

The programme

of Linz 2009 European Capital of Culture

The programme of Linz 2009 European Capital of Culture elaborates on 220 projects. Among the projects are numerous festivals and formats that are themselves the framework of a series of events.

No Austrian city has changed as dramatically as Linz has in recent years. Once a nice, quiet commercial town on the banks of the Danube, then the place that Adolf Hitler adopted as his hometown, and later a capital of heavy industry with all the side-effects and risks that entails. Today's Linz is a modern urban center with a flourishing economy and exceptional quality of life. A city where interesting things are happening and the future is taking shape right now. The mission of Linz 2009 European Capital of Culture is to be a part of this process: an initiative implementing sustainable urban development and a driving force for progress in promising directions.

With its lineup of projects, Linz09 is giving a highly diversified narrative account of this city: Linz Welcome, Linz Capital, Linz Power, Linz Travel, Linz World, Linz Memory, Linz Knowledge, Linz Pleasure, Linz Holiday and Linz Dream. Past, present and future are reflected by the diverse facets of this ensemble. Europe and The World are two additional programmatic focal points meant to enable people to really feel the openness of this city.

Official Grand Opening at the Turn of the Year

Elements of the Capital of Culture's program have been in the works ever since 2007. The Capital of Culture year was officially kicked off on New Year's Eve from December 31, 2008 until January 1, 2009. The absolute highlight of **Opening09** was the world premiere of the Rocket Symphony, a work for a chorus of several hundred singers and 16 soloists arrayed along the banks of the Danube between the Ars Electronica Center, the Nibelungen Bridge, the Lentos Museum of Modern Art and the Brucknerhaus. Their acoustic and visual accompaniment was a fireworks extravaganza.

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New Year's Day featured the vernissage of **Best of Austria**, an exhibition that brought together the most superb works of art from about 30 Austrian collections and museums. This don't-miss show was running in the Lentos Museum of Modern Art until May 10, 2009. The highpoint of Day 2 of the Capital of Culture year was the opening of the architecturally spectacular addition to the Ars Electronica Center that provides the Museum of the Future with 4,000 m² of additional space.

Linz, Memory – Encounter with the Recent Past

The history of the 20th century is one of Linz09's most important themes. The Capital of Culture was working together with the Museums of the Province of Upper Austria to stage "**The Führer's Capital of Culture**" (September 17, 2008 to March 22, 2009), a confrontation with the National Socialist past as a whole and, in particular, Nazi cultural policymaking and regional cultural life during the Nazi era.

Amidst Us by Hito Steyerl deals with the Nazi past of the bridgehead building on Linz's Main Square. An architectural intervention and installation in the building's lobby visualize the research process and attempt to make the stones "talk." (January to December 2009).

In situ makes it possible to experience the actual locations where the Nazis' policies of persecution and extermination were carried out. Temporary signs in public spaces pinpoint sites of Nazi atrocities—from the persecution of Jews to the everyday dimension of terror (beginning in March 2009 throughout the city).

The last three decades of the city's history were reflected in the **City in Luck** exhibition in the Nordico Museum. About 100 interviews with Linz residents, documentation of significant events, analysis of various upheavals and watersheds, and the showcasing of iconographic objects were providing a graphic narration of everyday life in Linz (June 5 to September 13, 2009).

Art in Public Spaces

"Culture for All" has long been one of the city's declared aims. Linz09 takes this utopian concept literally and offers numerous projects in public settings. Since late May 2009, the collaboration with the OK Center for Contemporary Art is reaching a brilliant climax.

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Following **Schaurausch** (Viewing Spree) and **Tiefenrausch** (Rapture of the Deep), we'll be staging **Höhenrausch** (High-altitude Euphoria) from March 29 to October 31, 2009. Visitors will experience the highpoints of Linz—spectacular panoramas and the pinnacles of contemporary art. A high-adventure tour along a cleverly designed system of routes will lead from the Passage shopping center's parking deck to the Ursulinenhof's warehouse and back down onto solid ground. This **Art in the City!!** trilogy has been designed to open up new approaches and realms of operation. Art has to make its presence felt in everyday life and thus insinuate itself into the field of vision of the general public, most of whom are not museumgoers.

