august walla.! weltallende
Opening: 28 March 2012, 7 p.m.

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Content

museum gugging

Exhibition (29 March 2012 - 28 September 2012)
Opening 28 March 2012, 7 pm

- august walla. Weltallende
- Background
- gaston chaissac. Drawings at the Novomatic Salon
- gugging favorites.
- gugging art labor
- tourism

Art / Brut Center Gugging

- House of artists
- gugging gallery
- museum gugging
- public studio gugging
- shop gugging
- The Villa

Informations

- Opening Hours and Admission Fees
- Contact and Directions
- Sponsors and Partners of the museum gugging
August Walla became an artist unintentionally. One of the most versatile artists of the 20th century in Art Brut: a genre of art that blooms uninfluenced by the official art world and aloof from the art market, in secret. Walla’s entire life was one long process of creating completely autonomous, self-contained artistic works. He produced graffiti on roads, walls and trees, affixed his works all over his hometown Klosterneuburg and the neighbouring floodplains of the Danube. He took pictures of them or had his mother photograph him in different poses with his artworks. Walla produced thousands of drawings and paintings and shaped his artworks from everyday objects, out of tin, wood or plastic.

Curator: Johann Feilacher.

Catalogue
Johann Feilacher (editor)
august walla.!
Residenz Verlag
will be issued in March 2012

The catalogue will be issued by the Residenz Verlag publishing company. It’s a comprehensive monograph designed as a future reference on August Walla’s work. The catalogue accompanying the exhibition will pay tribute to August Walla’s versatility. It will contain reproductions of works and contributions by reputable authors on the various subject fields. Additionally, it will contain reprints of letters, writs and drawing blocks. Emulating Walla’s objects, the separate volumes are combined in a cassette and thus made into an art-book-object.

Book presentation: 21 March 2012, 8 p.m. at the Novomatic Forum, 1010 Wien, Friedrichstraße 7 (upon invitation only)

supporting program
Walla-Party: June, 24 2012, from 11 am
workshops, music, literary program and catering à la Walla during the day.
Free entrance.
Walla - an universal artist

August Walla was born in Klosterneuburg in 1936. During the Nazi era his mother raised him as a girl, hoping to spare her son being drafted into war one day. Later he became aware of his male identity. Looking back on his childhood, he decided that the Russian occupants must have operated on him, turning him into a "Russian boy". Within the middle-class society of Klosterneuburg, mother and son Walla were notorious outsiders. For many years Walla lived in a small apartment together with his mother, once in a nursing home, then in a cottage on the Danube's floodplain and finally in a dilapidated casern. In 1983 Leo Navratil offered him a room at the “Centre for Art-Psychotherapy”, the later House of Artists in Gugging. Walla lived and worked there until his death in 2001, enjoying a growing reputation as an artist.

Walla the Philosopher
His works brim over with words, emblems and symbols. They are often centred on his self-made polytheist philosophy: a mysterious world populated by spirits with the prospect of a far-away Universe-End-Land, which may be either the realm of the dead, paradise, limbo or the great nothingness. The “Universe-End-Land” marks the transition to that successive cosmos. The gods residing there have names like Kappar (god of ghosts), Seiril, Sararill, also called Satttus, and are akin to the gods venerated by humans. Walla considered himself a Christian. He ascribed self-invented symbols to the gods and frequently used those in his drawings and his writing.

Walla the Artist and the Painter
August Walla was continuously writing or drawing. Wherever he went, he always had coloured pencils and paint on him. He created around 3000 drawings and 100 large canvases and produced etchings, which show his precise, prominent stroke most pronouncedly.

