otto Muehl's artistic work. Over 150 of his paintings, objects, films and prints will be presented and put up for discussion.

The exhibition traces Muehl's artistic development—from the early 1960s up to his arrest and conviction in 1990—through six chapters. Beginning with Actionist painting and the destruction of the panel painting, through selected actions from the heyday of Viennese Actionism, to the extensive series of portraits of politicians—from Ho Chi Minh and Konrad Adenauer, via Charles de Gaulle and Moshe Dayan, to Mao Zedong and Prince Charles—, Muehl's creative years prior to the commune form the first and most extensive part of the exhibition.

A separate section is devoted to the founding of the commune, its development at Friedrichshof, its socio-cultural and socio-theoretical contexts, and its failure following Otto Muehl's conviction for the sexual abuse of minors.

The exhibition does not feature any works depicting victims of abuse. Likewise, no works from the series *Unfälle im Haushalt* – which were created as part of the photo self-portraiture projects – are on display. For all exhibited works in which individuals might be recognizable, consent for their presentation was obtained from the people depicted.

Within the two decades of the commune, the exhibition will focus on two cycles: Muehl's return to painting and his engagement with Neo-Expressionism of the Neue Wilde in the early 1980s, and, in contrast, two late series, in which linear drawing dominates formally. In terms of content, these two cycles confront the tranquility and beauty of the Parndorfer Heide with a world that has been thrown off balance and is reeling: an expression of the loss of illusory stability and security, both biographically and socially.

'After 40 years as an exhibition curator, director of the Kunstforum and general director of the Albertina, exhibiting Otto Muehl is a major challenge for me. The weighing of aesthetic and art-historical considerations and questions regarding the consequences of a life lived on the brink is a delicate balancing act, and one that significantly influences the current assessment of this influential Actionist's art. The primary aim of this exhibition is to empower the visitors of the WIENER AKTIONISMUS MUSEUM to form their own judgement of Otto Muehl's art.'

Prof. Dr. Klaus Albrecht Schröder, Director of the WIENER AKTIONISMUS MUSEUM

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INFORMATION <https://wieneraktionismus.at/>

TICKETS

FULL PRICE 13 €

REDUCED 10 € (Seniors 65+, students, apprentices, civilian and military service members, visitors with disabilities)

FREE ADMISSION ICOM, children/young people under 19, Kulturpass

EVENTS Free admission

COOPERATIONS Ö1 Club, Vorteilsclub Stadt Wien, Vienna City Card

PRESS INQUIRIES

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