

PRESS RELEASE

fjk3 – Contemporary Art Space

Franz-Josefs-Kai 3
1010 Wien, Austria

Lucy McKenzie *Orchestrion*

Thu, June 5, 2025, 5.30 pm

Lucy McKenzie in conversation with Nina Schedlmayer

Thu, June 5, 2025, 7 pm

Exhibition opening

Exhibition:

June 6, 2025 – Jan, 2026

Opening hours:

Wed – Sun: 12 noon – 6 pm

Fri: 12 noon – 8 pm

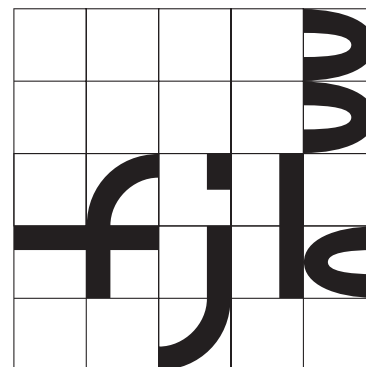
Curator:

Fiona Liewehr

Lucy McKenzie gained international acclaim for her **virtuoso use of illusionistic trompe-l'œil techniques** that she often embeds in narrative spatial arrangements.

Her interdisciplinary work, which comprises **painting, sculpture, architecture, fashion, and design**, focuses on art and culture as mediabased forms of expression of social and political conditions. More specifically, her interest centers on subjects such as **public spaces, commercial art, consumer culture, and political propaganda**. One of the key questions that inform her artistic practice is how they influence the depiction of women and the associated genderspecific power relations.

Visitors entering the exhibition are greeted by a Faux Sports Shop, an installation McKenzie developed in collaboration with designer Beca Lipscombe and professional window dressers. **Garments are suspended from nylon threads against a painted background** that is reminiscent of a fashion store from a past era. The display window becomes a stage for consumer culture props while, in other exhibits, mannequins embody hybridity and raise questions around **high versus mass culture**.



Contemporary Art Space

Elsewhere in the exhibition McKenzie reflects on statues in public space and monumental wall painting. Here the artist translates an **iconic movie scene from American Psycho** into a feminist counter-narrative. McKenzie repeatedly confronts fixed images with unsettling shifts of context.

On the lower floor of fjk3, she turns her attention to both the work and **controversial biography of architect Adolf Loos** (1870–1933), one of the most eminent proponents of Viennese Modernism who was indicted on charges of child sexual abuse in 1928. With an expansive architectural sculpture, a video piece, drawings and ready-mades, she builds a tense atmosphere that juxtaposes avant-garde ingenuity and patriarchal abuse of power.

Lucy McKenzie's show at fjk3 also presents works inspired by moving **panoramas and dioramas from the late nineteenth century**, which are considered precursors to cinema and the immersive entertainment of the twentieth and twentyfirst century, and were prevalent in the Prater amusement park. At the conclusion of their tour of the exhibition, visitors are thus invited to step into a train cabin with a panoramic view of a passing landscape, which draws on stylistic details of the Kärntner Bar that Loos designed now transformed

into an amusement ride that can provide a temporary space of privacy and clandestine encounters.

Orchestrion is McKenzie's first institutional solo exhibition in Austria. The title references a **music automaton from the nineteenth century** that was, in its day, able to imitate an entire orchestra and is now part of this exhibition courtesy of a loan from the Wien Museum. In *Orchestrion*, Lucy McKenzie takes on the role of a conductor, as it were, who arranges her works in a densely evocative visual concert, so as to critically reflect on the present moment through the prism of the past.

Orchestrion is presented in cooperation with Z33 (Hasselt), Galerie Daniel Buchholz (Berlin/Cologne/New York), Cabinet Gallery (London), and CRAC Sète (France).

Lucy McKenzie was born in 1977 in Glasgow, she lives and works in Brussels. She studied at the Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design in Dundee and at the Van Der Kelen-Logelain Institute in Brussels, where she learned traditional painting techniques such as trompe-l'œil, wood, and marble imitation. Since 2011, she has been working with designer Beca Lipscombe on the interdisciplinary fashion label Atelier E.B, which merges fashion, art, and exhibition design. Their joint exhibition *Passer By* was shown from 2018 to 2020, including at Serpentine Galleries in London, Lafayette Anticipations in Paris, and the Garage Museum of Contemporary Art in Moscow. McKenzie has had numerous solo exhibitions, including at the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam, Museum Ludwig in Cologne, and MoMA in New York. Her retrospective *Prime Suspect* was presented in 2020/21 at the Museum Brandhorst in Munich and Tate Liverpool. Most recently, in 2024, the Z33 in Hasselt, Belgium dedicated a major solo exhibition to her.

Accompanying Program to the Exhibition

Lectures:

Trompe-l'œil – The Art of Illusion

Friday, June 27, 2025, 7:00 PM

Consumer and Leisure Culture of the 19th and Early 20th Century

Friday, July 11, 2025, 7:00 PM

Talk:

Architecture and Gender: Adolf Loos

Friday, September 19, 2025, 7:00 PM

The lectures and the talk will be held in German language.

Sunday Guided Tours:

June 15, 5:00 PM

June 22, 5:00 PM

July 20, 5:00 PM September 7, 5:00 PM

September 21, 5:00 PM

Private tours (max. 25 participants)
can be booked at: info@fjk3.com

For further inquiries, please contact us at:
presse@fjk3.com