

# secession

Vereinigung bildender KünstlerInnen Wiener Secession  
Friedrichstraße 12, A-1010 Wien  
T. +43-1-587 53 07, F. +43-1-587 53 07-34  
office@secession.at, www.secession.at

## Press release

**Vivian Suter**

***A Stone in the Lake***

**April 28 – June 18, 2023**

**Hauptraum**

**Preview for the press:** Thursday, April 27, 2023, 10 a.m.

**Opening:** Thursday, April 27, 2023, 7 p.m.

**Exhibition talk:** Vivian Suter in conversation with Adam Szymczyk  
Thursday, April 27, 2023, 5.30 p.m.  
(in English)  
An event by the Friends of the Secession

The Secession's iconic light-filled main gallery, which opens onto a small park behind the building, would appear to be the ideal setting for a presentation of the painter Vivian Suter's oeuvre.

The Argentinean-Swiss artist has lived on a former coffee plantation in Panajachel on the shore of Guatemala's volcano-ringed Lago de Atitlán since the early 1980s, at a far remove from the art world, which for years paid her little attention. More recently, however, she has garnered considerable acclaim and her work has been shown around the world, including, most prominently, at documenta 14 in Athens and Kassel (2017).

Informed by two devastating natural disasters in 2005 and 2010—vast landslides that coated her works, which she had stored in a barn, with sludge and ostensibly destroyed them—her painterly oeuvre reflects a close interplay between art and nature. The two events mark a turning point in the evolution of her creative approach, having profoundly and lastingly changed her understanding of authorship. She initially thought of the traces of the natural phenomena as destructive damage to her canvases, but then she radically changed her mind and began to conceive of the interplay with nature as a productive and creative process. She now works on her imposing paintings both in the studio and in the open air, deliberately exposing her compositions, typically in large formats and bold colors, to the elements. The tropical garden is the scene of a playful engagement with her materials, with canvases resting on the sandy ground or hanging from trees; dust, mud, leaves, mangoes, and insects leave their traces, as do her dogs, ambling over the canvases or taking a nap on them—her paintings are shaped both by organic processes, the principle of metamorphosis, and by coincidence.

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The exhibition, the first comprehensive institutional presentation of her work in Austria, features around four hundred loose canvases, hanged in the artist's characteristic style in a dense arrangement on the walls and suspended from the ceiling, creating a situation not unlike the one in which they came into being—amid the lush jungle-like vegetation on the artist's land.

A door that is open to the park allows air to flow in that stirs the hanging canvases. It also lets in the ambient noise of the immediate surroundings—a blend of the din of traffic and birdsong. A second acoustic component is the fruit of a collaboration between Vivian Suter and her son Frank Wild: for the exhibition, they met in his sound studio to rerecord a song she wrote in the 1980s.

Vivian Suter was born in Buenos Aires in 1949 and raised in Switzerland. She lives in Panajachel, Guatemala.

The exhibition is accompanied by a publication released by the Secession and GAMeC, including an intervention of Vivian Suter, essays by Lorenzo Giusti and Dieter Roelstrate on the connection between Suter's art and her home and the surrounding landscape and a conversation with the artist about her family's ties to Vienna with Jeanette Pacher. The richly illustrated book contains hundreds of photographs Suter took with her cell phone that document her creative process and everyday life in Panajachel.

The digital publication is available for free at [https://secession.at/category/digital\\_publication](https://secession.at/category/digital_publication).

From June 23 until September 24, 2023, GAMeC – Galleria d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Bergamo, presents *Vivian Suter. Home*, a complementary solo exhibition curated by Lorenzo Giusti.

While Suter's exhibition at the Secession is on view, the mumok – Museum moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig, Vienna, will inaugurate *Fantasiefabrik*, a display of her mother Elisabeth Wild's work curated by Marianne Dobner that will be open to the public from May 5, 2023, until January 7, 2024.

