



Q21

the creative space at MuseumsQuartier Wien

Information for press

Established: September 2002

Head: Prok. Djeiran Malek-Hofman

Facilities Manager and Tenant Relations: Fidelis Hochstetter

Artistic Director frei_raum Q21 exhibition space & Artist-in-Residence Program: Elisabeth Hajek

Assistant to the Artistic Director: Esther Brandl

Communications and Outreach Program: Ann Cathrin Frank

MQ Press Officer: Irene Preißler

Hire: Q21 manages event spaces such as the Ovalhalle, Arena21, Foyer Arena21/Ovalhalle, Baroque Suites and Mezzanine, which can be hired by external event organizers.

www.Q21.at

creative space

Q21 provides workspace for around 50 initiatives, organizations, agencies and editorial offices working within the cultural sphere. This creative space is spread out over an area of more than 7000m² within the MuseumsQuartier Wien, enabling Q21 to bring “hands on creativity” into one of the world’s largest complexes for art and culture.

Q21 tenants work across a wide variety of fields. Be it an international film or dance festival, indie game development, art book publishing or a fashion boutique, all with their own themes and forms of production, the initiatives complement the traditional museums and event spaces at the MuseumsQuartier Wien.

Q21 tenants operate autonomously. Some run small exhibition spaces or occupy offices in the publicly accessible indoor area on the ground floor of the baroque Fischer von Erlach wing, open daily from 10.00-22.00. Others curate the artistic passageways which connect the MQ’s various courtyards. A number of Q21 tenants are housed on the upper floors of the baroque wing. Tours provide visitors with an insight into their offices and working practices. Registration and information: Q21tours@mqw.at.

Cultural initiatives (selection) at Q21

With ASIFA AUSTRIA, biber, Broken Rules, Walther König Books, designforum Wien, EDUCULT, EIKON, eSeL REZEPTION, Fulbright Austria, Gruppe Or-Om, ImPulsTanz - Vienna International Dance Festival, insert (Theaterverein), liquid frontiers, monochrom, q/uintessenz, Say Say Say, Inc., SCHAURAUM Angewandte, SCHLEBRÜGGE.EDITOR, springerin, SR-Archiv, Station Rose, SUBOTRON, Tricky Women/Tricky Realities, Vienna Shorts, White Castle Games, and others, around 50 cultural initiatives are currently based at Q21. A full list of our partners is available from the Q21 website: www.mqw.at/en/institutions/q21/institutions

Every year, around 225,000 visitors attend events organized by Q21 initiatives. This makes Q21 a significant contributor to the success of the MuseumsQuartier as a whole. No admission is charged for the majority of events.

Themed passages – art in public space

The MuseumsQuartier complex is accessed from passageways on all sides. Elongated, barrel-vaulted passages dating back to the baroque era connect the individual courtyards to one another. A Q21 initiative saw the establishment of several “micro museums” within the MQ complex in the form of themed passages. Permanent ceiling paintings are complemented by changing exhibitions shown in the passages, programmed by external curators. Accompanying publications are available from vending machines on site for 2 euros.

LITERATURpassage

En passant, the Institute of Language Arts at the University of Applied Arts Vienna presents the artistic-graphical realisation of poems and striking aphorisms. Artist Johanna Kandl was responsible for the permanent design of the passage. She drew inspiration from the colourful endpapers used in baroque book production. www.jenny-literatur.at

TONSPUR_passage

The TONSPUR_passage, located between the MQ entrance near Volkstheater and the Main MQ Courtyard, was created in May 2006 as Vienna's first permanent venue for sound art. Since then, several different sound art pieces have been developed and realized each year by a changing lineup of artists – among them Artists-in-Residence at Q21. The visual design was contributed by Esther Stocker. Curated by Georg Weckwerth. www.tonspur.at

KABINETT comic passage

The KABINETT comic passage was opened in September 2007. It presents international comics creators working in very different ways with combinations of words and images. The ceiling painting in the passageway was designed by Stéphane Blanquet. Curated by Sibylle Vogel and Thomas Kriebaum. www.kabinettpassage.at

