

# Summer of Love

## Art of the Psychedelic Era

May 12 – September 17, 2006, hall 1

### **KUNSTHALLE wien**

Museumsplatz 1, 1070 Wien, Infoline +43-1-52189-33, [www.kunsthallewien.at](http://www.kunsthallewien.at)  
Daily 10 a.m. – 7 p.m., Thursday 10 a.m. – 10 p.m.

**Press Conference: Wednesday, May 10, 2006, 10 p.m.**

Opening: Thursday, May 11, 2006, 7 p.m.

*It is very likely that the tie you get next Christmas will have an LSD design. ...  
When you get tile for your floor, you'll be walking on somebody's vision.*  
Timothy Leary, *Celebration #1*, in: *The New Yorker*, October 1, 1966

“Psychedelia” bears witness to a social, political, ethnic and sexual liberation that had its beginning in San Francisco in the 1967 “Summer of Love”. “Psychedelia” is also one of the most interesting and, at the same time, most neglected phenomena in the history and art history of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

*Summer of Love* is an exhibition about psychedelic art that reveals the unprecedented exchanges among contemporary art, popular culture and political protest in the 1960's and early 70's. The dialogue carried on among psychedelic art, political revolution and counter-culture found its reflection in unique aesthetics, border-crossing, overflowing, formless and motley; aesthetics that, just as Albert Hofmann describes the effect of LSD, appear “in an unexampled play of colors and forms ..... kaleidoscopically self-transforming, ... opening and again closing itself in circles and spirals, spraying fountains of color, re-ordering and re-traversing itself in constant flux”. The striving for an ecstatic art demanded the expansion of consciousness and the deliberate over-excitement of the senses. These were not seldom achieved with the aid of hallucinogenic substances, which were an essential ingredient of the psychedelic movement.

At a time when the stylistic and formal elements of the art, design and music of the 60's and 70's are again being liberally exploited, it is important to move beyond a nostalgic reception and attempt to understand the original creative and utopian potential of this extraordinary style.

The exhibition is organized by Tate Liverpool in cooperation with the Kunsthalle Wien and the Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt. It presents paintings, photography, films, light shows, environments, posters, record covers and documentary material from Europe, the USA, South America and Japan.

An additional part of the exhibition, developed for the Kunsthalle Wien, provides a view of the aesthetics and events of the 1960's in Austria. Whether psychedelic, consciousness-expanding or genre-crossing, the senses were strained to their limits, social criticism mixed with visionary ideas, and Austrian flower power children drew up dionysian utopias which fit seamlessly into the ranks of those of the international proponents of the movement.

Christian Skrein documents artists, fashions and people from 1968 in his photographs. The remarkable Austrian architectural scene of the time, including Coop Himmelb(l)au, Hans Hollein, Haus-Rucker-Co and Walter Pichler, transform the clear structures of modernism and surmount orthogonal systems in their works. The critique of rationality becomes a delight in experiment, attested to by, for example, their *inflatables*, the application of flexible materials, and new and forward-looking municipal and living spaces. The boundaries of the body are plumbed: prosthesis-like body-extensions and evaginations are created, such as helmets, capsules, glasses. Questioning of the Establishment may be found in the works of Zünd-Up, with their slogans redolent of the Critical Theory of the Frankfurt School; in Alfons Schilling's *Chicago Riots*, lenticular photographs of the demonstrations against the Vietnam War; or in the works of Friedensreich Hundertwasser and Max Peintner, who raise questions about ecology. Padhi Frieberger and Ernst Fuchs represent the typical hippie look, but actual contact with hallucinogens remains rare in Austria. One of the few who experiments with drugs is Arnulf Rainer; his repertoire of explored boundaries and immediacy manifests itself in aesthetics of emphatic bodily externalisation.

**International artists:** Isaac Abrams, Ant Farm, Archigram, Richard Avedon, Thomas Bayrle, Cecil Beaton, Lynda Benglis, Mark Boyle/Joan Hills, Bernard Cohen, Öyvind Fahlström, Richard Hamilton, Robert Indiana, Abdul Mati Klarwein, Yayoi Kusama, John McCracken, Verner Pantton, Nam June Paik, Adrian Piper, Lucas Samaras, Peter Sedgley, Graham Stevens, USCO, Andy Warhol, James Whitney, Joshua White, Thomas Wilfred, Jud Yalkut, La Monte Young / Marian Zazeela u. a.

**Artist groups and artists in the Austrian section** of the exhibition include Raimund Abraham, Christian Ludwig Attersee, Padhi Frieberger, Ernst Fuchs, Coop Himmelb(l)au, Hans Hollein, Haus-Rucker-Co, Marcel Houf, Friedensreich Hundertwasser, Isolde Joham, Max Peintner, Walter Pichler, Arnulf Rainer, Alfons Schilling, Christian Skrein, and Zünd-Up. Supplementary posters document the reflection of psychedelic aesthetics in everyday Austrian graphic work.

**Curator:** Christoph Grunenberg, Tate Liverpool

**Curators of the Austrian part:** Markus Mittringer, Angela Stief

**Architecture:** HOLODECK.at breuss ogertschnig

**Catalogue:**

Since the English catalogue is sold out there will only be the German version available:

*Summer of Love. Psychedelische Kunst der 60er Jahre:* Ed.: Christoph Grunenberg, Tate Liverpool. Forward: Christoph Grunenberg, Max Hollein and Gerald Matt. Authors: Joe Austin, Barry Curtis, Diedrich Diedrichsen, Günther Feuerstein, Christoph Grunenberg, Dave Hickey, Uwe Husslein, Chrissie Iles, Barry Miles, Markus Mittringer, Simon Reynolds, Catherine Sadler, Sally Tomlinson and Fred Tomaselli. 273 pages, 323 images. Hatje Cantz Verlag, Ostfildern. ISBN 3-7757-1670-X, € 29,-

---

*Summer of Love* in the Kunsthalle Wien

Further exhibitions focusing on the subject

Christoph Hinterhuber  
May 12 – September 30, 2006, project wall

assume vivid astro focus  
June 7 – August 27, 2006, project space karlsplatz

Dorothy Iannone, Lee Lozano "Seek the Extremes...!"  
July 7 – October 15, 2006, hall 2

---

Information and images: Claudia Bauer, KUNSTHALLE wien, Office: Museumsplatz 1, A-1070 Wien  
Tel.: +43-1-521 89-1222, Fax: +43-1-521 89-1217, e-mail: [presse@kunsthallewien.at](mailto:presse@kunsthallewien.at)