

Memento Mori - Art during Lent

Ursuline Church Linz

Ash Wednesday, 5.3.2025 - Good Friday, 18.4.2025

Nicole Six and Paul Petritsch: The human and the animal being, film installation,
2009/2025 (church interior)

Werner Reiterer: TERRA, wall drawing, 2014/2025 (crypt)

Opening hours of the crypt and the church interior: Thursday and Friday, 4.00 to 6.30 pm and
by telephone appointment: 0732/244011-4571

Guided tour: every Friday at 16.00 (no registration required)

Curator: Dr. Martina Gelsinger, Department of Art and Culture, Diocese of Linz

Under the guiding theme of “Memento Mori” (“Remember Death”), works or site-specific interventions by artists that have existed for more than three decades can be seen in the Ursuline Church in Linz during Lent. In 2025, these include the film installation “Das menschliche und das tierische Wesen” by Nicole Six and Paul Petritsch in the church interior and the wall drawing “TERRA” by Werner Reiterer in the crypt. The works by the internationally renowned Austrian artists, which were developed and created specifically for the church and the crypt, focus on becoming and passing away in the context of man and nature. During Lent, they create moments of reflection, pause and surprise in the baroque Ursuline church.

The film installation “Das menschliche und das tierische Wesen” was created in 2009 especially for the Ursuline Church as a site-specific project and will be shown here again for the first time in 2025. The films running on four monitors bring real animals into the church space in the form of an owl, raven, rooster, donkey and goats. Against the backdrop of the question of the boundaries between humans and animals, of what connects and what separates them, visitors to the church can expect an unusual view of the Ursuline Church. In slow, almost meditative tracking shots, the axes of the space are explored and measured over a period of around 10 minutes. Visitors are encouraged to wander through the space with their eyes and compare reality and image, real architecture and film excerpts. The animals do not

appear as a spectacular attraction, rather their appearance in the church space - in the sense of equal participation - has something self-evident and at the same time questioning the existing reality.

Nicole Six (born 1971 in Vöcklabruck) and Paul Petritsch (born 1968 in Friesach) live in Vienna. Since 1997, they have been working together on films, photographs, displays, artists' books and site- and context-specific installations and projects in public spaces. They were awarded the Kardinal König Art Prize in 2007 and the Upper Austrian State Culture Prize for Visual Arts in 2023. Provincial Culture Prize for Fine Arts in 2023.

Werner Reiterer: TERRA, drawing, 2014/2025, pencil on wall

As part of the "Memento Mori" series, Werner Reiterer has attached a drawing entitled "TERRA" to the front wall of the crypt. The crypt was built with the construction of the Ursuline church in the mid-18th century as a burial place for the members of the order. The Ursulines left the convent and church in Linz in 1968 and the last burial took place in 1974. For "TERRA", Werner Reiterer researched the date of birth and death of the earth according to the findings of astrophysics, analogous to the lifespan of humans, and added the dates to the grave slabs with the inscription "TERRA" (Latin for earth) on the front wall of the crypt in pencil. In the context of "Memento Mori", the artist goes beyond the individual lifespan of humans to address the equally limited existence of our planet. The site-specific drawing in the crypt, a real historical burial site outside the context of art, opens up a new dimension of perception and reception of space and time.

Werner Reiterer (born 1964 in Graz) lives in Vienna. In his interventions in public space, sculptures, photographs and technically complex installations in combination with series of drawings, he often works with familiar motifs or everyday experiences in a humorous and ironic way, putting our ability to perceive and act to the test.

From February 26 to June 22, 2025, the exhibition "The Mind Hacker" by Werner Reiterer can be seen at the Schlossmuseum Linz.