

A...kademie der bildenden Künste Wien Kunstsammlungen

Press Release *Hungry for Time*, September 20, 2021

Hungry for Time

An invitation to epistemic disobedience with Raqs Media Collective,
in the Art Collections of the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna



Major Opening Exhibition in celebration of the return of the Academy to Schillerplatz

9.10.2021–30.1.2022, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, Paintings Gallery, Schillerplatz 3, 1010 Vienna

The Academy of Fine Arts Vienna has undergone a fundamental renovation and modernization and returned this summer to its historical building on Schillerplatz. For this occasion, the internationally active artist and curator trio from New Delhi, Raqs Media Collective (Jeebesh Bagchi, Monica Narula, Shuddhabrata Sengupta), was asked to survey the historical art collections—the Paintings Gallery, the Graphic Collection and the Plaster Cast Collection—from an external perspective and to mediate a thematic reorientation in dialogue with contemporary art. Based on the expertise of the house, the exhibition *Hungry for Time* opens up the possibility of reconsidering the art collections by incorporating the current discourse in decolonialism in art and cultural studies.

“European Collections, like that of the Academy, need to open themselves to other glances, they have been locked in on themselves for too long,” says Johan Hartle, rector of the Academy. “Raqs Media Collective,” he says, “is invited to bring fresh insights to bear on the way that the collection can regard itself and its history, to make room for debate and the opening up of a specific narrative. We hope this contributes towards the alteration of the Eurocentric bias of the European art scene, in conversation with voices and positions from elsewhere.”

Raqs Media Collective is interested in triggering upheavals in the “ways in which the world has made sense and cohered itself over the last few centuries”. Art and artists now have the chance to “show new ways in which the world can be perceived by many different kinds of protagonists”. “The Collection of an Academy is an intensive site where the sediments of history, and the stubborn narratives that accompany them, congeal. The task of prising them open to critical re-apprehension is both urgent and possible. We are excited to instigate this process with the faculty and students of the Academy in Vienna, as well as contemporary artists from around the world,” say the artist-curators from Delhi.

In the historical ambience of the Aula and the Paintings Gallery, Raqs Media Collective presents a show that apprehends time from the perspective of hunger and desire, the eponymous hunger for time. In eleven scenes this hunger for time is outlined in more detail. The scenes assemble artworks from all three of the historical collections and relate these to contemporary art, including works commissioned especially for the exhibition.

“Our new staging will set the exhibition spaces in motion: Each scene is designed as an event, a prompt, an itinerary that attests to other works from the collection as well as contemporary artworks. The interplay of lighting, acoustic ambience, juxtapositions, superimpositions, interpretive texts and notes in the margins produces breaks in linearity, continuity and chronology; the progression from station to station yields new insights into the art collections.

The kernel of each scene is an artwork from the historical collections, for example, the *Last Judgement Triptych* by Hieronymus Bosch or graphic art by Thomas Ender. For some of the scenes, Raqs Media Collective has invited artistic and curatorial interlocutors like the Discursive Justice Ensemble, or the artist duo SPLICE comprising Rohini Devasher and Pallavi Paul. Each kernel acts as a magnet, attracting other works—historical, as well as contemporary. The scenes tell stories—about broken limbs and deformed justice, about efflorescent designs on space and time, about the hubris of trying to evade mortality, and about perspectives on how faces, landscapes, and gazes haunt a collection. Walking through the scenes invites the visitor to ask how a necessary epistemic disobedience (Walter D. Mignolo) can come to be.

In the exhibition *Hungry for Time*, more than 100 historical works from the holdings of the Paintings Gallery, the Graphic Collection and the Plaster Cast Collection by Willem van Aelst, Hieronymus Bosch, Daniel Chodowiecki, Albrecht Dürer, Thomas Ender, Maria Sibylla Merian and Egon Schiele, among others, meet approx. 50 works by international contemporary artists such as Discursive Justice Ensemble (Kabelo Malatsie, Michelle Wong, Lantian Xie), Nilbar Güreş, Artist duo SPLICE (Rohini Devasher and Pallavi Paul), Lavanya Mani, Ryan Presley and Raqs Media Collective and many more.