STREET ART PASSAGE VIENNA

This public space presents works by international and local street artists. A permanent installation titled “Invaded Bridge” was conceptualized by French artist Invader, and Lois Weinberger provided the passage with a permanent text installation on the elevator tower. Curated by Sebastian Schager. www.betonblumen.org

Typopassage Wien

The Typo-Passage, the “micro museum for design”, exhibits texts of socio-political relevance while at the same time examining the font in which they are set. For each exhibition, an author is invited to publish a text taken from their own work and a designer to typeset this text. Curated by Toledo i Dertschei. www.studiotid.com

Meteoritenpassage

Back in 1999, a meteorite was laid as a foundation stone of the emerging new MQ cultural complex. As celestial phenomena and messengers of the gods, meteorites bear witness to the eternity of the cosmos as well as to the formation of the various chemical elements in the stars. Relocated to the MQ, the primordial substance of this messenger from space refers to both the organization of matter and the diversity of cultural traditions and forms of expression. www.meteoritenpassage.org

Sternenpassage

Sternenpassage (“stars passage”) Sternenpassage highlights various artists whose work broadly relates to photography and illumination. It presents their works across four illuminated circular display cases on the walls, combining them with telescope images of outer space. The diagram on the ceiling dates back to the Baroque period and depicts a comet’s elliptical path, held in place by a mysterious structure of particles. www.sabinejelinek.at

Brückenpassage

A passageway as a compact traffic tool: this narrow space features a staircase, a bridge, a lift and several railings and doors. Artist Hans Schabus covered the walls and ceilings in hammer paint—a

kind of varnish primarily used for the manufacturing of machines. The colour reseda green creates a link to Otto Wagner's Stadtbahn ("Vienna Metropolitan Railway") and connects the passage to a larger urban space. The lower part of the passage houses Pfeiler exhibition space, featuring the sculptures of young artists. www.skulpturundraum.at

PERFORMANCE PASSAGE – Raum für Poetiken des Dazwischen

Designed after the artistic concept of Christoph Meier, the PERFORMANCE PASSAGE appears doubled by an entirely mirrored ceiling. Just like in front of the wall of a dance studio or the ceiling of a discotheque anyone can be a performer here, anyone can observe themselves. The installation concept, conceived and curated by Andrea Maurer, aims for a situational intervention, expanding the mirrored space through a linguistic-experimental, poetic dimension.

Artist-in-Residence Program

While respecting the individual autonomy of its tenants, the Q21 sees itself as an overarching brand, promoter and communicator alike. As well as supporting external communications, Q21 offers an attractive location within the MQ at a reasonable rent. A further promotional tool and a key factor in establishing Q21 as a "creative space" is the Artist-in-Residence program, which was established at the same time as the Q21 in 2002. The international exchange program is aimed at artists, curators and cultural producers working in the fields of digital culture, fine art, photography, street art, game culture, film, fashion, design, literature, conceptual art, theory, sound art, comics and media art.

International guest artists are recommended by Q21's resident initiatives and its two main partners – the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs and tranzit.org/ERSTE Foundation – and are invited to Vienna to create joint projects on site. Q21 provides living and studio space in the MQ, a grant of 1050 euros per month, and helps promote the artists' work. Since the program began, around 970 artists have already been resident at the MuseumsQuartier.

The artists profit from the immediate proximity of the host initiatives to the local scene. In return, the initiatives can expand their international reputations and networks through the Artists-in-Residence. Alongside the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, which invites artists working in all genres from Central and Eastern Europe – to spend time in Vienna, the exchange program has been co-financed from the beginning by tranzit.org/ERSTE Foundation as its main partner.

frei_raum Q21 exhibition space

Some of the Artists-in-Residence present their creative output in the Q21 exhibition space. The frei_raum Q21 exhibition space, located at ground level near the entrance to the MuseumsQuartier U2 subway station, brings together all aspects that make up its name: it is wheelchair accessible and free to the public, it exhibits works and concepts by Q21 artists (Artists-in-Residence), and its outlook is always international. It exhibits changing group exhibitions and charges no admission. Since 2012 the series has focused on socio-political themes and social criticism.

The series "frei_raum Q21 exhibition space" is organized in cooperation with the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs and other national and international partners in the exhibition space of the same name. Admission is free.

