

# Kunsthalle Wien

## Plamen Dejanoff The Bronze House

**Kunsthalle Wien / Alexander Battenberg Square, Sofia**  
**28/3 – 31/12 2018**

When Le Corbusier visited Bulgaria in 1911 as part of his travel to the Orient, he was enthusiastic about the simple, cubic, richly decorated wooden houses in villages like Arbanasi.

For over twelve years, Plamen Dejanoff has been working on a public sculpture project: *The Bronze House*, which is now being erected on the central Alexander Battenberg Square in the Bulgarian capital Sofia. The modular construction of more than a thousand elements in cast bronze refers to traditional Bulgarian architecture. His artistic work has reflected on this particular type of construction and its influence on international modernity for a long time. *The Bronze House* translates the Bulgarian tradition of wooden panelling and latticework into sculptural abstraction in public space. The eleven-meter-high house is conceived as a work of art in the centre of the city, but also as an invitation to the public to appropriate it, to become an actor, and to establish a relationship with the square and place.

Despite its location vis-à-vis the parliament, *The Bronze House* does not refer to any specific person or event. Massive and fragile at the same time, the sculpture rather invites us to become actors ourselves and to relate to the space marked and framed by it.

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The Alexander Battenberg Square has a central position in Bulgarian history, from the time after the Liberation to the present day. It was the venue of parades, marches, but also of protest and served many regimes as a backdrop for political representation. The Georgi Dimitrov Mausoleum characterized the square for several decades. After its demolition in 1999, and despite many debates, the square was not redesigned and is still currently without identity, unintegrated into the overall urban planning.

Organized by the Kunsthalle Wien, on the invitation of Plamen Dejanoff as a project partner for *The Bronze House*, a series of talks and events will take place in Vienna and Sofia throughout the year. This series will discuss *The Bronze House* and address related questions such as the impact of art in public space on its social environment, and how history and cultural memory are addressed by art.

The making of *The Bronze House* involved many European art institutions that presented preliminary versions and parts of the work. Foundations, galleries and collectors contributed to the financing of the large-scale project, experts from the fields of architecture, urban planning, history and logistics accompanied the planning process. By coming into being over many years, the work has somehow become institutionalized itself. In its final phase, Kunsthalle Wien will accompany it institutionally and discursively.

*The Bronze House* will be realized on occasion of the Bulgarian EU Presidency. Until the end of the year, the sculpture is on view in Sofia. A publication planned for 2019 will document the project and the associated events.

## Press release

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The production of *The Bronze House* in Sofia is supported by:

Community Sofia  
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Bulgarian Ministry of the EU Presidency  
Federal Chancellery Vienna  
Austrian Embassy in Sofia  
Bulgarian Embassy in Vienna  
Office of the municipality Vienna in Sofia  
The Bronze House Foundation

Companies supporting the project financially:

CMS  
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Vranken Pommery Monopole  
Kwizda Holding  
Raiffeisenbank  
Eucarbon  
Related Beal  
VIG Vienna Insurance Group  
and others

Institutions that supported the project in the past years with exhibitions:

FRAC Champagne-Ardenne Reims (Florence Derieux) / MAMBO Bologna (Gianfranco Maraniello) / Kunstverein in Hamburg (Florian Waldvogel) / mumok, Vienna (Edelbert Köb) / ESAD Strassbourg (Katia Baudin) / Palais de Tokyo, Paris (Nicolas Bourriaud) / Ursula Blickle Stiftung, Kraichtal (Ursula Blickle) / LAUBA, Zagreb (Tomislav Klichko) / MAK, Vienna (Peter Noever) / HafenCity Hamburg (Florian Waldvogel)

Further institutions that supported the project:

Ludwig Forum Aachen / Kunstverein Aachen / Mora Art Foundation Lichtenstein / Lauba Foundation Zagreb / Neutral Zurich / Artelier Collection Graz / Shanghai Biennale / JRP-Ringier Zurich / La Salle de bains Lyon / ICA Sofia / ExtraCity, Antwerp and others

Galleries that supported the project with solo exhibitions:

Emanuel Layr, Vienna/Rome / Meyer Kainer, Vienna / Nicola von Senger, Zurich / Jan Winkelmann, Berlin

# Press release

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#TheBronzeHouse

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