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Trägerschaft / operated by
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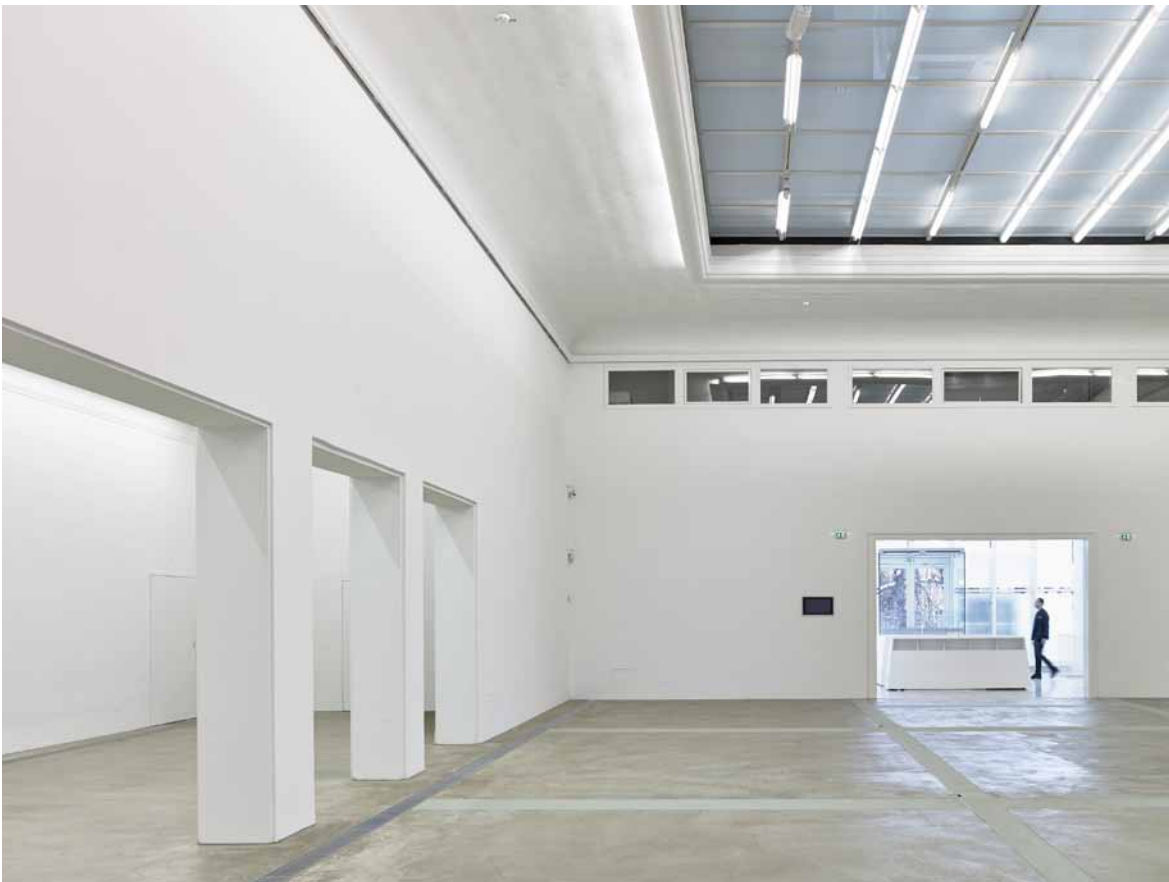
→ The “New” Künstlerhaus

Graz has acquired a “new” institution for contemporary art — the Künstlerhaus — which presents international tendencies while taking local art production into consideration. The Künstlerhaus has now become a house of art and its media, with an aim to facilitate the creation, exhibition, and discussion of art while simultaneously putting something “different” up for debate again and again. The new facility is operated by the Kunstverein Medienturm, which brings a wealth of competency to the Künstlerhaus programme. This combined with both young and established art has contributed to the evolution of an exciting institution. Under contemporary programmatic direction, the Künstlerhaus is designed to maintain its traditional reputation as the most architecturally pleasing exhibition space in Styria, thus making possible and experienceable a trans-regional orientation and also a thrilling exploration of modern art.

Almost risen out of the debris of war as one of Austria’s first cultural buildings in 1952, the Künstlerhaus was, similar to the documenta venue, dedicated to modernism, and within this context there were many outstanding exhibitions on show (e.g., ambiente/environment within the framework of the Trigon biennial organised by Italy, Austria, and Yugoslavia). Over the last two years, the Künstlerhaus building, which had meanwhile become quite aged, was renovated to its present, contemporary state by the Province of Styria and equipped with infrastructures that make it capable of competing in the international art circuit. A competition for its restoration was announced in 2010 by the awarding authority Universalmuseum Joanneum. The renowned architecture firm Bramberger Architects was awarded the contract to execute the improvements in collaboration with Austria’s Federal Monuments Office. Starting on 6 March 2013, the Künstlerhaus will provide 670 square metres of exhibition space encompassing three generous premises (also separately utilizable) in a renovated, barrier-free building with a clearly improved structural fabric, also featuring improved building services, security, air-conditioning, and fire protection.

Starting in January 2013, the Kunstverein Medienturm, backed by its twelve-year history, will independently operate the Künstlerhaus so as to embark on new terrain through a repositioning of the institution in the Austrian context. Under the direction of the relatively young Kunstverein and its director Sandro Droschl, a Künstlerhaus that is aware of its historical impact has re-emerged, with its programmatic approach touching on questions of the contemporariness of art within a changing, mediatised society. In terms of an open, experiment-orientated idea of art, current fine art positions and their mediatic set-ups are presented. A diverse programme of both solo and themed group shows is planned, with a vivid discursive programme and a series of publications supporting the exhibitions.

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Fotos: Peter Eder

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