The group exhibition *Thicket of Ideas – Thicket of Times. Students of the Academy in Dialogue with Raqs Media Collective* coincides with the reopening of the Academy in the contemporary exhibition space at Schillerplatz and is envisaged as a parallel exhibition to the collection presentation *Hungry for Time* curated by Raqs Media Collective in the Gemäldegalerie. Created by students from all institutes of the Academy, the works on display take a critical look on works from the collections of the Paintings Gallery, the Graphic Collection and the Plaster Cast Collection from a decolonial perspective.

Artists: Nikolas Ettl, İklim Dogan, Jannik Franzen, Giulia Gabrielli, Natalia Gurova, Kyungrim Jang, Robert Jolly, Julia Kronberger, Catherine Lehnerer, Guilherme Pires Mata, Sebastian Meyer, Vitória Monteiro, Michelle Seidl, Anna Sophie Stadler, Ujjwal Utkarsh
Curator: Stephanie Damianitsch

Artists in the exhibition *Hungry for Time*

Willem van Aelst, Nazgol Ansarinia, Joannis Avramidis, Stefano della Bella, Johann Bitterlich, Christoph Wilhelm Bock, Pieter Boel, Hieronymus Bosch, Simnikiwe Buhlungu, Domenico Campagnola, Ali Cherri, Daniel Chodowiecki, Pieter Codde, Jacques Courtois, Jean-Baptiste Decavèle, Discursive Justice Ensemble (Kabelo Malatsie, Michelle Wong, Lantian Xie), Nico Dockx, Albrecht Dürer, Julie Edel Hardenberg, Thomas Ender, Denise Ferreira da Silva, Jan Fyt, Bonaventura Genelli, Giovanni di Paolo di Grazia, Rajyashri Goody, Joseph Grigely, Artur Grottger, Franz Xaver Gruber, Nilbar Güreş, Johann Gottfried Haid, Abhishek Hazra, Josef Heideloff, Jan van der Heyden, Melchior d' Hondcoeter, Jan van Huysum, Sanja Iveković, Franz Jäger the younger, Kiluanji Kia Henda, Hein Koh, Lakshmana Rao Kotturu, Pieter van Laer, Farideh Lashai, Maria Lassnig, Christine Leins, Melchior Lorch, Nicola Malinconico, Lavanya Mani, Arun Vijai Mathavan, Maria Sibylla Merian, Jan Miel, Josef Mikl, Jota Mombaça, Monogrammist A. C., Monogrammist L. F., Huma Mulji, Adriaen van Ostade, Ryan Presley, Raqs Media Collective (Jeebesh Bagchi, Monica Narula, Shuddhabrata Sengupta), Rembrandt Harmensz. van Rijn, Rachel Ruysch, Jean le Saive (Jean de Namur), Egon Schiele, Jacques van Schuppen, Ayesha Singh, Dayanita Singh, Nicole Six and Paul Petritsch, Pieter Snayers, Pieter Claesz. Soutman, Artist duo SPLICE (Rohini Devasher and Pallavi Paul), Theodor Stundl, Pierre Subleyras, Fiona Tan, Pietro Tenerani, David Teniers the younger, Franz Thaler, Titian (Tiziano Vecellio), Paul Troger, Jaret Vadera, Alice Wanke, Jan Weenix, Philips Wouwerman, Congcong Zhang and plaster casts after Michelangelo Buonarroti, Phidias, Praxiteles, Bertel Thorvaldsen and others

. Press conference: Thursday, 7 Oct. 2021, 10 am, *Accreditation*: akademiegalerie_presse@akbild.ac.at

. Opening: 8 Oct. 2021, 7 pm

. Opening weekend with free admission: 9 and 10 Oct. 2021

. Exhibition duration: 9 Oct. 2021–30 Jan. 2022

. Venue: Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, Paintings Gallery, Schillerplatz 3, 1010 Vienna

. Hours: Daily except Monday, 10 am to 6 pm, every Tuesday: Pay What You Want.

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Press photos as well as the press release for download: <http://www.akademiegalerie.at/de/PRESSE>

All exhibitions and programme of the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna to the reopening: www.akbild.ac.at