



PRESS RELEASE

I – in/finito

Katinka Bock, Bernhard Cella, Jiří Valoch

Franz Josefs Kai 3. Wien I.
Raum für zeitgenössische Kunst

www.franzjosefskai3.com

Curators:

Fiona Liewehr in cooperation with
Jana Písaříková and Ondřej Chrobák

Opening: Nov. 18, 2021, 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Exhibition: Nov. 19, 2021 – Mar. 6, 2022

Opening hours: Wed – Sun, 12 noon – 6 p.m.;
Fri, 12 noon – 8 p.m.

Guided tours:

Every Sunday, 3:00 p.m. (without pre-booking)

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Presenting works by **Katinka Bock**, **Bernhard Cella**, and **Jiří Valoch**, the **I — in/finito** exhibition brings together three artistic positions from different generations and countries. Through their art, they reflect on an expanded concept of space that reaches beyond purely Euclidean, geometric aspects. In the works of these three artists, spatial perception constitutes itself, above all, through phenomena such as historical localization, action, social participation, and interaction. In their respective creative processes, language takes on a special role. It is understood not just as a means of communication, but as a key element in the process of forming space which, through a free play of associations, fosters reflection on a concept of space that develops athwart visible reality.

The artists were invited to engage directly with the **Franz Josefs Kai 3** exhibition space and embark on an experimental game of call and response with each other. The exhibits in this show thus appear as the back and forth of a poetic dialog that evokes reflection on existential questions pertaining to the self and its relation to the (in)finiteness of experienced space.

In her sculptures and installations, Paris-based German artist **Katinka Bock** explores materiality and processuality in the context of history and architecture. The “speaking” quality of her sculptural works derives from her significant way of dealing with materials, the precise placement of objects within the exhibition space, and their titles. An installation she has created specially for this show comprises two radiators connected by a water pipe that cuts across all the first-floor spaces. In addition to other spatially responsive sculptural works, the artist is also presenting photographs and a film.

Czech avant-garde artist **Jiří Valoch** is based in Brno, Czech Republic, where he was born in 1946. His optical, mechanical, and rhythmic poems as well as his typograms, photograms, and word installations explore the reciprocity of space and language. This exhibition presents key examples from his extensive oeuvre, including limited edition booklets, produced with a mechanical typewriter, and visual poems he mailed in special envelopes. During the Cold War period, the latter facilitated an artistic exchange of ideas between East and West that eschewed government control. Furthermore, it has also been possible to make one of the artist’s long-cherished wishes come true, namely to temporarily inscribe himself into Vienna’s public space: A sidewalk word installation created specially for this exhibition welcomes visitors outside Franz Josefs Kai 3.

This exhibition is **the first in Austria** to cover a **broad scope of works by Katinka Bock and Jiří Valoch**. By contrast, Vienna-based conceptual artist **Bernhard Cella** (born in 1969) has in the past inscribed himself into the local exhibition circuit through various projects. Cella conceives of the book as a potential space for reflection and production. He approaches publications not only as a documentary and illustrative medium, but also as a raw material, which he transfers to changed semantic contexts within the framework of sculptural and installative settings, thus opening up spaces for social action.

For this show, he has developed a linear structure that references the typographic design of the exhibition title “I – in/finito”, which is reminiscent of the lines of a book and corresponds directly with the works of Katinka Bock and Jiří Valoch.

Katinka Bock was born in 1976 in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. Over the past twenty years, she has developed a sculptural practice that is closely tied to notions of space, time, material, and processuality, while at the same time drawing on the processual traditions of 1960s art. Her art touches on themes such as the history inscribed in the materials she uses most often, which include clay, wood, fabric, ceramics, stone, and bronze, or the processes of transformation they undergo, either naturally over time or due to the calculated use of elemental forces such as water, light, or fire. At the same time, she explores propositions articulated by contextual art, expanding them to allow for sensually rich sculptural forms. Bock graduated from Kunsthochschule in Berlin and the Ecole Nationale des Beaux-Arts in Lyon. She has been featured in solo exhibitions at Kestnergesellschaft Hannover (2020), Lafayette Anticipation, Paris; Centre Pompidou, Paris, (2019); Kunst Museum Winterthur; MUDAM Luxemburg; IAC, Villeurbanne/Rhône-Alpes (2018); Henry Art Gallery, Seattle, USA; MAMCO, Geneva (2014); Culturgest, Lisbon, Portugal (2012); and Kunstmuseum Stuttgart (2010). Katinka Bock lives in Paris.

Jiří Valoch (born in 1946 in Brno, Czechoslovakia, now Czech Republic) is an art historian, curator, artist, and poet. From 1965 to 1970, Valoch studied Czech and German studies as well as aesthetics at the arts faculty of Masaryk University in Brno. From 1963, he began creating concrete as well as non-semantic visual poetry. Between 1967 and 1978, he realized minimalist interventions, along with their photographic documentation, actions, and photo texts. Since the mid-1960s, he has also been active as a theoretician and art critic. In 1968, he organized one of the first exhibitions of computer art in Brno. Since that time, he has been producing artist’s books with non-verbal cut-out, optical, and rhythmic works. From 1968 to 1972, he was a member of Klub konkréťistů (Concretists Club). From 1972 to 2001, he served as a curator at the Brno House of Arts

(Dům umění města Brna) and was involved in the preparation of exhibitions by Czech artists (V. Boštík, Milan Knížák, Vladimír Boudník, J. Kolář, B. Kolářová, A. Šimotová, L. Novák), and after 1990 of international artists, as well (R. P. Lahnse, G. Graser, R. Mielsam, R. Barry). Jiří Valoch lives in Brno.

Bernhard Cella (born in 1969 in Salzburg, Austria) is an artist, curator, and publisher. In his work, he has repeatedly explored the theme of publishing and the negotiation of art and language in the highly specific space of the book. An enterprise as a work of art, his long-term project “Salon für Kunstbuch” (“Art Book Salon”) is exemplary of his epistemological and publishing practice, which brings together performative settings, exhibitions, and discursive formats and explores the frameworks in which artists’ books are conceived, produced, and distributed. His “Salon für Kunstbuch” archive currently comprises around 30,000 titles from all artistic disciplines, and as such it is unique in Europe.

He studied at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna under Erich Wonder and at the University of Fine Arts Hamburg under Franz E. Walther. His multimedia works were most recently shown at Warehouse 421, Abu Dhabi; the MMAG Foundation, Amman; CIC Cairo (2020); Beirut Art Center (2019); Museum Santa Monica, Barcelona (2015); Casa Bosques, Guadalajara; Kiesler Foundation, Vienna; Hamburger Kunstverein (2014); MAK, Vienna (2013); Belvedere 21, Vienna (2011).

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Protective measures Covid-19:

Please note that 2G proof (vaccinated or recovered) is mandatory to visit the exhibition, as is the wearing of an FFP2 mask.