Programmed by the board of the Secession  
Curated by Jeanette Pacher

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## **Publication**

### ***Vivian Suter***

Format: 17 x 24 cm

Details: Softcover, dustjacket, 168 pages

Series design concept: Sabo Day

Graphic design: Sabo Day

Texts: Lorenzo Giusti (essay), Dieter Roelstraete (essay), Jeanette Pacher (conversation)

Languages: English, Italian, German

approx. 100 images

Secession 2023

Verlag der Buchhandlung Walther und Franz König, Köln

ISBN 978-3-7533-0444-1

EUR 24,00

Intervention by the artist: Following Vivian Suter's suggestion, a dried leaf is laid into each book. It comes from a strangler fig in her garden – the tree that, with its characteristic mesh of aerial roots, was key to Vivian Suter's choice to settle on the magic spot by Lake Atitlán.

Between December 2022 and March 2023, Vivian Suter shared hundreds of photos, all taken with her mobile phone, with the designer and editor of this book. A selection of these snapshots, condensed, juxtaposed, complementing each other, now forms a kind of photographic journal. It offers insights into Suter's work on her art and everyday life, which are inextricably interwoven: Photos of canvases and paint pots in the thicket of her jungle-like garden and in the studio, of her dogs, of the house with its characteristic aquamarine green and purplish-red walls, of family pictures, of the play of light and shadow in nature and architecture. Among the many photos, one occasionally finds images of watercolours on (coloured) paper, which the artist made especially for the book.

Lorenzo Giusti's essay describes Suter's home in Panajachel, remote from the art world, as a creative centre of gravity; Dieter Roelstraete analyses the significance of landscape in Suter's paintings, which he also considers to be landscapes themselves; and in an interview with Jeanette Pacher, the artist talks about her family ties to Vienna, among other things.

**Vivian Suter** was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 1949 and moved to Basel, Switzerland in the early 1960s. There, she attended the Kunstgewerbeschule and in the 1970s and 1980s she had numerous exhibitions both in Switzerland and abroad. In the early 1980s, the artist settled away from the western art scene in Panajachel, Guatemala, where she still lives and works today. It was quiet around her until the first decade of the new millennium; since her participation in the documenta 14 in Athens and Kassel (2017), her work has received great international attention.

**Lorenzo Giusti** is an art historian and curator. Currently he is the Director of GAMEC – Gallery of Modern and Contemporary Art in Bergamo. Previously he served as director of the MAN Museum in Nuoro. He has staged exhibitions in Italy and abroad and edited publications dedicated to leading figures from twentieth-century art as well as to contemporary artists and topics. He has collaborated with public and private

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institutions, among which are Art Dubai, Venice Biennale, Palazzo Grassi – Punta della Dogana Venice, Shenzhen Animation Biennale, FRAC Corse, Triennale Milano, Palazzo Strozzi Florence and others.

**Dieter Roelstraete** is curator at the Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society at the University of Chicago. Prior to this appointment, he was a member of the curatorial team for documenta 14 in Athens and Kassel in 2017, and curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago and MuHKA in Antwerp. He is part of Thought Council, the curatorial think tank of Fondazione Prada in Milan and Venice. Roelstraete has published extensively on contemporary art and related philosophical issues.

The digital publication is available for free at [https://secession.at/category/digital\\_publication](https://secession.at/category/digital_publication).

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### Current exhibitions

Hauptraum

**Vivian Suter *A Stone in the Lake***

April 28 – June 18, 2023

Galerie

**Margaret Salmon *Monument***

April 28 – June 18, 2023

Grafisches Kabinett

**Karrabing Film Collective *They pretending not to see us...***

April 28 – June 18, 2023

### Publications

*Vivian Suter*

Softcover, dustjacket, 168 pages, EUR 24,00

*Margaret Salmon. Cinematographa. Introduction to Analogue Filmmaking*

Publication date: beginning of June

*Karrabing Film Collective. No Storyboard, No Script*

Softcover, dustjacket, 96 pages, EUR 18,00

### Permanent presentation

Gustav Klimt, *Beethoven Frieze*

*Beethoven – Painting and Music* in cooperation with  
Wiener Symphoniker

### Opening hours

Tuesday – Sunday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

### Admission

Regular € 12,00 | Students under 26 € 7,50

Seniors 65+ € 10,00 | Free admission for children under 12

### Press contact Secession

Julia Kronberger

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### Press images

download at <https://secession.at/presse>

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## ***Vivian Suter: I Would Like to Invite You for Dinner***

