

Austrian Cultural Forum New York Celebrates Franz West  
Former West-collaborator Andreas Reiter Raabe curates group exhibition in honor of the late Austrian artist



# WILD WEST

## Exhibition: **WILD WEST**

SEP 20, 2017 – JAN 22, 2018  
Austrian Cultural Forum New York  
11 East 52nd Street, New York  
open daily, 10 AM – 6 PM

Artists on view:

**Franz West, Rudolf Stingel, Urs Fischer, Andreas Reiter Raabe, Mary Heilmann, Rudolf Polanszky, Octavian Trauttmansdorff, Anna-Sophie Berger, Tillman Kaiser, Sarah Lucas, Anne Schneider, Rirkrit Tiravanija, KAYA (Kerstin Brätsch / Debo Eilers)**

Curated by Andreas Reiter Raabe

## SEP 19: EXHIBITION OPENING

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM | ARTIST TALK:

curator **Andreas Reiter Raabe** in conversation with **Alison Gingeras**

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM | OPENING RECEPTION featuring live concert

*New York, September 6, 2017* – The Austrian Cultural Forum New York (ACFNY) is honored to present *WILD WEST*, a group exhibition commemorating the dynamic legacy of late Austrian artist Franz West (1947-2012), on view from September 20, 2017 to January 22, 2018. Curated by former West-collaborator Andreas Reiter Raabe, the show consists of works by Franz West, his New York-based contemporaries, and commissioned works by emerging artists from both New York and Austria.

The exhibition's title acts as a play on words for West's nonconformist, anarchic approach to artmaking, as well as his critical place in 20th-century Western art history. His deep curiosity for alternative ways of thinking and exhibiting manifested in his numerous collaborations with fellow artists and creatives. During the height of his career in the mid-1980s, West chose to break the conventions of a traditional "solo show" by offering other successful as well as still unknown artists to exhibit their work alongside his—much to the surprise of the institutions that invited him. This non-hierarchical approach stood in stark contrast to West's tremendous success in the art world, which is frequently preoccupied with authorship and individual fame.

A key work in the exhibition is *Franz West (2017)* by Reiter Raabe, a film composed of never-before-seen footage Reiter Raabe shot in West's studio between 2007 and 2012. The film lends an intimate glimpse into West's studio practice, affirming the equivocal nature of his thought processes and revealing West's idiosyncratic approach to art, his wild way of thinking, working, and collaborating.

*WILD WEST* follows West's unique approach to exhibition-making by showing not only the works of Franz West, but also of his collaborators and emerging artists. Exhibiting artists include: Rudolf Stingel, Urs Fischer, Mary Heilmann, Rudolf Polanszky, Octavian Trauttmansdorff, Sarah Lucas, and Andreas Reiter Raabe. The exhibition will also feature artists who have not previously exhibited with West, such as Anna-Sophie Berger, Tillman Kaiser, Anne Schneider, Rirkrit Tiravanija, and KAYA (Kerstin Brätsch and Debo Eilers). While the exhibition presents collaborations, such as Reiter Raabe/West's sculptural lamps *Fleur Mal*, 2012, it also features new commissions such as Tiravaija's sculpture *untitled (east meets west)*, 2017, a granite tombstone in West's body height.



Image left (top): Franz West and Andreas Reiter Raabe, *Fleur Mal*, 2012. Courtesy of Andreas Reiter Raabe  
Image left (bottom): Urs Fischer, *Colorful Personal Ecstasies*, 2014. Courtesy of the artist  
Image right: Rudolf Stingel, *Untitled (Franz West)*, 2010. Courtesy of the artist

## ABOUT THE CURATOR

**Andreas Reiter Raabe** (born 1960 in Grieskirchen, Austria) is an artist and curator living and working in Vienna. In 1994, Raabe started interviewing West and publishing their interviews. From 1995 onwards he exhibited in West's shows and collaborated with him until his death in 2012. Raabe studied Philosophy, European Ethnology as well as Painting and Graphic Arts in Vienna and is one of the founders of Gesso Artspace, a Viennese exhibition venue where he has been curating exhibitions since 2013. Reiter Raabe is also a member of the Executive Board of the Vienna Secession and has lectured at USC Los Angeles, the University of Applied Arts Vienna, the Royal Academy of Arts, London, and the University of Art and Design Linz. As an artist, he has exhibited internationally in group and solo shows.

## ABOUT THE AUSTRIAN CULTURAL FORUM NEW YORK

With its architectural landmark building in Midtown Manhattan, the Austrian Cultural Forum New York is dedicated to innovative and cutting-edge programming, showcasing the best of Austrian contemporary art, music, literature, performance, and academic thought in New York and throughout the United States. In addition to presenting three group exhibitions per year in its multi-level gallery space and housing around 10,000 volumes of *Austriaca* in its state-of-the-art library, it hosts over 100 free events per year in its own auditorium and supports at least as many projects at partner institutions across the nation. [www.acfny.org](http://www.acfny.org)

Austrian Cultural Forum New York  
11 East 52nd St. (btw. 5th & Madison)  
New York, NY 10022  
(212) 319 5300  
Open Daily 10 AM – 6 PM

Admission to exhibitions, concerts, and other events is free.  
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## MEDIA CONTACT

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