

Longing for a distant garden and “Universelle Sehnsucht”

Opening of the HERBSTGOLD stage, SALA TERRENA by the artist Anna Artaker, and the flag art project UNIVERSELLE SEHNSUCHT designed by the artist duo Claudia Plank & Hans Werner Poschauko from 4th of September 2023 in Eisenstadt

“Especially in difficult and uncertain times, we are united by the longing for a better world,” says festival director **Julian Rachlin** about this year’s HERBSTGOLD motto. The garden is a place that offers calm and respite to the troubled individual; a place that can satisfy the longing for peace in times of crisis, at least in the short term. With its 42 hectares, the palace grounds are the largest work of art in Eisenstadt, and offer a true taste of “Arcadia”: the legendary place of peace and harmony with nature. This year’s HERBSTGOLD art projects aim to recreate such infinitely distant places of longing.

SALA TERRENA by Anna Artaker (Front garden and festival stage)



As part of the redesign of the palace gardens, four project proposals were approved that will be implemented over the next four years. This year will see the first of these projects realised, designed by Anna Artaker. The project of her SALA TERRENA (in English ‘garden hall / ground floor hall’) is inspired by the walled arches in the front garden of the Esterházy Palace. The virtual arcades revive the original feeling of openness and continuity of the area. The artistic inspiration for this can be found in the *trompe l’œil* elements of baroque garden art, which is used to great effect with wooden lattice-frames or decorative trellises. The work is executed using the *sgraffito* technique, an extremely durable scoring or scratching process from the Renaissance period. The color of the lines is dark green while the surface color is light ivory.

In keeping with the perspective illusion, the modern glass doorway in the middle has been covered with pieces of frosted-glass film as well as reflective sun protection film, which seemingly allows a view to the outside from the inside. This means that the large landscape garden can be experienced again from the classical palace passageway (which houses the exhibition “Explosive Haydn: Music from revolutionary times”). At the same time, Artaker designed the surface of the event stage in front of the castle as a kind of teaser and companion piece to SALA TERRENA, which is illustrated by a curved arcade in keeping with the theme of “longing” or “sehnsucht” in German. It guides visitors from the forecourt directly to a place of “sehnsucht” of their own choosing. The SALA TERRENA and the HERBSTGOLD stage will open on September 9th at 5:30 p.m.

UNIVERSELLE SEHNSUCHT by Claudia Plank & Hans Werner Poschauko (11 Flags)

After Manfred Bockelmann's previous artistic use of the flagpoles so successfully enlivened the forecourt of Esterházy Palace last year, the project is being continued this year with new flags. This year's concept comes from the Viennese artist duo Claudia Plank & Hans Werner Poschauko, who have already designed the magnificent *sgraffiti* in Bankgasse, "Dance of the Peach Blossoms" and



"Rebschulweg", for the Esterházy Foundations. These two floral works, which are permanently on display in Bankgasse near the Hotel Galántha, have now been temporarily supplemented with a crystalline motif. When there is a steady east or west wind, its eleven flags form the legible lettering UNIVERSELLE SEHNSUCHT (or

'universal longing' in English) over a diamond-shaped color pattern. The artists describe their intention for the flag design as follows: "The crystalline structure of our design is based on Baruch Spinoza's philosophical work the *Ethics*, which is inspired by the spirit of geometry. In this work the main message is that God is nature and we are all parts of the divine. The longing for the infinite is a main motif of Romanticism. We interpret this unlimited search as a longing for the all-encompassing." The artist duo will also design the displays in the "Tanzpassage" in the Hotel Galántha. The flag project and the Tanzpassage installation will open on **17th of September 2023 at 4:00 p.m.**

Garden Arts - Exhibition of project proposals from Anna Artaker, Katinka Bock, Susan Philipsz and Markus Schinwald

The **exhibition "Garden Arts"** is currently being housed in the white hall (Weißer Saal) of Esterházy Palace, which includes four design proposals by the artists Anna Artaker, Katinka Bock, Susan Philipsz and Markus Schinwald. The development of the English landscape garden is fundamentally motivated by an image-rich way of thinking. The idea being that a walk through the garden should take a visitor from one picturesque image to the next, alternating charming with dramatic scenes in surprising ways. The Eisenstadt Schlosspark, built around 1800, followed this fashion. The four artists' designs imagine how such a garden would look like today. The exhibition was curated by Fanni Fetzner (Kunstmuseum Lucerne), Brigitte Kölle (Kunsthalle Hamburg), Thomas Trummer (Kunsthaus Bregenz) and Vitus Weh (NOW Esterházy).

Sternenfeld (or „Star field“) - Site-specific installation by Alfredo Barsuglia from 2022 remains on the forecourt

Alfredo Barsuglia designed the concrete benches and loungers for the new square design in 2022 and also contributed five "star chandeliers". Each of these light sculptures carries a star cluster of light bulbs at the top of a mast, which appear as colorful dots during the day and glow at night. In their modernist design, they are based on the lamps of the 50s and 60s inspired by the "Sputnik crisis" (1957) and the famous Lobmeyr chandelier of the New York Metropolitan Opera (Rath, 1963). The different shapes of the star



clusters open up associations ranging from astronomical events to political metaphors. Each star chandelier is also equipped with a small chime that makes the star field chime quietly with the breeze.

Opening ART events:

Saturday, 9th of September, 5:30 p.m

Opening of the HERBSTGOLD stage with a performance by the Esterhazy Choir. Followed by a parade through the inner courtyard of the palace and the classicist palace passage to the front garden.

Sunday, 17th of September, 4pm

Opening of the exhibition „Bis zum Ende der Liebe/Bis ans Ende der Welt“ (in English “Until love’s end/Until the end of the world”) in Eisenstadt’s TANZPASSAGE as well as the HERBSTGOLD Sculpture “UNIVERSELLE SEHNSUCHT” by Claudia Plank & Hans Werner Poschauko.

HERBSTGOLD Art

Forecourt of Schloss Esterházy | daily 0–24 Uhr
www.esterhazy-now.at

Tanzpassage Eisenstadt

Bankgasse 1-3 | daily 0–24 Uhr
www.tanzpassage.at

Garden Arts

Artistic Visions for Eisenstadt Schlosspark

Project proposals by Anna Artaker, Katinka Bock, Susan Philipsz and Markus Schinwald
Weißer Saal (2nd Floor) of Esterházy Palace April–December 2023

**HERBST
GOLD** FESTIVAL IN
EISENSTADT

9th to 24th September 2023

TICKET BOOKING

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