



NEW RELEASE 2023

## Bank Austria Kunstforum Wien *Kiki Kogelnik. Now Is the Time*

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**First extensive monograph on Kiki Kogelnik, a real must-have about one of the most important Austrian born female Pop Art artist**

Kiki Kogelnik (1935–1997) is one of the most important Austrian-born artists of the 20th century, who lived and worked on an international level. Today, the artist is considered the only Austrian protagonist of Pop Art, but her art goes far beyond this categorization. Kogelnik's playful, colorful, and highly political work ranges from painting, drawing, ceramics and installation to performative practices, and has an astonishing topicality in terms of its subject matter. In spring 2023, the Bank Austria Kunstforum Wien will show the largest solo presentation of this outstanding artist to date.

Having completed her studies at the Academy of Applied Arts and the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna in the 1950s, Kogelnik was part of the young St. Stephan Group. After extensive travels through Europe and through her acquaintance with Sam Francis, Kogelnik relocated to New York in 1962, where she began to work within the newly forming Pop Art movement and developed friendships with artists such as Roy Liechtenstein, Claes Oldenburg and Carolee Schneemann. This extremely incisive period at the beginning of the 1960s also signified a reorientation in her artistic work – the works created during this phase form the crucial center of the exhibition.

The artist explicitly addressed her interest in, but also her critical attitude towards, consumer society, technical progress, medicine and diagnostics, and the (female) body and its implications, as well as the reality of her own life as an artist, mother, and wife, starting in the early 1960s – long before today's omnipresent discourses on gender equality, medical ethics, the digital age,

and sustainable lifestyles. With humor, sharp punchlines, the bold aesthetic and sense of mission of pop and new materials such as vinyl, Kiki Kogelnik finds her unique way and, from today's perspective, proves to be one of the most diverse and independent examples of early postmodern art.

From the Foreword by Ingrid Bruggen:

*Even before Kiki Kogelnik entered the broader circle of the newly forming Pop Art movement in New York, her works revealed a desire to dismantle the avant-garde certainties that Abstract Expressionism in its multinational variants had guaranteed. It is in general this constant breaking out of the respective contemporary conventions of the international art establishment that characterizes Kiki Kogelnik, as both an artist and a woman who was always aware of her role in the public sphere. The fact that Kiki Kogelnik was able to develop a signature style, which in many cases distinguishes itself from the common feminist art of her time, is also due to this circumstance.*

### Exhibitions

Bank Austria Kunstforum Wien, Vienna, Austria

02.02.–25.06.2023

Kunstmuseum Brandts, Odense, Denmark

19.08.2023–14.01.2024

Kunsthaus Zürich, Zurich, Switzerland

22.03.–14.07.2024

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