

## **“EuroArt at the MuseumsQuartier”: ORF and MQ launch art project for the Eurovision Song Contest**

As part of the Eurovision Song Contest (ESC), 40 pieces of the internationally famous MQ courtyard furniture will be decorated by 40 Austrian artists, with one piece of furniture dedicated to each ESC participating country. A presentation of the artworks will take place on 15 May at 10:00 in the Main MQ Courtyard, before they are auctioned off for charity on 27 May. As part of the “MQ Summer Opening” on 7 May, the public will have the opportunity to watch the artists at work on site.

40 countries, 40 artworks: The artists drew lots to find out which country would be the theme of their design for the latest generation of MQ furniture, the “Viena” model (following “Enzi” and “Enzo”). This joint action by the ORF and MQ is being curated by the Leopold Museum, Kunsthalle Wien and mumok, who were responsible for selecting the artists. The project is also supported by Österreich Werbung and ÖBB Rail Tours.

Participating artists include Hannes Mlenek, Johannes Deutsch, Tex Rubinowitz, Liesl Raff, the artist duo “Kozek hörlonski/Thomas Hörl, Peter Kozek” Kamen Stoyanov, Resanita (Anita Fuchs & Resa Pernthaller) and Lukas Troberg. The MQ furniture for ESC participant “Austria” will be decorated by the Vienna-based Swiss artist Nives Widauer.

“The MQ is a place of exchange where people from all over the world, and from all different branches of art, come together. It is great to see how many of these facets are united in the project ‘EuroArt at the MQ’ – and that the MQ furniture serves here as a common symbol”, enthuses Christian Strasser, Director of the MuseumsQuartier Wien, about the project.

Edgar Böhm, Executive Producer of the Eurovision Song Contest: “It is great to see how our slogan ‘Building Bridges’ is being applied here, in that a connection is being made between music and fine art. I am already looking forward to seeing the results and seeing what the artists’ thoughts are on the 40 participating countries.”

### **“MQ Summer Opening” offers a look behind the scenes**

The 40 works are being created on site. To make this possible, from 3 May a studio tent will be located on the MQ Vorplatz in which the artists will work on “their” piece of furniture. Ten artists at a time will each be given two days to work alongside one another on decorating the furniture. As part of the “MQ Summer Opening” on 7 May, an opening in the studio tent from 15:00 to 21:00 will give a window onto the artists at work, allowing a first glimpse of the newly-decorated “MQ furniture”.

### **“THE NUL-POINTERS” in the Leopold Museum**

Another artistic highlight in the Eurovision Song Contest program of events takes place in the Leopold Museum: The “MQ Summer Opening” on 7 May also sees the opening of the new exhibition “THE NUL-POINTERS by Tex Rubinowitz”. Cartoonist, writer and Bachmann Prize winner Rubinowitz is a self-confessed Song Contest fan. But his interest is not in the winners, but the “zero pointers” – those 34 Song Contest participants whose entries failed to elicit a single point from the jury. Using paintbrush and easel, “THE NUL-POINTERS” is dedicated to these performers. The exhibition will be on show until 8 June.

### **Charity Auction**

The MQ furniture decorated as part of the “EuroArt at the MuseumsQuartier” project will be on show in the courtyard of the MuseumsQuartier Wien from 16 to 27 May. After the Eurovision Song Contest, these unique seats will be auctioned off for charity on 27 May in the Main MQ Courtyard under the expert guidance of the Kinsky auction house. Anyone who is interested can bid to acquire their favorite one-of-a-kind seat.

### **Curatorial Team/Project Partners**

By participating in the “EuroArt at the MQ” project, mumok is setting an example of social and cultural cooperation in Europe, explains Director Karola Kraus: “In this project, art functions as a

bridge-building medium, one that can break open encrusted modes of thought and throw up new perspectives." Nicolaus Schafhausen, Director of the Kunsthalle Wien, also highlights the project's international dimension: "Our current exhibition Destination Vienna 2015 offers a multifaceted view of the vitality of the Viennese art scene. When artists decorate the characteristic MQ furniture and these are then auctioned off – destination unknown – this adds yet more new facets. I think it's great when the local scene finds resonance internationally through this kind of project." For Peter Weinhäupl, Managing Director of the Leopold Museum, the MQ furniture has become Austria's most popular seating apparatus and communication tool over the last few years: "Charged with art, they are the optimal form for transporting the message of the Song Contest. The artists suggested by the Leopold Museum are thrilled to be involved in 'building bridges'."

The project is also being supported by Österreich Werbung: "The Song Contest is a wonderful opportunity to present ourselves to an audience of millions", explains Managing Director Petra Stolba. "We want to use the increased attention and enormous media interest to communicate a young, dynamic and modern image of Austria. Lived creativity in art and culture, as demonstrated in the project 'EuroArt at the MQ', plays an important role in this. We are convinced that the MQ in May will not just be a meeting place for Europe here in Vienna, but that its 'European furniture' will draw attention from abroad."

### **Artists (with assigned ESC participating country in brackets):**

Nominated by the Kunsthalle Wien: Patrick Baumüller (Netherlands), Anna-Maria Bogner (Belarus), Hans Glaser (Slovenia), Harald Grünauer (Armenia), Rudi Hübl (United Kingdom), Margit Nobis (France), Rainer Prohaska (Switzerland), RESANITA/Anita Fuchs & Resa Pernthaller (Georgia), Terese Schulmeister (Lithuania), Kamen Stoyanov (Albania), Lukas Troberg (Azerbaijan)

Nominated by the Leopold Museum: Kirsten Borchert (Cyprus), Christoph Buchegger (Finland), Station Rose/Gary Danner (Macedonia), Johannes Deutsch (Spain), Thomas Draschan (Serbia), Christian Eisenberger (Belgium), Benedikt Frass (Latvia), Bernadette Huber (Germany), Juhann (Hungary), Ina Loitzl (Italy), Marko Markovic (Iceland), Hannes Mlenek (Norway), Elena Muti (San Marino), Manfred Peckl (Russia), Station Rose/Elisa Rose (Poland), Tex Rubinowitz (Israel), Stylianos Schicho (Romania), Nives Widauer (Austria), Irene Wölfl (Greece)

Nominated by the mumok by curator Barbara Rüdiger: Daniel Ferstl (Portugal), kozek hörnlonski/Thomas Hörl (Moldova), Ulrike Köppinger (Czech Republic), kozek hörnlonski/Peter Kozek (Australia), Jakob Neulinger (Denmark), Matthias Noggler (Malta), Peter Phobia (Montenegro), Liesl Raff (Estonia), Constanze Schweiger (Sweden), perlimpinpin (Ireland)

The project partners of "EuroArt at the MuseumsQuartier" include the MuseumsQuartier Wien, ORF, Leopold Museum, mumok, Kunsthalle Wien, Österreich Werbung and ÖBB/Rail Tours.

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### **About the MuseumsQuartier Wien**

Covering 90,000 m<sup>2</sup> and encompassing around 60 contemporary art and cultural institutions, the MuseumsQuartier Wien ([www.mqw.at](http://www.mqw.at)) numbers among the largest cultural complexes in the world. The spectrum ranges from the fine and performing arts to architecture, theater, photography and street art to children's culture. Alongside its varied cultural program, the MQ Wien offers spacious areas for leisure and relaxation, inner courtyards, cafés and shops. This has made it one of the city's most popular cultural and recreational centers since it opened in 2001 in the heart of Vienna.