

# Phileas

THE AUSTRIAN OFFICE FOR  
CONTEMPORARY ART

Press Information

Gisèle Vienne: LOVE LETTER



Gisèle Vienne, Series *PORTRAITS* 2003 - 2024, 48/63. © Gisèle Vienne.

## Gisèle Vienne: LOVE LETTER

Based on collaborations with Haus am Waldsee, Berlin, Germany  
and 12th SITE Santa Fe International, New Mexico, USA

Phileas, Opernring 17, 1010 Vienna  
1 October 2025 – 17 January 2026  
Opening: Tuesday, 30 September 2025, 7 pm

From 1 October 2025 to 17 January 2026 Phileas – The Austrian Office for Contemporary Art presents the solo exhibition *Gisèle Vienne: LOVE LETTER*. The exhibition at Opernring 17 presents the sculptural and photographic work of Austrian-French artist Gisèle Vienne for the first time in Austria on the occasion of two recent international projects co-produced by Phileas: her solo exhibition at Haus am Waldsee in Berlin (2024/25), curated by Anna Gritz, and her participation in SITE Santa Fe International 2025 in the US, curated by Cecilia Alemani.

On display are Vienne's life-sized dolls, which the artist has created over the past twenty years as an ensemble of around eighty figures. From the beginning of her practice, these figures have played a central role in her dance-theatre productions and films, alongside live dancers and actors.

The dolls often depict teenagers in crisis, whose inner social conflicts become visible through their bodies. For Vienne, they serve as a medium to reflect on the body and the psyche, as well as on silence and stillness—concepts she understands as political, as they shape the ways in which we perceive the world. Silence and stillness represent distinct kinds of experiences, ones that are never entirely mute or motionless.

Vienne's practice is based on an expanded definition of choreography, in which the semiotics of the body play a central role. She treats the exhibition space as a stage, engaging with its choreographic dimensions. She regards the interaction of bodies in space and time as a form of language that often goes unnoticed. Her work explores modes of expression that invite viewers to look and listen more carefully.

## About Gisèle Vienne

Gisèle Vienne is an artist, choreographer, theatre director and film director. In the past decades her productions have toured Europe, Asia and the Americas. Her work has been shown in numerous international institutions including the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, the Centre Pompidou in Paris, the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes in Buenos Aires, the Centre d'Art Contemporain in Geneva and the Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris. In 2024/2025 she presented simultaneously two exhibitions for Haus am Waldsee and Georg Kolbe Museum in Berlin. Currently, a selection of her works is on display at the 12<sup>th</sup> SITE Santa Fe International in New Mexico, USA.

## Public Programme

### Film Screening followed by an Artist Talk

Wednesday, 1 October 2025, 6 pm

Stadtkino im Künstlerhaus Wien, Akademiestraße 13, 1010 Vienna

One day after the exhibition opening at Phileas, Gisèle Vienne's films *Jerk* and *Kerstin Kraus* will be screened at the Stadtkino.

*Jerk* is a work of fiction, based on true events, and reconstructs the brutal crimes of American serial killer Dean Corll in a disturbing puppet show. In the 1970s, Corll murdered more than twenty boys with the help of two teenagers. The film explores the mechanisms of violence with great intensity, beginning with a dehumanizing gaze.

In *Kerstin Kraus*, a disturbing, seemingly sibling-like relationship unfolds between Kerstin Kraus and Frankie, the ventriloquist's dummy of her deceased, world-famous father. The film offers a brief glimpse into Kerstin's complicated childhood, which appears to have led to a dissociative state – a split consciousness – in which she seems trapped.

This screening is dedicated to Peter Rehberg, founder of the cult Viennese label Editions Mego, who composed the music for both films and to Kerstin Daley.

Following the screening, there will be a conversation between the artist and dramaturge and curator Tarun Kade.

Admission is free, please register at: [screening@phileas.art](mailto:screening@phileas.art)

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Opening Hours:  
Tuesday – Friday, 11 am – 5 pm  
Saturday, 11 am – 3 pm

### Further information

[www.phileas.art/giselevienne-press](http://www.phileas.art/giselevienne-press)  
[www.phileas.art/exhibition-space/giselevienne](http://www.phileas.art/exhibition-space/giselevienne)

### Press Contact

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