

Phileas

THE AUSTRIAN OFFICE FOR
CONTEMPORARY ART

Press Information

Greta Schödl: Street Poetry



Greta Schödl, *Marmo di Trani* (Trani Marble), 2024. Photo by Giorgio Benni

Greta Schödl: Street Poetry

Phileas, Opernring 17, 1010 Vienna

29 January – 26 April 2025

Opening: Tuesday, 28 January 2025, 7 – 9 pm

From 29 January to 26 April 2025, Phileas – The Austrian Office for Contemporary Art presents the first solo exhibition of artist Greta Schödl in Austria in more than 40 years.

Following her participation in the main exhibition of the 60th International Art Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia 2024, Schödl's work can now be seen in the country of her birth, where it has remained largely unknown until now. The exhibition titled *Street Poetry* traces her artistic development from the 1950s in Vienna through to the present day, and includes works on paper, found objects, photographs of historical performances, and several marble sculptures that were shown in Venice in 2024.

Following her studies in Vienna, Schödl emigrated to Italy in 1959 and over the following decades became a prominent figure within the Poesia Visiva ('Visual Poetry') movement, frequently collaborating with the artist and poet Mirella Bentivoglio. Writing has a central role in Schödl's art, overlaid on natural materials such as stone and handmade paper as well as found textiles and household objects such as ironing boards, dishcloths, and bed linen. It is often the name of the object itself that is systematically reproduced from left to right. The letters and symbols are repeated in a precise methodology until they become almost abstract. The emphasis is less on the content and meaning of the writing itself, and more on the visual appearance of the script and its rhythmic arrangement on the surface. Small golden marks, often placed within the empty spaces of vowels, create accents that highlight these patterns. Writing is liberated from its original function and instead develops an independence, revealing the interplay between language and image.

About Greta Schödl

Greta Schödl (born in 1929 in Hollabrunn) studied Textile Art at the Academy of Applied Arts in Vienna, where she received the prestigious Academy Prize on completing her studies in 1953. Six years later, in 1959, she married the Italian designer Dino Gavina and moved with him to Bologna, where she has lived and worked ever since.

Her engagement with writing and language led her in the 1970s to become involved with the Poesia Visiva ('Visual Poetry') movement, centred around the artist and poet Mirella Bentivoglio. In 1977, she had a solo exhibition in Vienna at the Künstlerhaus. The following year, in 1978, Schödl participated in the exhibition *Materializzazione del linguaggio* (Materialization of Language) as part of the 38th Venice Biennale, invited by Bentivoglio. A few years later, in 1981, she also exhibited at the 16th Bienal de São Paulo, in Brazil.

In 2024, she participated in the main exhibition of the 60th Venice Biennale, curated by Adriano Pedrosa and supported by Phileas. Greta Schödl is represented by Richard Saltoun Gallery.

Further Information

www.phileas.art/gretaschoedl-press

www.phileas.art/exhibition-space/gretaschoedl

Press Contact

Phileas - The Austrian Office for Contemporary Art

Catharina Cramer

press@phileas.art

+43 660 397 3514

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Based on her participation at the 60th International Art Exhibition –
La Biennale di Venezia

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Opening Hours:

Tuesday – Friday, 11 am – 5 pm
Saturday, 11 am – 3 pm

Public Programme

“Ring a Ring o’ Roses”

A workshop for children

Saturday, 15 February 2025, 2 pm, Opernring 17, 1010 Vienna

In this workshop, our youngest visitors (ages 6 to 10) will have the opportunity to explore the work of Greta Schödl with art educator Julia Haimburger. Inspired by Schödl’s pieces, in which image and language merge, the children will be encouraged to tap into their own creativity and create their own art works.

Limited places available, please register at: events@phileas.art

Public tours of the exhibition

Opernring 17, 1010 Vienna

Throughout the exhibition, Phileas will offer informal walk-throughs in the company of artists, authors, and curators. The dates will be announced in advance on Phileas’ website and Instagram.