The **Festival of the Regions** was focused on the southern outskirts of Linz, the Auwiesen suburb and the housing developments of solarCity. "Normalcy" was inquired into the definitive characteristics of life beyond downtown (May 9 to June 1, 2009).

Linz – Europe's Acoustic Model City

The Capital of Culture has set a lofty goal in the musical-acoustic domain: We aim to make Linz Europe's acoustic model city. **Acoustic City** is Linz09's effort to get people to consciously hear; it works on behalf of an acoustic environment that's fit for human beings. This includes a campaign against the unwanted noise that bombards us in public spaces, the Akustikon as an institution of hearing (June 27, 2009 to March 31, 2010), the acoustic urban development program of the Linzer Charta, and two public auditory refuges—one in the former Centralkino (until November 21, 2009, Landstraße 36) and one in St. Mary's Cathedral (until October 25, 2009, Baumbachstr./Herrenstr.). The Akustikon (located at Pfarrgasse 9-13) is a place for acoustic research, theory formation and education/outreach.

Urban Explorations that Run the Gamut

As a supplement to the regular city tours offered by Tourismusverband Linz, a few Linz09 projects were offering alternative possibilities of encountering this city. For instance, **Activistas!** put you aboard a bus to visit historical and current sites of protest, social struggle and feminist demands for equal rights in Linz from the turn of the 20th century to the present (March 7 to September, 2009).

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In **Culture Pilots**, 12 immigrant women living in Linz accompany tour group participants through Linz Mitte, the neighborhood surrounding Wiener Straße. Their unconventional city tours enable locals and tourists alike to engage in up-close-and-personal encounters with the people who live there, to confront their own conceptions of culture and identity as well as those of foreigners, and to better understand reasons for migration (April 30 to November, 2009).

Very tangible food for thought as part of a critical confrontation with surveillance in public spaces was delivered by **Hide**. During these eccentric sightseeing excursions through Linz's inner city in May 2009, participants learned simple movement patterns that enabled them to evade the many surveillance cameras attempting to capture them.

The title **Capital of Culture Neighborhood of the Month** has been passed along from neighborhood to neighborhood for nine months. Alte Innenstadt; Kleinmünchen; Dornach-Auhof, Katzbach; Neue Innenstadt/Froschberg; Bindermichl/Spallerhof; Neue Heimat; Urfahr-Zentrum; Franckviertel; Ebelsberg each have had a month to give an account of itself. The creative, clever ideas stem from the locals themselves. These projects have been linking up individuals, associations, institutions and groups into a neighborhood network beyond the realm of officially sanctioned initiatives by governmental agencies (until November 2009).

Special ways of seeing life in Linz were afforded by **Bellevue**, a temporary yellow building erected especially for the Capital of Culture year. It was located on a freeway overpass in Bindermichl/Spallerhof—traffic flew by on one side; a recently-built park occupied the other. **Bellevue** functioned as a temporary site for artistic production and as a stage. Guest artists, experts and folks living nearby were jointly responsible for the lineup of offerings (June 25 to September 13, 2009).

Linz and the Region

Some people spend their days off taking a car trip from the city to the countryside in nearby Mühlviertel; others commute from those outlying regions to their workplace in Linz. The traces of these back-and-forth flows make spatial interrelationships visible. **Journey Time. Cultures of Commuting** entailed four fascinating bus routes that followed these traces.

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With consummate competence and artistry, traveling companions escorted participants on excursions into cultures past and present (February to September 2009).

The Whole City is Theater

The multidisciplinary festival **Theater Mania 1: Snowstorm** kicked off the year with unusual performances. Local as well as international directors - among them, Guy Cassiers, Aida Karic and Jérôme Bel - took audiences by storm. In doing so, they have been blending genres and even mixing the character of the collaborations: guest productions have been brought to Linz; then again, works that could only have been created and produced in Linz were staged here (January 13 to February 20, 2009).