Walla the Writer
Walla wrote innumerable letters; to people he knew personally but also to various authorities. His communication with the “outside” world was mostly in writing as long as his mother was alive. He was a special kind of writer, obsessive, composing at least one letter a day. Every single one of his letters is written in his personal “typeface”, a calligraphic work of art, a gem from Walla’s Universe. He also used dictionaries in numerous languages to translate and construct words in his particular way. He invented many neologisms, which he integrated into his writing. The punctuation became most characteristic of his notation. He attached “.!” (full stop plus exclamation mark) to each and every heading or to his name.
Walla the Collector and “Object-Maker”
August Walla collected and hoarded all kinds of junk. His actions were artistically conspicuous long before his time in Gugging. He painted and inscribed objects, trees, and roads. In his little allotment garden he had a growing collection of bulky waste items. He inscribed them in words, which were difficult to understand for others, hung them from trees or simply stacked them. That kind of arrangement was not in accordance with allotment garden regulations. Walla was repeatedly reprimanded and finally had to clear his garden. Many of his works were “disposed of”.
In Gugging, he completely painted the walls and ceiling of his room as well as large parts of the House. He built objects and did needlework. He chose surfaces of projection filled with significance to him: pebbles on the Danube’s shores, boxes of chocolates or the reverse side of canvases.

Walla the Actionist and Photographer
Unwittingly or fully aware, Walla understood himself and his body as means of expression for his art. He let himself be photographed as he was taking photographs. He carried his mysterious symbolism into the forest, hid it behind electric cabinets, and exposed it on the road – a blend of installation, Land Art and graffiti. Roads became his mouthpieces: to vent his anger, to voice his wishes and needs by inscribing or painting them.

Walla the Universal Artist
Actually, one life was not enough for Walla. When he died of cancer in 2001, he had already become a world-renowned Art Brut artist. In 1990 he had been awarded the Oskar Kokoschka Prize together with the other Gugging Artists. Apart from paintings, drawings, etchings, objects and photographs, August Walla also left innumerable traces in the landscape – often secret and concealed. He created a polytheistic philosophy with innumerable gods in a faraway world – the Universe-End-Land.

Johann Feilacher, curator, conservator of the museum gugging and artistic companion of August Walla.

Picture Credit: Gaston Chaissac, Ohne Titel, 1954, Öl auf Holz © VBK, Wien, 2011
Exhibitions August Walla (Selection)

solo exhibitions
1988  August Walla, Collection de l’Art Brut, Lausanne, CH
1988  August Walla, Museum moderner Kunst, Wien, A
1988  August Walla. Zeichnungen, Galerie Heike Curtze, Wien, A
1989  August Walla, Kunstatmt Wedding, Berlin, D
1990  August Walla. Schriftzeichen, Galerie Chobot, Wien, A
1995  o.T., Galerie Susanne Zander, Köln, D
1998  Oswald Tschirtner und August Walla, Rupertinum, Salzburg, A
2000  August Walla – Fotografien, Galerie Susanne Zander, Köln, D

group exhibitions
1970  Pareidolien, Galerie nächst St. Stephan, Wien, A
1985  Talent ist Begabung, Genie ist Gestaltung. Die Künstler aus Gugging, Neue Galerie - Staatliche und Städtische Kunstsammlungen, Kassel, D
1987  Autour de Gugging, L’Aracine, Neuilly sur Marne, F
1991  The Artists of Gugging, Austrian Cultural Institute, New York, USA
1993  Gugging la casa degli artisti, Fondazione Galleria Gottardo, Lugano, I
1993  Parallell Visions, Setagaya Art Museum, Tokyo, J
1993  We are not alone, American Visionary Art Museum, Baltimore, USA
2007  “blug” - 4 Jahrzehnte Kunst aus Gugging, Museum Gugging, Maria Gugging
2009  gugging.! in Wien, Bank Austria Kunstforum, Wien, A
2010  Weltenwandler. Die Kunst der Outsider, Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt, Frankfurt

Picture Credit: August Walla, LAND AM, PLANET MERKURIUS, 1991 © Art Brut KG
gugging favorites At the Novomatic Salon

Opening: 28 March 2012 at 7 p.m.

