curated by Jan Mot:
Ian Wilson. There is a discussion.
Chantal Akerman, Manon de Boer. Her Voice

Opening: Fri, 11th September 2026, 12−9pm and Sat, 12th & Sun, 13th September 2026, 11−6pm
Duration: 11th September until 17th October 2026

Galerie Martin Janda is part of *curated by 2026 – LOVE*, the gallery festival with international curators in Vienna. For this year's edition, the gallery presents two exhibitions curated by Jan Mot: *Ian Wilson. There is a discussion.,* a solo exhibition by **Ian Wilson**, and *Her Voice*, featuring works by **Chantal Akerman** and **Manon de Boer**. Both exhibitions run from September 11 until October 17, 2026.

Ian Wilson
There is a discussion.

There is a discussion is a work by **Ian Wilson** from 1972. It is defined by the artist as a 'statement' and takes the form of a typewritten or printed sheet of paper bearing the text 'There is a discussion' and Wilson's signature. The work is an unlimited edition and was produced till shortly before he died in 2020. *There is a discussion* represents the quintessence of Wilson's work.

After having worked as a painter in the tradition of abstract art, Wilson exchanged visual abstraction for the abstraction of language. In 1968 he started to define his conversations on the concept of time as his works. Artists are his first participants, soon followed by curators, gallerists and collectors. Over a period of five decades the discussions developed from the initial subject of "Time" (1968–1969) to "Oral Communication" (1969–1972), "The Known and Unknown" (1972–1986) and "The Absolute" (1994–2017).

Wilson is considered to be one of the most radical conceptual artists, driven by an investigation to challenge the tradition of the precious object in art. Therefore, it is no surprise that nothing material is produced in the context of his discussions, besides an announcement card in the case of public discussions, or the certificates used to confirm the transfer of ownership of the oral work. The very first person to acquire a discussion was Lawrence Weiner, another language artist, who did not need a certificate as, in his words, "The discussion was what there was."

Alongside a representative selection of certificates, the exhibition includes two other types of work. The first of which are the two *Circles*, one drawn on the floor, the other one on the wall. Both dating from 1968, they were the last visual works Wilson made and a turning point in his oeuvre. The second type is the set of artist books named *Sections*, published between 1982 and 2005 (in a small format and in a large edition) and between 1992 and 2014 (in a bigger format, each *Section* being a unique piece).

In answer to a Frieze questionnaire: ‘If you could live with only one piece of art, what would it be?’ Manon de Boer replied: “*There is a discussion* by Ian Wilson (…) It always reminds me that the basis of love, art and friendship is the exchange and sharing of thought.” (Frieze, 115, May 2008, p. 188)

Ian Wilson, born 1940 in Durban (ZA), died 2020 in New York (US).

Chantal Akerman, Manon de Boer
Her Voice.

Chantal Akerman and **Manon de Boer** are artists mainly known for their filmic works. From their oeuvres respectively, a sound piece and a sculpture are foregrounded in this show. *A Family in Brussels* is the title of a text written by Akerman and later performed by her at the Dia Center for the Arts in New York in 2001. The text is partly autobiographical and written from the perspective of different members of a family. Akerman’s voice creates a great sense of closeness. Dramatic events occur in the background or in between lines as they are delivered. Manon de Boer’s sculpture *For C.A. (Her Voice)* (2020) is an hommage to Akerman and her voice: an infinity sign made of two circles of 16 mm film.

Chantal Akerman, born 1950 in Brussels (BE), died 2015 in Paris (FR).
Manon de Boer, born 1966 in Kodaicanal (IN), lives and works in Brussels (BE).

Jan Mot

Jan Mot (*1964, Brussels) studied art history and museology in Leuven (BE) and Amsterdam (NL) and opened his gallery in Brussels in 1996 after working as an independent curator.