With the arrival of summer, **Theater Mania 2: Sunburn** shifted the performance locations out of doors into parks, gardens and courtyards. As for content, an arc was spanned very far indeed—from traditional Kuttiyatam from India, the oldest theatrical form still being practiced, all the way to contemporary artists from Europe, Asia and Africa such as Brett Bailey, Jean-Michel Bruyère, Luk Perceval and theaternyx (July 27 to September 2, 2009).

Linz09's **Doppelgänger** Festival (October 9-18, 2009) brings together contemporary masters of shadow theater and puppetry in the Hafenhalle09 venue constructed expressly for the Capital of Culture year.

We'll conclude the big year with **That's the Way to Do It** dedicated to that quarrelsome, anarchistic, cheeky little headbanger of the theatrical world—Kasperl as he's called in these parts, Pulcinella in Italy, Mr. Punch in England, Vitéz Lázló in Hungary, Guignol in France, Don Cristobal in Spain and Petruschka in Russia (November 11-21, 2009, Hafenhalle09, located at the corner of Industriezeile and Derfflingerstr.).

“Reading is Adventure in Your Head”

Dramatic readings, exhibitions, literary events, theme evenings and festivals, symposia and writing workshops make up the literary program of Linz 2009 European Capital of Culture. One highlight was the **Just Passing Through** exhibition showcasing mementoes, letters, commentaries and travel accounts stemming from prominent persons. These literary gems illustrated judgments on and prejudices about the City of Linz (April 29 to November 12, 2009, StifterHaus).

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For **Begley Meets Bernhard**, prominent American author and ardent Thomas Bernhard fan Louis Begley came to Linz to read from Bernhard's works on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of his death (February 12, 2009).

To stock the shelves of the **Library of a Hundred Languages**—a container on Schillerplatz—men and women who have immigrated to Linz are donating books and texts in their mother tongue. An ancillary event program that especially emphasises children and young people is designed to turn this temporary library into Linz's lively meeting place of many cultures (October/November 2009).

Kids and Young People

I LIKE TO MOVE IT MOVE IT is a project that has been staged throughout Upper Austria. It brought performing arts to schools as a way to combine creativity and education. Working together with local and international choreographers, directors, actors and performers, youngsters could seek their own personal approach to art and culture, one molded by their own experiences (September 2008 to June 2009).

More than 500 young (u-15) footballers organised in teams representing past, present and future European Capitals of Culture were convened in Linz to compete in the **YES09** Youth European Soccer Cup competition. When they were not busy going all out on the pitch, these boys and girls got to enjoy an extensive cultural program (May 30 to June 1, 2009).

Linz, Europa and the World

In addition to offerings having to do with Linz's past, the process of urban development here and everyday life in Upper Austria's capital, Linz09's lineup will also be highlighting European and international issues. For instance, **The European Green Belt** exhibition will focuses on the unique ecosystem where wilderness meets cultivated stretches along what used to be the Iron Curtain. Besides publicly presenting this international conservation project, the point here is to raise an important question: In which direction can (and should) the border regions in the heart of Europe develop in the future (June 4, 2009 to January 10, 2010, Schlossmuseum Linz).

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The focal point of the **Extra Europa** conference was occupied by three European countries that are not members of the European Union: Turkey, Switzerland and Norway. Examining the reasons for their non-membership provides an interesting way to approach the issue of European cultural identity. This conclave had also featured an international cultural festival (March 19 to May 2, 2009) with three country-focused themes: equal rights for women (Norway), multilingualism and multiculturalism (Switzerland), and exchange between the Ottoman Empire and Europe (Turkey).

Whoever returns from an extended journey has much to tell and brings back many impressions. And so it was with Hubert von Goisern: at the **Linz Europa Harbor Festival**, he was reunited with the artists he encountered on both legs of his Linz Europa Tour 2007-2009—sailing down the Danube to the Black Sea and then up the Rhine-Main-Danube Canal to Rotterdam. Concerts featuring music from East and West revived what was emerged over the course of that musical journey—a Europe that is growing together (July 3-5, 2009).

