



**Multiple Choice
An Invitation to Participate**

Weikendorf Art Space Documentation

Weikendorf

If you drive from Vienna to Slovakia on the state highway B 8 without turning off just before the border, you will miss something. The community of Weikendorf is located roughly 40 kilometers northwest of Vienna and about 10 kilometers from the Slovakian border in the Gänserndorf district of the Lower Austrian wine region. It can be reached by car and by local train. The town has 1,900 inhabitants. The local economy is based on agriculture and forestry, and a large number of inhabitants commute to the city. Weikendorf not only has the oldest nature preserve in Austria (the “Siebenbrunner Heide,” established in 1927), but also ten protected historical buildings (including the town hall, the Baroque rectory and parish church St. Koloman, the statue of Saint Nepomuk, and the granary) – and now it has the art space that opened in 2007.

Weikendorf Art Space

It all started when the artist Michael Kienzer was invited to take part in a competition for the design of the square where the community center is located in Weikendorf in 2007. He transformed an abandoned fire station into an art space, thus lending it a new function. After the first exhibition of his own work, Kienzer has continued to choose the artists according to high artistic standards. The Weikendorf art space is a simple but ingenious architectural intervention that links outside with inside. It continuously offers new perspectives on both the art inside and the external surroundings, depending on where viewers are standing.

We can either look into the art space from

the outside, as through a shop window, or – depending on the exhibition design – we can enter the room during opening hours. The art space can take on the appearance of an open gallery for painting, sculpture, or photography; the walls can be white, ochre, pink, or something different. The site has served as a kind of projection surface for a view of the town; it has been barricaded by boards from demolished barns; and it has weathered (artificial) lighting and thunder. So far, 13 exhibitions have been shown in the art space, featuring works by 21 artists (including Michael Kienzer, Franz Graf, Elisabeth Grübl, Bruno Gironcoli, Petra Feriencova, Jorit Aust, Werner Reiterer, Mona Hahn, Iris Andraschek & Hubert Lobnig, and Michael Horsky).

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In 2013, a new extraordinary project based on participation and art education was initiated by Bärbl Zechner. This was inspired by the ROSSMARKT³ in Frankfurt am Main, which is an art project involving the public that has existed since 2010. The idea behind this is that, by having a say in the selection of art projects in public space, the public will have a greater acceptance of contemporary art and thus become more engaged. The *Multiple Choice* project in the Weikendorf art space thus involves five representatives from the local community, who participate in the curatorial preparation process for the temporary exhibitions in the areas near their homes and workplaces.

The first jury team from Weikendorf consisted of the art historian Brigitte Kasper-Ager, Ulrike Kastan, the director of the elemen-

tary school in Weikendorf, councilwoman Anneliese Windisch, Ernst Wagendristel, who works for the railway, and the architect Robert Hanel. Our thanks go to all of them for their commitment.

In addition to selecting an artist, their responsibilities entailed preparing the exhibition, acquiring necessary equipment, generating printing materials, and organizing the opening. The team was supported at all times by the art educators Bärbl Zechner and Dr. Gabriele Stöger as well as the Department Public Art Lower Austria. The project was realized in cooperation with the community of Weikendorf.

Of the five art projects suggested by Michael Kienzer, the jury selected Peter Sandbichler. The sculptor's work *Behind The Curtain* is an installation developed especially for the Weikendorf art space. It not only addresses the interplay between inside and outside, but also folding as a structural element in different materials as well as the relationship between text and context. For the opening on October 19, 2013, the artist and jury asked the Trio Klok & Wladigeroff Brothers to provide live music. The event was attended by more local inhabitants than any previous exhibition, which was definitely a result of the jury's commitment. "After working on the jury, I have more of a connection," said one jury member about this valuable new experience with art.

Based on the success of this first exhibition, *Multiple Choice* continues with a newly appointed jury in 2014.

Impressum

Multiple Choice

Ein Vermittlungsprojekt von Bärbl Zechner und Gabriele Stöger im Rahmen der Arbeit *Kunstraum Weikendorf* von Michael Kienzer.

Ein Projekt von
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Kunstraum Weikendorf

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