Auf Anregung der Secession entstand ein Gemeinschaftsprojekt zwischen Vivian Suter und ihrem Sohn, Frank Wild: In seinem Tonstudio in Panajachel nahmen sie im Februar dieses Jahres zusammen mit weiteren Musikern ein Stück auf – den Remake eines Songs, den die Künstlerin in den frühen 1980er-Jahren geschrieben und mit Martin Suter und Beat Keller eingespielt hat.

Hören Sie sich die Songs hier auf unserer Website an:

[https://secession.at/vivian\\_suter\\_song](https://secession.at/vivian_suter_song)

Reacting to a suggestion of the Secession, Vivian Suter and her son, Frank Wild, have created a joint project: In his recording studio in Panajachel, they recorded a track together with other musicians in February of this year – the remake of a song that the artist wrote in the early 1980s and recorded with Martin Suter and Beat Keller.

Listen to the songs here on our website:

[https://secession.at/vivian\\_suter\\_song](https://secession.at/vivian_suter_song)

### **I Would Like to Invite You for Dinner**

I wish you weren't indigestible,  
Soft and fluffy is my soul.  
My tummy juices, don't worry,  
Are sweet like a licorice roll.

I would like to invite you for dinner,  
Lick on some ice cream,  
Sip some champagne.  
I would lay out the street with rosy petals,  
Picking up all the rusty nails.

Slowly I will swallow you,  
Finally coming home.  
By then my tummy will be screaming:  
Constipation, constipation, constipation!

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These are the lyrics of a song by Vivian Suter written and produced in Basel in the early 1980s.

**Lyrics and vocals:** Vivian Suter

**Synthesizer:** Martin Suter

**Mastering:** Beat Keller

On occasion of her Secession exhibition, *A Stone in the Lake*, Vivian Suter and her son, Frank Wild, made a new recording of this song in February 2023 in Panajachel, Guatemala.

**Lyrics:** Vivian Suter

**Vocals:** Vivian Suter and Dammien Alexander

**Keys:** Eddy Estuardo Can Queché

**Drums:** Andy Petilú

**Bass:** Saulo Emmanuel Diaz Garcia

**Guitar:** Dammien Alexander

**Photography:** Estuardo Torres

Produced and engineered by Frank Wild at La Finca Studios

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## Vivian Suter

### Biografie | Biography

Vivian Suter, geboren 1949 in Buenos Aires, aufgewachsen in der Schweiz, lebt in Panajachel, Guatemala.  
Vivian Suter was born in Buenos Aires in 1949 and raised in Switzerland. She lives in Panajachel, Guatemala.

