

Press Release

Santiago Sierra
Kraus-Maffei Raus

and

Franz Erhard Walther
Activations

Kunstraum München
September 10 – October 15, 2023

Opening: Sunday, September 10, from 3:00 p.m. (within the framework of Various Others)
Eight performances, four Sundays, each at two different locations

***En plein air*, performance series in public space in collaboration with the Kunstraum München.**

The year 2023 marks the 50th anniversary of the Kunstraum München and in honor of this occasion, its curatorial board has developed a special program that references the history and future of the institution. For this program, they have invited selected artists—who have exhibited here since the 1970s—to develop a new project in exchange with a younger artist.

Santiago Sierra (born in Madrid in 1966) has achieved international prominence through his provocative installations and political activism. His work addresses social inequality and power structures, often critically examines capitalist and neo-colonial structures, and deals with explosive topics such as migration and exploitation. For his performative action entitled *Krauss-Maffei Raus*, war-zone refugees who are currently living in Munich are being photographed at various locations throughout the city (see program below). All were recruited in advance specifically for the project and are being paid accordingly for their work.

At each location, photographers are being employed and paid for the photographs they take. Each individual will be photographed against a white background in the manner of an official portrait; however, his or her face will not be depicted. Rather, each person will be photographed from behind and viewers will only be able to see their back. What will remain of the action itself are the photographs, which will become part of Santiago Sierra's archive. While the initiative aims to open up a field of tension that evokes in its audience many different associations and references to the war-related events currently taking place in Europe, it also can be read at a universal level on the topics of war, flight, and displacement.

A 30-minute video relating to new work by Santiago Sierra (*The Maelström*, created in Gambia) is also being screened in the Kunstraum for the duration of the project.

Franz Erhard Walther is activating selected objects at the Kunstraum as well as on the terrace of the Haus der Kunst. The activations are interactive artworks which invite viewers to engage with the objects. The works consist of various elements such as textiles, sculptures, or objects that the visitors can touch, wear, or move. Through these interactions, the viewers become active participants who experience the artworks in a personal and physical way. The works of Franz Erhard Walther (born in 1939 in Fulda) are characterized by a clear and minimalist formal language that invites viewers to actively interact with them.

This project brings together two artists from different generations. Franz Erhard Walther left his mark on the history of Kunstraum München through two solo exhibitions in its early days (1976 and 1982). Santiago Sierra studied with Franz Erhard Walther at the University of Fine Arts Hamburg in the early 1990s and references Walther in the formal and textual qualities of his works. Both artists share an interest in a clear language of forms and materials, the role of art in society, and the participation of the viewer. Until now, the two artists have collaborated with each other only once—in 2011—when they jointly captured a performative act photographically, the activation of an object by Franz Erhard Walther. The experimental collaboration that characterizes this new project in Munich offers an entirely new perspective on the work of both artists and the themes they negotiate individually. The participatory as well as performative character of the pairing establishes a special closeness to the public and addresses new audiences in unusual places in public space.

A podcast in which artists, curators, participants in the project, and the audience also have their say offers a lasting contribution to the understanding of the project.

Performance Program

Sunday, September 10, 2023

Santiago Sierra: Krauss-Maffei Raus

Kunstraum München / Haus der Kunst

Simultaneously, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

In the presence of the artist, followed by a get-together at the Kunstraum

Sunday, September 24, 2023

Santiago Sierra: Krauss-Maffei Raus

Kunstraum München / Olympiapark

Simultaneously, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 8, 2023

Franz Erhard Walther: Activations

Haus der Kunst (3:00 – 4:00 p.m.)

Kunstraum München (4:30 – 5:30 p.m.)

Sunday, October 15, 2023

Santiago Sierra: Krauss-Maffei Raus

Kunstraum München / Isar

Simultaneously, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

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Further Programming

Saturday, October 7, 2023
Artist talk with Franz Erhard Walther
Kunstraum München, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 14, 2023
The Long Night of Munich's Museums, 6:00 p.m.

With special thanks to Abdullah Al-Hawta and the war refugees from the shelters in Fürstenfeldbruck, Dauchau, Wolfratshausen, and Munich.

Special thanks also to all of the photographers involved in the project (Sophia Eham, Leonie Felle, Massimo Fiorito, Julien Harfouche, Verena Seibt, Thomas Splett) and to our project assistant Philipp Haas.

This exhibition is supported by the City of Munich's Department of Arts and Culture and the Cultural Foundation of the Stadtparkasse München.

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Kulturstiftung
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Visiting hours during the exhibition (unless otherwise indicated) are
Wednesday – Sunday, 2:00 – 7:00 p.m.

The Kunstraum is an independent art association supported by the City of Munich's Department of
Arts and Culture.