

## Aktionsraum 1

4 March – 29 May 2011

**Museum Moderner Kunst  
Stiftung Ludwig Wien  
Museumsplatz 1 | 1070 Vienna**

### Dates

4 March – 29 May 2011

### Press conference

3 March 2011, 10 a.m.

### Opening

3 March 2011, 7 p.m.

### Curators

Rainer Fuchs  
Sophie Haaser

### Design

HOLODECK architects

### Press contacts

Eva Engelberger  
Barbara Hammerschmied

Phone +43 1 52500-1400/1450

Fax +43 1 52500-1300

press@mumok.at

www.mumok.at

In 1969 Alfred Gulden (writer/filmmaker), Eva Madelung (patron), and Peter Nemetschek (artist) founded, as an avantgarde collective, “Aktionsraum 1” in Munich. That brought into being a space for young artists in which conventional works of art and forms of presentation were to be avoided in order to provide a place where new art—performative art and art critical of social and art-related institutions—could be presented to the public to great effect.

In an exhibition of the same name the MUMOK is presenting the extensive Aktionsraum 1 archive, thereby making visible its significant artistic and historical importance. The individual projects which, at the end of the 1960s, brought change to the dusty art world in Munich and simultaneously formed a platform for the international art scene, are presented using photographs, films, sketches, posters, and letters. The film “Aktionsraum 1 oder 57 Blindenhunde (Aktionsraum 1 or 57 Guide Dogs)” (1970, 45 min, A1 Informationen Verlagsgesellschaft, German), will be screened in parallel – a documentary about Aktionsraum 1 with sequences about the individual actions and statements by the organizers, artists, public, and critics. The title of the film was thought up by Alfred Gulden who compared the total costs of the Aktionsraum 1 with the value of blind guide dogs.

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The 50 actionist, conceptual art, and Arte Povera projects took place over the space of a year in an empty, rented, factory building in Waltherstraße. Artists such as Christian Ludwig Attersee, Stanley Brouwn, Günter Brus, Braco Dimitrijevic, Luciano Fabro, Jochen Gerz, Hermann Nitsch, die Gruppe OHO, Giuseppe Penone, Klaus Rinke, Günter Sarée, HA Schult, Ben Vautier and others tried out alternative and innovative art forms in this off-space precursor. The list of artists also reveals the international position and avantgarde orientation of the enterprise. The opening on the 18 and 19 October 1969 featured Klaus Rinke, Lindow-Borlat and Tony Morgan. Günter Brus’s *Zerreissprobe* [Endurance Test] and Hermann Nitsch’s 7. *Abreaktionsspiel* [7<sup>th</sup> Reaction Game] are among the most legendary actions that took place.

The Aktionsraum 1 also functioned as an experimental field for participatory and communication projects which included the public and took art education into account in the form of lectures and discussions.

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Project failures were as much part of the enterprise as the possibility of new ways of experiencing and also included the ignorance or enmity of a section of the public and the authorities. What remains of the mainly processual and actionistic works is—thanks to the consistent documentary work of the founding members—an extensive collection of films and photographs as well as texts and notes which document and record events and which also, at times, reflect the reaction of the public and media. Alfred Gulden preserved the works and documents and handed them over to collector Egidio Marzona. It is his archive which forms the basis of this MUMOK exhibition which traces the complexity—in regard to both content and organisation—of this chapter of more recent, and in many respects transdisciplinary, art history.

In parallel to the exhibition, “Direct Art” can be viewed. It is a presentation from the MUMOK holdings and shows Viennese Actionism in its international context. The two projects complement each other very well and together represent a wide spectrum of actionist, performative, conceptual, and international art.

#### **Publication**

In the middle of March the MUMOK will be bringing out a publication to accompany the exhibition. It will contain a foreword by Karola Kraus, an introduction by Rainer Fuchs/Sophie Haaser, and a text by Alfred Gulden.

#### **Lecture by Alfred Gulden | 31 March 2011, 7 p.m. (in German)**

Von Seiltänzern und Blindenhunden: Zur Geschichte des Aktionsraum 1  
[Of Tightrope Walkers and Guide Dogs: On the History of Aktionsraum 1]

Thanks are due to the MUMOK's media partners Der Standard and Club Ö1.

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## Exhibition Data

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<b>Dates</b>	4 March – 29 May 2011
<b>Press conference</b>	3 March 2011, 10 a.m.
<b>Opening</b>	3 March 2011, 7 p.m.
<b>Location</b>	MUMOK Museumsplatz 1, 1070 Vienna Level 3
<b>Curators</b>	Rainer Fuchs and Sophie Haaser
<b>Exhibition design</b>	HOLODECK architects
<b>Exhibition production</b>	Dagmar Steyrer
<b>Publications</b>	<i>Aktionsraum 1</i> Foreword by Karola Kraus and texts by Rainer Fuchs/Sophie Haaser and Alfred Gulden. Germ. / Eng. € 10,-  <i>Aktionsraum 1 oder 57 Blindenhunde</i> German, 240 pages, A 1 Informationen Verlagsgesellschaft, 1971, Munich. € 39,-
<b>Events</b>	31 March 2011, 7 p.m. Lecture by Alfred Gulden Von Seiltänzern und Blindenhunden: Zur Geschichte des Aktionsraum 1 [Of Tightrope Walkers and Guide Dogs: On the History of Aktionsraum 1], in German.
<b>Contact / Information</b>	Phone +43-1-52500 info@mumok.at   www.mumok.at
<b>Opening hours</b>	Monday–Sunday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Thursday 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.
<b>Tickets</b>	normal € 9,-   reduced € 7,20 or € 6,50
<b>Press contacts</b>	Eva Engelberger Phone +43-1-52500-1400 eva.engelberger@mumok.at Barbara Hammerschmied Phone +43-1-52500-1450 barbara.hammerschmied@mumok.at Fax +43-1-52500-1300 press@mumok.at www.mumok.at/presse