List of exhibitions (selection)

Japan Unlimited September to November 2019

Curated by Marcello Farabegoli

Number of visitors: 21.089

Dance of Urgency April to September 2019

Curated by Bogomir Doring

Number of visitors: 27.700

Under Pressure – On Forms of Authority and Decision-Making Power September to November 2018

Curated by Sabine Winkler

Number of visitors: 11.038

Productive Work – What is it supposed to be? June to September 2018

Curated by Anamarija Batista

Number of visitors: 10.420

Shaping Democracy March to June 2018

Curated by Daniel Ebner and Doris Bauer, Vienna Shorts

Number of visitors: 8.076

Stopover - Ways of Temporary Exchange September to November 2017

Curated by Judit Angel, Dóra Hegyi, Michaela Geboltsberger for tranzit

Christiane Erharter, Heide Wihrheim for ERSTE Foundation

Number of visitors: 6.500

Welt kompakt? June to September 2017

Curated by Ursula Maria Probst

Number of visitors: 19.503

MOOD SWINGS – On mood politics, sentiment data, market sentiments and other sentiment agencies March to May 2017

Curated by Sabine Winkler

Number of visitors: 16.700

What is left? September to November 2016

Curated by Gülsen Bal and Walter Seidl

Number of visitors: 9.800

AJNHAJTCLUB July to September 2016

curated by Bogomir Doring

Number of visitors: 13.000

As Rights Go By - On the Erosion and Denial of Rights April to June 2016

Curated by Sabine Winkler

Number of visitors: 7.500

Levitate! September to November 2015

Curated by Daria Khan

Number of visitors: 5.500

united nations extended – The Vienna Dialog March to May 2015

Curated by Signe Theill and Peter Winkels

Number of visitors: 8.500

Places of Transition January to March 2014

Curated by Gülsen Bal and Walter Seidl

Number of visitors: 5.500

FACELESS part II September to November 2013

Number of visitors: 12.000

FACELESS part I July to September 2013

Curated by Bogomir Doring

Number of visitors: 10.070

Outreach

The outreach program offers individual visitors, groups, school classes and (international) delegations the opportunity to discover the variety on offer at Q21. Tours provide an insight into the work of the editorial offices, archives, organizations and agencies based at the MuseumsQuartier. Tours also include a visit to the current exhibition at the frei_raum Q21 exhibition space and international guest artists throw open the doors to their studios.

Contact:

Ann Cathrin Frank: 0043 523 5881 – 1716 oder g21tours@mqw.at

Languages: German, English

Price per person: 3 euros

Group price on request (a group of 15 or more will be split)

Length: circa 60 minutes

Individual visitors and groups

Tours of Q21 are tailored-made to a group's needs. This enables a high level of customization and focus on a particular theme. Taking the motto "art comes from communication" as a starting point, the outreach team endeavors to facilitate direct contact between visitors, artists and cultural producers.

School groups

"Is that meant to be art? I could do that!" One of the outreach team's main tasks is to familiarize young people with contemporary art. A tour of the MuseumsQuartier might represent their first contact with current artistic production. However, the students are not just encountering contemporary art, but the curators and artists behind it. This allows for a concrete illustration of the ideas behind the works and enables the necessary emotional connection to the topic in question.

Outreach programs for art and culture are available for all school ages. Schools from outside Vienna can book a Q21 tour as part of "Wien Aktion – Österreichs Jugend lernt die Bundeshauptstadt kennen" organized by the Federal Ministry of Education and Women's Affairs.

In cooperation with JEF – Young European Federalists, artists participating in exhibitions at frei_raum Q21 exhibition space also offer themed workshops for children and young people. Q21 can organize free information events for teachers on request.

International delegations and corporate events

With around 60 cultural institutions, the MuseumsQuartier Wien is not just one of the world's largest complexes for art and culture. With its courtyards, cafés and shops, it also offers a unique mix of historical buildings from the 18th and 19th centuries and contemporary museum architecture.

Q21 has an outstanding international reputation as a creative space within the MQ and welcomes companies looking to explore this as part of a corporate event. Q21's outreach team can assist with planning a visit, helping each company to find just the right "connections" between it and the MQ as a space of art and culture.