

## **Werner Fenz Scholarship for Art in Public Space**

To honour the achievements of art historian and curator Werner Fenz (1944-2016), the Culture Department of the City of Graz has established a working scholarship for art in public space, which will be awarded every two years commencing in 2020. The initiative for the scholarship came from an international committee made up of over 200 artists, curators and journalists and other representatives of the art world.

As an internationally successful curator and art educator, theorist and university lecturer, as a member of numerous expert panels and also as founder and director of the Institute for Art in Public Space Styria (2006-2011), Werner Fenz lived the synthesis of theory and practice at an uncompromisingly high and exemplary level, continuously refining the profile of art in public space both in and from Graz.

In this sense, the 15,000 euro Werner Fenz scholarship can be considered a biennial assessment of the current situation of art in public space. Selected by an international jury of experts, every two years temporary projects that stimulate discussion around urban art as art in the public interest will be planned, realised and considered.

### **Aims and award criteria**

#### **Art in public space today**

The aim of the Werner Fenz Scholarship is to promote art that generates crucial impulses for reflecting on the development of public space as well as on the social transformation processes of our time. This means the kind of art that “claims a social responsibility” (Werner Fenz) and stimulates dialogue with the public at large.

The signs and actions of this public urban art can relate to economic, political, social, ecological or architectural/urbanistic situations. Embedded in public space, the scholarship projects realised in the city of Graz will investigate its specific conditions and should contribute to the discourse on current languages of art in public space.

Since temporary interventions in particular allow one to take a position seismographically, the focus will lie on temporary art projects whose conceptual strategy is aimed at infiltrating urban everyday life and engaging with existing public systems.

## **Endowment and award procedure**

Subject to the resolution of the City Senate, the Werner Fenz Scholarship for Art in Public Space will be awarded every two years by the City of Graz and is endowed with 15,000 euros, of which 10,000 euros are available for the realisation of an artwork in public space and 5,000 euros as the artist fee. Travel and living costs are included in this amount. Applicants assume responsibility for budget. This is an open international call for applications.

An international jury of experts will select one project from the project proposals submitted, which will be presented to the relevant bodies of the City of Graz (the City Council and the City Senate) for their resolution.

## **International Jury**

The jury of experts is composed of five members, including one position from the committee of initiators that will change with each call for applications. It is anticipated that the four other positions will be nominated by the Culture Department in collaboration with the initiators for at least two calls and/or award cycles.

- Ekaterina Degot, Director of steirischer herbst
- Britta Peters, Artistic Director at Urbane Künste Ruhr and Curator of Skulptur Projekte Münster 2017
- Katrina Petter, Director of Art in Public Space Lower Austria
- Aleksandra Szymańska, Director of City Culture Institute in Gdańsk
- zweintopf (Eva and Gerhard Pichler), Artists, for the initiators' committee

## **Production and reflection**

As part of the Art-based Investigation course at the IZK Institute of Contemporary Art at the TU Graz (<https://izk.tugraz.at/>) led by artist Milica Tomić, students will be involved in the realisation of the selected project at the level of production and theoretical reflection. Within the course they will be providing support to the scholarship holder and will assist in the various processes of the art production. In submitting their application, the artist agrees to engage actively in the course. At the Cultural Office, Birgit Kulterer will act as the contact person for artists.

## **Documentation**

The projects realised within the context of the Werner Fenz Scholarship will be recorded in texts and images on the website <https://fenz.mur.at/>. The production of a brochure to accompany the project is possible.

## Submission deadline and realisation period

The deadline for submissions is 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020, 24:00.

The jury meeting will take place in December 2020. The period of realisation for the art project in public space is the year 2021. The course at the IZK Institute of Contemporary Art is planned for the summer term 2021.

## Application documents

- [Online form](#)
- Project concept (max. 2 DIN A4 pages): Short description of content and technical details, visualisation/sketch, information about duration and location, etc.
- Calculation and financing concept
- Portfolio with examples of works (in public space), image materials, texts, etc. if not available online (website)

## Contact

Mag<sup>a</sup> Birgit Kulterer  
Cultural office of the City of Graz  
Stigergasse 2 (Mariahilfer Platz), 2. Stock, A-8020 Graz  
Phone: +43/316/872-4923  
Fax: +43/316/872-4909  
E-mail: [birgit.kulterer@stadt.graz.at](mailto:birgit.kulterer@stadt.graz.at)

Head of the office:  
Michael A. Grossmann  
Cultural office of the City of Graz  
Stigergasse 2 (Mariahilfer Platz), 2. Stock, A-8020 Graz  
Phone: +43/316/872-4900  
Fax: +43/316/872-4909  
E-mail: [michael.a.grossmann@stadt.graz.at](mailto:michael.a.grossmann@stadt.graz.at)