

# kunsthalle wien

museumsquartier  
museumsplatz 1 • 1070 vienna

## PRESS

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## SUN

# 16/5 – 1/9 2024

A joint exhibition of Kunsthalle Wien and Wiener Festwochen

Group exhibition

ARTISTS: Maha Maamoun • Suzanne Treister • Anton Vidokle • ...

CURATORS: Inke Arns and Andrea Popelka

EXHIBITION VENUE: **kunsthalle wien** Museumsquartier

In the eighteenth century, the term "revolution" came to designate a "violent overthrow of the existing political and social order," a meaning fixed by the French Revolution. Before that time, astronomers had long used it to describe the orbits of the celestial bodies.

This essayistic group exhibition is dedicated to works of art and artistic theories that connect the cosmos, and especially the sun—the most important provider of energy for life on earth—to social and political movements. In light of the decentering of the human being as the subject of history, we inquire into the extent to which not just the natural environment on our earth but, on a grander scale, even the universe contributes to historical processes. For instance, is there a linkage, as the Soviet cosmists asserted, between increased solar activity (more sunspots and solar winds) and revolutions on earth? And which speculative and eminently enjoyable reflections on such questions can be found in contemporary visual art and poetry?

In the selection of works by international artists, one focus is on the moving image—on cinema, film, and video as media of light. Yet works in other media likewise radiate hypnotic, feverish, glowing, menacing affects. The sun, broadly speaking, figures both as an abundant source of life and energy for political struggles and as a symbol of warning, its vast mass and lifespan contrasting with the brevity of human life on planet earth. Plus: what if it never sets or rises again and time is thrown out of joint even more than it already has been?

The program of events accompanying the exhibition follows a specific calendar based on the course of the sun.

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