Parallel to the Walla-Show, the Museum Gugging presents highlights of Gugging Art in gugging favorites At the Novomatic Salon. This exhibition shows exemplary works by Walla’s companions.

Gugging Artists

Josef Bachler (1914 - 1978)
Josef Blahaut (1922 - 1986)
Anton Dobay (1906 - 1986)
Johann Fischer (1919 - 2008)
Franz Gableck (1910 - 1974)
Johann Garber (1947)
Johann Hauser (1926 - 1996)
Rudolf Horacek (1915 - 1986)
Franz Kamlander (1920 - 1999)
Franz Kernbeis (1935)
Fritz Koller (1929 - 1993)
Johann Korec (1937 - 2008)
Rudolf Limberger (1937 - 1988)
Otto Prinz (1906 - 1980)
Heinrich Reisenbauer (1938)
Johann Scheiböck (1905 - unbekannt)
Arnold Schmidt (1959)
Philipp Schöpke (1921 - 1998)
Günther Schützenhöfer (1965)
Oswald Tschirtner (1920 - 2007)
Karl Vondal (1953)
August Walla (1936 - 2001)

Picture Credit: Franz Gableck, Autostadion, 1968 ©museum gugging
Accessible Art:

gugging art labor – art education

Guided tours and workshops for adults:
Private groups and companies are invited to enjoy in-depth art appreciation.

Guided tours and workshops for school- and pre-school classes/groups:
We offer diverse programmes for school classes and various children’s groups (pre-school, after care, scouts, etc) in accordance with the children’s different needs and ages. This allows us to work out exciting approaches to the respective subjects.

NEW:
Guided tour INSIDE VIEW:
A special guided tour for visitors wishing to gain an inside view of the House of Artists. Dates: 15 April, 17 June, 29 July, 16 September and 21 October 2012 at 2:30 p.m. (max. 15 participants)

INFO and BOOKINGS:
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A folder for educators can be downloaded on www.gugging.at/Corner Accessible Art
Tourism

Package 1

Art Adventure
Guided tour
We invite visitors to an in-depth appreciation of art and introduce them to the unique museum gugging and the exciting world of Art Brut, a "noble, austere and genuine" kind of art. After a brief introduction into the Gugging Artists’ history we will view the exhibitions. The regularly changing presentations display the Gugging Artists’ works at the place of their origin, works by international Art Brut artists and contemporary art. The museum gugging reveals new approaches to the recurring question of “what is art?” and offers the opportunity to confront fundamental artistic and psychological questions directly. Furthermore, it offers visitors a comprehensive insight into the diversity of art. We like to establish a dialogue with the visitors in conveying the exhibition contents, so as to bear better reference to the participants’ individual interests. Afterwards, we visit the Galerie Gugging gallery, owned by the Gugging Artists. Coffee break – 30 minutes to relax and discuss.
Duration: 1.5 hours
Price: €10./person (admission & coffee, mineral water and Danish pastry) PLUS a flat rate of € 45./ group (14 to 25 persons)

Package 2

Art & Pleasure Adventure
Creative Workshop and Picnic
Get to know the fascinating and unique "museum gugging"! Situated deep in the Vienna Woods the museum dedicated to the Gugging Artists offers the opportunity to experience art surrounded by nature. Every visitor to the museum embarks on a journey and delves into a new, inspiring world. A trip to Gugging is also a journey into our inner self, to the origins of our creativity. Arnulf Rainer, Gerhard Roth and other famous celebrities are among the regular visitors to the House, finding artistic inspiration in this place. Likewise, after a brief introduction to the Gugging Artists’ history and a tour of the exhibitions, participants of this event get the opportunity to experiment and create their own artwork.