Linz Brings Together Art, Media and Technology

In 2009, Linz was also going on a trip around the world. But this was a virtual journey via the fiber-optic cables and satellite hookups of our globalized Information Society. In cooperation with the Ars Electronica Center and voestalpine AG, **80+1** spent 80 days traveling to 20 locations worldwide at which the future was being conceived and mastered or thwarted and destroyed. Journalistic, artistic and scientific elaborations on issues such as climate change, terror, genetic engineering, migration and energy supply were providing a detailed reflection of facts & circumstances on the ground in our networked world. On the 81st and last day, all of these places and themes were brought together once again in the framework of a global conference that was the highlight of the 2009 Ars Electronica Festival (June 18 to September 6, 2009; Ars Electronica Festival September 3-8, 2009).

In his films, videos and photographic work, Turkish artist **Kutlug Ataman** brought together elements from the history of Western Modernism and questions its claim to universal validity with an analysis of those much-vaunted European “values.” **Mesopotamian Dramaturgies**

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thus raised questions about Europe's geographical, cultural, institutional, mental and ideological borders (February 13 to April 19, 2009).

Linz was flooded in 2009. The ***Klangwolke (Cloud of Sound)*** followed the stream of mankind's oldest narratives. By day, wondrous creatures were making their way through the city, the animal protagonists of ancient fables were walking among us. Come evening, scenery set up along the riverbank by the Brucknerhaus was the setting for a staged drama situated between sinking and rescue (September 5, 2009).

The ***See this Sound*** exhibition in the Lentos Museum of Modern Art deals with connecting up image and sound. Audiovisual products and structures are omnipresent and a determinative feature of our world of experience. ***See this Sound*** presents and elaborates on forms and phenomena of image and sound production as well as their consequences. The upshot is a fascinating mix at the nexus of cultural history, pop, politics, perception theory and media technology (August 28, 2009 to January 2010).

Linz09 Creates Networks

Cooperative relationships with the cultural institutions of the City of Linz and the Province of Upper Austria, with already-extant regional festivals, as well as educational facilities, associations and the local indie scene are making it possible to produce more than 200 exhibitions, projects, ideas and concepts over the course of 365 days for Linz 2009 European Capital of Culture. And that's not all: a long list of organisations including the official tourism agencies of the city and province, Linz AG, the city's cab companies, the Upper Austrian Chamber of Commerce, the ÖBB–Austrian Federal Railways, municipal agencies, and associates in the food & beverage, hospitality and retail sectors are working together with Linz09 to assure that we'll do an outstanding job as Europe's official host city.

Linz 2009 Kulturhauptstadt Europas Organisations GmbH is subsidised by the City of Linz (20 million euros), the Province of Upper Austria (20 million euros) and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Art and Culture (20 million euros). The European Union has issued a declaration of intent to contribute 1.5 million euros. Linz09 is also receiving contributions from private-sector associates and sponsors. Topping the list of Linz09 Top Club partners are voestalpine AG, ORF–Austrian Broadcasting Company and ÖBB–Austrian Federal

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Railways. As of December 2008, sponsoring agreements are adding approximately 10 million euros to Linz09's budget, including 5.9 million euros in payments-in-kind (advertising,

goods and services received). Linz09 is looking forward to even more widespread and enthusiastic support for this once-in-a-lifetime undertaking from throughout the local and regional economy.

Since November 20, "The Programme" goes on sale at the regular price of €19 at the Linz09 Infocenter on Hauptplatz, in local bookstores, and at Springer Verlag's online shop (<http://www.springer.com/springerwiennewyork/art/book/978-3-211-89215-2>). Holders of the Linz09 Card or the Linz09 Insider are entitled to purchase "The Programme" at the discount price of €9.

Press releases and photographic material not subject to royalties when used for reporting purposes can be downloaded from <http://www.linz09.at/de/presse-information.html>.

More information about Linz 2009 European Capital of Culture is available online at www.linz09.at.

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