

Media release  
Zurich, 21 March 2024

**Kunsthaus Zürich presents 'Kiki Kogelnik: Retrospective'**

**From 22 March to 14 July 2024, Kiki Kogelnik, one of the leading figures in European Pop Art, receives her first retrospective in Switzerland.**

The Austrian born artist Kiki Kogelnik (1935–1997) was ahead of her time. She once said that women should behave like samurai, and she herself adopted a combative approach to materials, colours and social conventions.

FROM EXPRESSIONISM TO POP

After initially working as an expressionist painter, Kogelnik evolved into a flamboyant practitioner of Pop Art, experimenting with collage and airbrush techniques, and with new materials such as vinyl along with traditional ones such as ceramics. In visionary fashion, she anticipated issues that are now more topical than ever: questions of gender and sexual identities, ethical concerns surrounding cutting-edge research, especially in medical diagnostics, rationalization and miniaturization through robotics.

PLAYFUL AND PUNCHY

The exhibition, curated by Cathérine Hug from the Kunsthau Zürich in cooperation with Lisa Ortner-Kreil of the Kunstforum Wien, offers a comprehensive overview of Kogelnik's multifaceted oeuvre via around 150 works from four decades of artistic production, some of them in very large formats. It reveals the art-historical importance of this pioneering figure, who worked primarily in New York but also in Vienna and Bleiburg, moving with consummate ease between familiar companions such as Sam Francis and Claes Oldenburg, and developing her distinct artistic language in relation to contemporaries such as Niki de Saint Phalle, Carolee Schneemann, Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein. Her iconic 'Hangings' – bodily silhouettes cut out from vinyl and draped over clothes hangers – are here, as are large works in glass and ceramic that will be a revelation to Swiss audiences. Kogelnik's world is full of human figures and animals. Her aesthetic is inspired by space travel and robotics as well as fashion and subculture; her tone is visionary. She takes her identities as an artist, mother and woman as the starting point for critical statements about patriarchal social structures. Audiences are sure to find much that is thought-provoking in an art born out of curiosity and a love of experimentation.

The exhibition is a project by the Kunstforum Wien and is organized in cooperation with the Kunsthaus Zürich and the Kunstmuseum Brandts in Denmark, with assistance from the Kiki Kogelnik Foundation in New York.

Supported by UNIQA Kunstversicherung Schweiz, Albers & Co AG and the Truus and Gerrit van Riemsdijk Foundation.

### PUBLICATION

The catalogue 'Kiki Kogelnik: Now Is the Time', which accompanies the exhibition at all three venues, is available in German and English (Kehrer Verlag, 280 pages, 150 colour illustrations). It features contributions by Sylvie Fleury, Flavia Frigeri, Cathérine Hug, Marie Laurberg, Lisa Ortner-Kreil, Mai-Thu Perret and Birgitte Thorsen Vilslev, and is available from the museum shop and bookstores, price CHF 52.

### GUIDED TOURS

Guided tours in German take place on Saturdays at 1 p.m. in March, May and July, and on Thursdays at 6.30 p.m. in April and June. Guided tour in English: Saturday 8 June, 11 a.m. Duration approx. 60 minutes. Ticket (in addition to admission to the exhibition): CHF 6 / CHF 4 concessions/members.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Kunsthaus Zürich, Heimplatz, CH-8001 Zurich

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For details of tickets and prices, opening hours and events see [www.kunsthhaus.ch/en/besuch-planen/](http://www.kunsthhaus.ch/en/besuch-planen/) and [www.kunsthhaus.ch/en/besuch-planen/agenda/](http://www.kunsthhaus.ch/en/besuch-planen/agenda/). Tickets can be obtained from the cash desk or in advance at [www.kunsthhaus.ch](http://www.kunsthhaus.ch).

Zurich Tourism, tourist information office in Zurich main railway station, tel. +41 44 215 40 00, [info@zuerich.com](mailto:info@zuerich.com), [www.zuerich.com](http://www.zuerich.com).

### CONTACT FOR EDITORS

Media releases and illustrations are available for download at [www.kunsthhaus.ch/en/medien-bereich](http://www.kunsthhaus.ch/en/medien-bereich).

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