

**IM LABYRINTH DER KUNST - ART BRUT**

**curated by Hannah Rieger & Wolfgang Maritsch**

27 November 2021 - 15 January 2022

Opening: Saturday 27 November, 12 - 6pm

What is art and who is an artist is continuously renegotiated. Since the art market - like essential areas of the society - is affected by the economic optimization dynamics, art is also moving from the periphery of the system more and more into the center.

The term Art Brut was introduced after the Second World War by the French artist and wine merchant Jean Dubuffet.

Art Brut can only be understood in its extreme individualization, as the completely different, the completely unexpected in art. The creators are self-taught and mostly outsiders of our society. Their works with manifold "raw" and unadulterated formal languages are historically and presently far from the milieu of academic high art. Art Brut is not influenced by the taste of contemporary trends and the associated global discourse, as it is also taught at art universities.

Every artist of Art Brut follows a creative inner urge, a mission or an obsession. Swiss curator Harald Szeemann called these "individual mythologies." The focus of Art Brut is on the quality of artistic expression and not on the social status or the psychological, physical or spiritual condition of the artists.

In Austria, Art Brut is predominantly associated with art from Gugging. In 1981, the psychiatrist Leo Navratil initiated the House of Artists as a men's department in a pavilion on the hospital grounds of Maria Gugging, near Vienna. Today Gugging is a worldwide unique Art Brut center with art production (House of Artists and studio), gallery and museum. The author Gerhard Roth describes his paths through the art from Gugging as "In the maze of images".

The exhibition (November 27, 2021 to January 15, 2022), curated by Wolfgang Maritsch and Hannah Rieger, shows art from Gugging and international Art Brut positions.

The artists:

Laila Bachtiar, Ida Buchmann, Johann Fischer, Janz Franz, Johann Garber, Sevil Gözel, Guo Fengyi, Martha Grunenwaldt, Johann Hauser, Magalí Herrera, Franz Kamlander, Franz Kernbeis, Johann Korec, Pradeep Kumar, Wilhelm Macho, Momoko Nakagawa, Walter Novak, André Robillard, Arnold Schmidt, Mary T. Smith, Harald Stoffers, Oswald Tschirtner, August Walla, Wolfgang Zeindl