### Bildung | Education

1972 Kunstgewerbeschule Basel, CH

### Einzelausstellungen (Auswahl) | Solo exhibitions (selection)

- 2023 *ALLE REDEN VOM WETTER, EVERYBODY TALKS ABOUT THE WEATHER, TUTTI PARLANO DEL TEMPO*, Fondazione Prada, Venice, IT  
GAMeC, Bergamo, IT  
Secession, Vienna, AT
- 2022 *Vivian Suter*, Gladstone Gallery, Seoul, KP  
*soft and fluffy is my soul - my tommy juices don't worry - are sweet like a liquorice roll*,  
Kunstmuseum Basel | Gegenwart, Basel, CH  
*Frank = Panchito*, Karma International, Zürich, CH  
*Worm in a Water Glass*, Vleeshal, Middelburg, NL
- 2021 *Vivian Suter. Retrospektive*, Kunstmuseum Luzern, Luzern, CH *Vivian Suter*, Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia Madrid, ES *Wolf's Hour*, Gladstone Gallery, Brussels, BE
- 2020 *Vivian Suter. Bonzo's Dream*, Brücke Museum, Berlin, DE Storefront Gallery, Karma International, Zürich, CH  
*Vivian Suter: Tintin's Sofa*, Camden Arts Centre, London, UK 2019 *Vivian Suter*, ICA Boston, Boston, US  
*Vivian Suter*, Tate Liverpool, UK  
*Vivian Suter. Nisyros*, Mudam Luxembourg Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean, LU *Vivian Suter*, Gladstone Gallery, New York, US
- 2018 *La Canícula*, The Power Plant, Toronto, CA  
*Vivian Suter: el bosque interior*, Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, US *Vivian Suter: Bilder 1988-2018*, Stampa Galerie, Basel, CH
- 2017 *Vivian Suter and Elisabeth Wild*, Karma International, Los Angeles, US  
*Brotan Claveles las Solapas*, Museo Experimental el Eco, Mexico City, MX *Using Walls, Floors, and Ceilings: Vivian Suter*, Jewish Museum, New York, US
- 2015 *Vivian Suter*, Karma International, Zürich, CH *Lejos*, House of Gaga, Mexico City, MX  
*Panajachel*, The Mistake Room, Los Angeles, US
- 2014 *Vivian Suter: intrépida, featuring Elisabeth Wild: Fantasías 2*, Kunsthalle Basel, Basel, CH
- 2004 *Alrededor de mi cuarto*, Kunstmuseum Olten, Olten, CH
- 1993 Galerie Stampa, Basel, CH
- 1990 Galerie Susan Wyss, Zürich, CH
- 1985 Fundación Humboldt y Consulado Suizo, GT
- 1984 Galerie Regenbogen, Luzern, CH
- 1983 *Vivian Suter: Bilder 1981-1983*, Kunstmuseum des Kantons Thurgau, Kartause Ittingen, Warth, CH
- 1982 Galerie Fabjbasaglia, Bologna, IT  
Gallery Dossi, Bergamo, IT
- 1981 Galleria Diagramma, Milan, IT Severina Teucher, Zürich, CH



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- 1980 Galerie Stampa, Basel, CH
- 1978 Gallery ABF, Hamburg, DE
- 1977 Gallery Handschin, Basel, CH
- 1976 Gallery Elisabeth Kauffman, Olten, CH 1975 Galerie Rolf Preisig, Basel, CH
- 1973 *Vivian Suter: Hirsche*, Galerie Stampa, Basel, CH 1971 Galerie Stampa, Basel, CH

