

GALERIE KRINZINGER · SEILERSTÄTTE 16 · 1010 WIEN

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HANAKAM & SCHULLER
COSMIC COMMISSONER

Eröffnung: November 6, 2025

Duration: November 7 – November 19, 2025

Artist Talk: November 14, 2025, 5pm

Hanakam and Schuller's new animated *work Cosmic Commissioner* takes a satirical dive into the world of typical AI-generated styles such as new-age, comicesque and hyperrealism, which are based on creative commons and influenced by big tech, as well as their handling of diversity and material bases. The narrative character is the fictional *Cosmic Commissioner* - inspired by Victor Gruen, the exiled Austrian architect and urban planner - who reacts to burning environmental and security issues on Earth as a more-than-human being from the cosmos. In 1975 Gruen, godfather of the American suburban shopping mall, wrote his satirical book: *Is Progress a Crime? Environmental planning instead of the End of the World*. Gruen turned increasingly to environmental planning in the 1970s - under the influence of contemporary phenomena such as environmental destruction, the space race and nuclear armament. Scenes with architects, military personnel, urban planners and environmental activists are realised through short dialogues from Gruen's texts on the level of lyrics and synthetic disco space sounds. The project links historical and current social challenges such as global security and environmental destruction. *Cosmic Commissioner* invites you to take a reflective, humorous look at the interfaces between AI, pop culture and social challenges - a visual and acoustic journey through time, space and digital realities. The *Mise en Scène* consists of a large scale square format LED Wall carrying the animation work alongside an Expanded Dialogue in the medium of a collaged wallpaper. The video installation is complemented by collage-like wallpaper and a series of AI-generated portraits.

Markus Hanakam (b. 1979, Essen, Germany) began his academic training in 2000 at the University of Essen, Faculty of Art and Design (formerly the Folkwang School). He later continued his studies at the University of Applied Arts Vienna, completing a Magister degree in Art and Design Education (2002–2006), followed by a Magister degree in Sculpture and Multimedia (2006–2009). Together with Roswitha Schuller he held lectures, workshops, and symposias across Europe and the US, focusing on art, ecology and visual culture. They collaborate with institutions including Duke University, ISEA, Leuphana University Lüneburg, and the University of Applied Arts Vienna. **Roswitha Schuller** (b. 1984, Friesach, Austria) studied Art and Design Education at the University of Applied Arts Vienna from 2002 to 2007 and subsequently pursued studies in Sculpture and Multimedia (2006–2009). In 2012, she earned a Ph.D. in Art Sociology from the same institution with a dissertation entitled *The Role of the Arcadian in Socio-Cultural Spaces*. In addition to her artistic practice, Schuller is an active researcher in the field of Cultural Landscape Studies

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and publishes regularly in it. Since 2019, Roswitha Schuller has taught at leading Austrian art universities, is active in gender and sustainability initiatives, and was appointed head of the TransArts department at the University of Applied Arts Vienna in 2024.

Since 2004, Hanakam and Schuller have maintained a collaborative artistic practice that bridges their field in research and contemporary visual production.

Solo exhibitions have taken Hanakam&Schuller to the Kunstforum Wien, the MACAAL Museum in Marrakesh and the Museo Lapidarium Novigrad and Galerie Krinzinger in Vienna among others. Other important presentations include exhibitions at the MAK Center for Art and Architecture in Los Angeles, CCA Andratx (Mallorca), Galerie im Traklhaus (Salzburg) and MeetFactory Prague. Their works have been part of numerous international group exhibitions and media art festivals, including the Rencontres Internationales at the Louvre Paris and Haus der Kulturen der Welt Berlin, the Moscow Biennale, the WRO Media Art Biennale in Wroclaw, Sculpture by the Sea (Aarhus), the Vienna Design Week and the MAK Vienna, Museum Villa Stuck Munich and Casino Luxembourg. Hanakam&Schuller have also been active in public spaces for many years. Their projects include a permanent installation in Cape10 Vienna and installations in Klagenfurt Cathedral and the award-winning works in Carinthia. As early as 2010 they were involved in an artistic signage system for the Rhine-Herne Canal as part of Ruhr2010.

Their works are represented in various public collections, including MAK - Museum of Applied Arts Vienna, MUMOK, Museum der Moderne Salzburg, MMKK, the Artothek des Bundes and the Museo Lapidarium Novigrad. They have received numerous scholarships and grants, including the State Scholarship for Fine Arts, residencies at the Cité des Arts Paris, MeetFactory Prague and Duke University, as well as nominations for the Kapsch Art Award at MUMOK and the LOOP Barcelona Discovery Award.