

PRESS RELEASE

THYSSEN-BORNEMISZA ART CONTEMPORARY
A Decade of Commitment to Contemporary Art

Founded in Vienna in 2002 by Francesca Habsburg, Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary is committed to supporting the production of contemporary art and is actively involved in commissioning and disseminating unconventional projects. The foundation sustains a far-reaching regional and international orientation, with an ongoing institutional commitment to the growing importance of art made in different parts of the world. While drawing from the foundation's research and development resources and its collection of more than 500 contemporary artworks, the institution's focus is on the presentation and realization of projects that defy traditional disciplinary categorizations and challenge hegemonic discourses regarding the understanding of artistic practice and the presentation of works of art.

Over the past decade T-B A21 has graduated from being a management office for a growing private collection, curating small collection-based exhibitions in its project space in Vienna's Himmelfortgasse, to becoming a truly international, prolific, versatile, and controversial institution. The foundation has presented major public art interventions such as the much-celebrated sound pavilion *The Morning Line*, currently on view on Schwarzenbergplatz in front of the Lower Belvedere, and Olafur Eliasson and David Adjaye's *Your black horizon* art pavilion on the Croatian island of Lopud. Recent exhibitions in Vienna include *Figura cuncta videntis (the all-seeing eye) / Homage to Christoph Schlingensief* (November 2010–April 2011), showing as its centerpiece the *Animatograph (Iceland Edition)* (2005), an installation by the recently deceased German filmmaker, artist, and theater director; *Tactics of Invisibility* (April–August 2010), which followed the traces of the invisible within contemporary artistic production from Turkey and its diaspora; and *Transitory Objects* (July 2009–March 2010), in which architectural objects were displayed alongside selected artworks from T-B A21's collection, allowing for a parallel reading of artistic and architectural production today.

The foundation presented its first survey exhibition from the collection in Austria in 2004 with *ein-leuchten*, the inaugural exhibition of the Museum der Moderne Mönchsberg, curated by Francesca Habsburg and Agnes Husslein-Arco. *Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary: Collection as Aleph* was presented at Kunsthaus Graz in 2008. Major traveling exhibitions—such as the monographic show *Los Carpinteros* (October 2011–January 2012) at Es Baluard in Palma de Mallorca, Spain; *Passages: Travels in Hyperspace* at LABoral, Centro de Arte y Creación Industrial, Gijón, Spain (October 2010–February 2011); and *The Kaleidoscopic Eye* at the Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan (April–July 2009), which attracted a breathtaking 300,000 visitors—have allowed T-B A21 to present its collection to an international audience.

The foundation's future projects include the collaborative commissioning of projects by Amar Kanwar, Walid Raad, and Omer Fast for dOCUMENTA (13) in Kassel (June–September 2012) and the elaboration of a sound installation at the São Paulo Bienal (2013). The exhibition *Janet Cardiff and Georg Bures Miller: "Murder of Crows"* from Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary Collection will prominently feature one of T-B A21's most ambitious projects to date at the Armory in New York (July–September 2012). The production of Desire Machine Collective's new work *Nishan* in the context *Being Singular Plural* at the Guggenheim Museum, New York (March–June 2012), will initiate a new collaborative relationship with that institution. Furthermore, the ongoing cultural and scientific exploration project *A Living Archive* (August 2011–2014) is placing research and knowledge production at the very core of the foundation's future.

Responding to popular demand, the foundation has decided to extend the presentation of *The Morning Line* in Vienna and to host the second contemporary music festival at *The Morning Line* in the spring of 2012. Described as a "temporary urban icon", the fractal sound pavilion has energized the historic city center, attracting hundreds of thousands of visitors over the past few months.

In 2010 T-B A21 acquired the Temporäre Kunsthalle Berlin, designed by Adolf Krischanitz, which resided at Berlin's Schlossplatz for a two-year period. Described by Krischanitz as "easy to construct and deconstruct, made of wood, canvas, glass, steel rope, paintable inside and outside and highly flexible," the structure is notable for its low-key, low-cost, and energy-efficient approach. T-B A21 is currently negotiating building permits with the city authorities. The five-year time frame originally allocated to the project is no longer economically feasible, however, due to higher cost estimates for the modifications to the structure required by building codes. In light of the current economic crisis, the foundation is postponing the project's realization, which will allow more time to develop solutions and create a support network.

T-B A21 is entering its second decade with a dedicated commitment to Vienna and the city's position as one of today's centers of art and culture. The collaboration with the Belvedere at Thyssen-Bornemisza Augarten Contemporary, the extended presentation of *The Morning Line* at Schwarzenbergplatz, and the foundation's ongoing effort to realize a new project space are vital signals of its place at the core of the city's cultural life.

INFORMATION

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VIENNA INSURANCE GROUP

As the leading Austrian insurance group in Central and Eastern Europe, the **Vienna Insurance Group** and its main shareholder clearly perceive its social responsibilities and have been reliable sponsoring partners for Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary and other cultural projects for many years. Numerous museums and galleries have insured their collections with Vienna Insurance Group. The main objective for cooperating with cultural institutions is to promote the international exchange in the field of arts and culture.