## Gruppenausstellungen (Auswahl) | Group exhibitions (selection)

- 2023 *Soft and weak like water*, The 14th Gwangju Biennale, (Artistic Director: Sook-Kyung Lee), Gwangju, KP
- 2022 *And I Trust You*, curated by Anna Miettinen and Linda Peitz, Miettinen Collection, Berlin, DE  
*Shoplifters from Venus*, Karma International, Zürich, CH  
*Forms of Fragility*, Rudolfinum, Prag, CZ  
*Sensory Poetics: Collecting Abstraction*, Guggenheim, New York, US  
*Midnight*, Coimbra Biennial of Contemporary Art, Coimbra, PT  
*What is left unspoken : love*, High Museum of Art, Atlanta, US  
*Wir sagen uns Dunkles dark things we tell each other*, curated by Christian Malycha, Miettinen Collection, Berlin, DE
- 2021 *MIT NATUR ZU TUN - TO DO WITH NATURE #2*, Galerie Stampa, Basel, CH *Breathing one's breath*, Fondation Vincent Van Gogh, Arles, FR  
*Earth Beats: Naturbild im Wandel*, Kunsthaus Zürich, Zurich, CH  
*Painting Stone*, Villa Lontana, Rome, IT  
*Desert X*, Coachella Valley, US
- 2020 *All of Them Witches*, Deitch Projects, Los Angeles, US  
*14 POSITIONEN*, Galerie Stampa, Basel, CH  
*SEÑOR, SEÑOR, DO YOU KNOW WHERE WE'RE HEADIN'?*, Achenbach Hagemeyer, Berlin, DE  
*Group show*, Galerie Stampa, Basel, CH  
*Group show*, Karma International, Zürich, CH  
*Group show*, Karma International, Zürich, CH
- 2019 *En Plein Air*, High Line, New York, US  
*Scratching the Surface*, curated by Luis Berenguer and Claudia Llanza, Travesía Cuatro, Madrid, SP  
*Gaga at Air de Paris, 20 Years Later (A Sentimental Education)*, Air de Paris, Romainville, FR *The Samovar*, Overduin & Co, Los Angeles, US  
*Contemporary Art: Five Propositions*, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, US
- 2018 *Taipei Biennial – Post Nature: A Museum as an Ecosystem*, Taipei, TW  
*Art Basel Cities: Buenos Aires*, Ex Cervecería Munich, Buenos Aires, AT  
*Spiegelgasse*, Hauser & Wirth, London, UK  
*Paradise is Now: Palm Trees in Art*, curated by Robert Grunnenberg, Miettinen Collection, Berlin, DE  
*Mothers of Men*, House of Gaga, Mexico City, MX
- 2017 *GT from 33,000 km: Contemporary Art, 1960 – Present*, Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, US  
*MIT NATUR ZU TUN - TO DO WITH NATURE*, Galerie Stampa, Basel, CH *Documenta 14*, Athens, GR and Kassel, DE  
*CONDO New York*, Simon Preston Gallery, New York, US
- 2016 *Lanzarote*, Union Pacific, London, UK *X Bienal de Nicaragua*, Managua, NI  
*Raum 1 + 2*, Galerie Stampa, Basel, CH 2015 *Blocking*, Martos Gallery LA, Los Angeles, US  
*Zürich & Elsewhere*, Carlos / Ishikawa, London, UK 2014 *31st Sao Paulo Biennial*, São Paulo, BR

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- 2013 *Concepción 41*, Fundacion de arte contemporáneo, Antigua, GT  
*Olinka or Where Movement is Created*, Museo Tamayo, Mexico City, MX
- 2011 *6 Künstler aus Basel x2*, Kunsthalle Basel, Basel, CH
- 2010 *Cuatro artistas de Suiza, Rut Himmelsbach, Monika Sennhauser, Vivian Suter und Elisabeth Wild*, Galeria, Panajachel, GT
- 2006 *Room 1 and 2*, Galerie Stampa, Basel, CH  
*MEDIUM FOTOGRAFIE*, Galerie Stampa, Basel, CH 1999 Galerie Rudolf Mangisch, Zürich, CH
- 1988 Exhibition Collection Bankverein, Basel, CH 1983 Swiss Center Gallery, New York, US  
ARTE e CRITICA, Pisa, IT
- 1982 Gallery Nouvelles Images, The Hague, NL
- 1981 *6 Künstler aus Basel*, Kunsthalle Basel, Basel, CH  
*Aspekte Junger Schweizer Kunst*, Gallery Nächst St. Stephan, Vienna, AT *Aspekte Junger Schweizer Kunst*, Galerie Krinzinger, Innsbruck, AT Gallery Eva Keppel, Düsseldorf, DE
- 1980 Gallery Eva Keppel, Düsseldorf, DE  
*22 Swiss Artists*, Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna, Lisbon, PT
- 1979 *Europa 79*, Stuttgart, DE
- 1978 *Sechs Basler Künstler*, Kunstsammlung Thun, Thun, CH 1970 *Galerie Stampa*, Basel, CH