Workshop
The "gugging art laboratory" offers a wide range of materials. Participants meet in an inspiring atmosphere and work side by side and together with each other to create their own pieces. Inspired by the exhibitions and a plethora of unusual, artistic materials at their disposition they discover ways to express their inner worlds, wishes and visions. They can illustrate them painting, drawing, pasting, wrapping, cording with string and wool or working with various everyday materials. Art tutors are at the visitors’ beck and call the whole time.

Picnic
Subsequently, the event carries on outside; a picnic in nature awaits the visitors (blankets provided). Picnic baskets filled with freshly prepared provisions from Haselbacher Catering will take care of their physical well-being.
Duration: 4 hours
Price: € 20./person (admission and catering) or € 29./Person (with a larger variety of food) PLUS a flat rate € 50./ group (14 to 25 persons)

Picture Credit: Walla-Zimmer im Haus der Künstler ©museum gugging
Package 3

Guided tour with/without workshop & lunch at the Haselbacherhof restaurant.

Guided tour
Guided tours are the best way to convey the substance of an exhibition; be it a presentation of the Gugging Artists’ works or a special exhibition. We like to establish a dialogue with the visitors in conveying the exhibition contents, so as to bear better reference to the participants’ individual interests. We also offer guided tours on specific themes, where we can place individual emphases. Visitors are invited to an in-depth appreciation of art and introduced to the unique museum gugging and the exciting world of Art Brut, a “noble, austere genuine” kind of art. The museum gugging reveals new approaches to the recurring question of “what is art?” and offers the opportunity to confront fundamental artistic and psychological questions directly. Furthermore, it offers visitors a comprehensive insight into the diversity of art. Break – 15 minutes to relax and talk.

Afterwards, it’s off to the “gugging art laboratory”, which offers a wide range of materials. Participants meet in an inspiring atmosphere and work side by side and together with each other to create their own pieces. Inspired by the exhibitions and a plethora of unusual, artistic materials at their disposition they discover ways to express their inner worlds, wishes and visions. They can illustrate them painting, drawing, pasting, wrapping, cording with string and wool or working with various everyday materials. Subsequently you can enjoy a three-course menu at the Haselbacherhof restaurant.

a. Duration: Guided tour & workshop 3.5 hours
Cost: € 20/person  (admission & lunch) PLUS
a flat rate of € 95./group (14 to 25 persons)
b. Duration: Guided tour 1.5 hours
Cost: € 20/person  (admission & lunch) PLUS
a flat rate of € 45./group (14 to 25 persons)

Info and bookings:
Dr. Maria Parucki, maria.parucki@gugging.at, Tel. +43 (0) 664 60499383
Mag. Nina Ansperger-Voigt, nina.ansperger@gugging.at, Tel. +43 (0) 664 60499-373

Picture Credit: Walla-Zimmer im Haus der Künstler ©museum gugging
Art / Brut Center Gugging

The term Art Brut was coined by the French artist Jean Dubuffet, who used it to describe a genuine art displaying evidence of a highly personal and non-adjusted shape language. Art Brut is often created spontaneously and without reflection, outside the framework of academic or art-theoretic education. The Art / Brut Center Gugging had dedicated itself to this understanding. Since the early 80s it has been a centre of multitude and variety, comprising different institutions under one roof.

First of all there is the House of Artists. That building, painted in all the colours of the rainbow, is the origin of the multi-faceted events occurring on the premises these days. Since 1981 it has housed people whose pictures and objects have gained them a worldwide reputation as the Gugging Artists. The House is coined by its residents who have decorated it entirely in accordance with their wishes. Their inexhaustible productivity allows them to produce new works almost every day. In October 2009 the eagerly awaited gentle extension works began, a clever architectural solution making sure that the murals by Tschirtner and Walla on the south-facing façade could be conserved and remain visible. The existing, rather obsolete artists’ quarters were brought up to a present-day standard, a terrace was built and the residents offered a better quality of living.