## Preise | Awards

- 2021 Schweizer Grand Prix Kunst, Prix Meret Oppenheim 2021, CH
- 2016 Golden Pineapple, La Gran Biental Tropical 2, San Juan, PR

## Publications

- 2019 Hussey, Miciah, ed. Vivian Suter. Berlin: Hatje Cantz Verlag, 2019.  
Wu, Mali and Manacorda, Francesco, eds. Taipei Biennial 2018 Post Nature: A Museum as an Ecosystem. Taipei Taiwan: Taipei Fine Arts Museum, July 2019.
- 2017 Szymczyk, Adam and Quinn Latimer, eds. Documenta14: Daybook. Germany: Prestel, 2017.
- 2004 Suter, Martin. Alrededor de mi cuarto. Olten: Kunstmuseum Olten, 2004.
- 1983 Vivian Suter: Bilder 1981 – 1983. Warth: Kunstmuseum des Kantons Thurgau Kartause Ittingen, 1983.
- 1981 Suter, Vivian. Vivian Suter: Kunsthalle Basel. Basel: Die Kunsthalle, 1981. Situation Schweiz. Vienna: Galerie nächst St. Stephan, 1981.
- 1979 Vier Arbeiten. Rome: Swiss Institute, 1979.
- 1978 Basler Künstler: Vivian Suter, Ludwig Stocker, Pierre Raetz, Carlo Aloe, Corsin Fontana, Stephan Zwahlen : Katalog der Ausstellung, Kunstsammlung der Stadt Thun, im Thunerhof, 14.9. - 22.10.1978. Thun: Kunstsammlung der Stadt Thun, 1978.
- 1975 158 Leute, die ich zwischen dem 26.6.1973 und dem 14.4.1974 auf meiner Reise kennen gelernt habe. Hamburg/Brussels and Basel: Edition Lebeer/Hossmann and Rolf Preisig, 1975.

## Sammlungen | Collections

Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, US; Bundesamt für Kultur, CH; Tate Collection, London, UK; Contemporary Art Museum of Luxembourg, LU; Miettinen Collection, Berlin, DE; Jewish Museum, New York, US; Guggenheim Museum, New York, US; MCA Chicago, Chicago, US; MFA Boston, Boston, US; Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst, CH; Ricola Collection, Laufen, CH; Burger Collection, Hong Kong, HK; Fleming Collection, SCT; Ringier Collection, Zürich, CH; Godiva Collection, Ardoorie, BE; Rudolfinum Collection, Prague, CZ

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## Art Education Program

Friday, 12.5., 4:30 pm

**Focus Film: Margaret Salmon & Karrabing Film Collective**

Curator's tour with Bettina Spörr and Annette Südbeck in German. Free of charge.

Thursday, 4.5., 5 pm

**Integrationswochen**

Guided tour with focus on the Karrabing Film Collective. Free of charge. Registration:

[kunstvermittlung@secession.at](mailto:kunstvermittlung@secession.at)

Thursday, 24.5., 5 pm

**Dialogue tour through the exhibition by Vivian Suter**

with Jeanette Pacher, curator, and Florian Langhammer, Collectors Agenda. Free of charge.

Friday, 16.6., 10 am – 6 pm

**Karlstag**

In cooperation with the cultural institutions at Karlsplatz. Guided tours free of charge.

Sunday, 18.6., 5 pm

**Nearly missed it?**

Join us on a last-minute guided tour of the exhibitions by Vivian Suter, Margaret Salmon, and Karrabing Film Collective.

Wednesday, 3.5. and Wednesday, 7.6.

**The Secession Turns 125**

The Secession first opened its doors 125 years ago, on November 12, 1898. Come celebrate with us! On occasion of the anniversary, we offer free admission on the first Wednesday of every month throughout 2023.

**Every Saturday**

History of the Secession, architecture, and current exhibitions Overview tours at 11 am in English and at 2 pm in German.

Admission plus € 3,- guide fee per person. Kids under 12 free of charge. The guided tours are also available by appointment.