Already in 1994 a gallery had been founded to house the work of the Gugging Artists. At the time, it was located in two small rooms inside the House of Artists, i.e. directly at the “origin”. In 1997 the gallery was moved, adapting the exhibition rooms inside today’s Art / Brut Center Gugging, only 165 yards from the House of Artists. Since 2005 the gallery has been located on the renovated ground floor of the Art/ Brut Center Gugging. The galerie gugging exhibits and sells works by international Art Brut artists next to current paintings, drawings, prints and objects by Gugging Artists. Thus the visitors can receive a comprehensive insight into the world of Art Brut in addition to the exhibitions held at the museum gugging. Until April, 22, 2012 the gugging gallery presents a special exhibition titled "Inscriptions", which displays works in the balance between text and image. It features works by the Gugging Artists Leonhard Fink, Johann Fischer, Johann Korec, Fritz Opitz, Karl Vondal and August Walla, and complements them with works by the artists Maria Magdolna Balassa, Ida Buchmann, Nick Blinko, François Burland, Josef Karl Rädler and Harald Stoffers. From April, 26, 2012 until October, 7 2012 the exhibition "SEXI-BLATT" features erotic themes in the Art Brut.
The **public studio**, in existence since the year 2000 and also located on the gallery floor since two years ago, invites anybody who is interested to try themselves out. This is a way to kindle and discover new talents. The offer is primarily aimed at people who live in assisted accommodations. There is no need to meet any demands or parameters. The studio’s main goal is to support individual and creative potential.

The **museum gugging** opened in 2006. It is located on the upper floor of the main building. On display are works by Gugging Artists like Oswald Tschirtner, Franz Gablek, August Walla and many others. The museum gugging aims to establish ties with contemporary art and open up a dialogue with those whose work is either influenced by Art Brut or otherwise linked to it. The rich work of the Gugging Artists, constantly growing in size, and the large number of pictures from the “Gugging Artists’ Private Foundation” allow us to exchange and extend the exhibition of art works from Gugging.

Also worth exploring is the **shop gugging**. Charmingly decorated, it invites you to discover a plethora of selected beautiful items: the attractive offer ranges from specialized literature, post cards and posters of the works exhibited in the museum and gallery to textiles by young Austrian designers.

The **Villa** is idyllically located on a small hill a stone-throw away from the main building. It offers space for symposia and events of all kinds from readings, dance and theatre to concerts. The Villa is used for Art / Brut Center functions, but it can also be rented.
Opening Hours
museum gugging

Summertime: Tue-Sun 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Wintertime: Tue-Sun 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Closed: 24 -26 Dec 2011 and 31 Dec 2011– 1 Jan 2012

Gallery opening hours:
Summertime: Tue-Sat 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Sun 10.30 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Wintertime: Tue-Sat 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sun 10.30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
(Closed on public holidays)

Admission museum:

Adults: 7.00 Euro

Discounts:
Ö1 Club: 6,00 Euro

“Der Standard Vorteilskarte” card; pensioners: 5.50 Euro

Students, unemployed persons, special needs persons, civil- and military servants: 5.00 Euro

Group discounts from 12 individuals: 5.00 Euro

Pupils: 2.50 Euro

Pupils for Accessible Art: 1.00 Euro

Combined ticket
(Stift Klosterneuburg, Essl Museum, Museum Gugging) 19.00 Euro

Family ticket: 14.00 Euro

Discount: 13.50 Euro

Children under the age of 7, “Hunger auf Kunst und Kultur” card: free

Accessible Art:

Tour for adults (75 min): 45 Euro / group
Discovering Art for pupils (75 min): 30 Euro / group
Workshop for pupils (±2.5 hours): 50 Euro / group
Tour INSIDE VIEW (75 min): 15 Euro / group

(recommended group size 25 individuals maximum)
**Contakt**

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**Anfahrtsplan**

Press download:
You can find this document as well as high definition images in electronic format on:
www.gugging.at - go to Museum (Presse Downloads)

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Picture Credit: Leonhard Fink, Telefon, 2003 ©museum gugging
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