

secession

WIENER FEST WOCHEN

Press release

Maria Hassabi: HERE

May 14 – June 20, 2021

Hauptraum

A joint project of Vienna Secession and Wiener Festwochen.

With: Elena Antoniou, Maria Hassabi, Michael Helland, Alice Heyward, Oisín Monaghan, Robert Steijn. Sound design: Stavros Gasparatos. Outfits: Victoria Bartlett. Architectural study: Maria Maneta, Maria Hassabi. Production management: Eva Theofanidou, Natasha Katerinopoulos

Press preview: Wednesday, May 12, 2021, 5 p.m.
Please register at presse@secession.at

First day of the exhibition: Thursday, May 13, 2021, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Free admission

Exhibition talk: Monday, June 14, 2021, 7 p.m. (tbc)
Maria Hassabi in conversation with Catherine Wood
An event by the Friends of the Secession

Vienna Secession and Wiener Festwochen are pleased to present a newly commissioned work by artist and choreographer Maria Hassabi. *HERE*, her expansive exhibition, will premiere in Vienna before travelling to Athens and Turin in the 2021/22 season.

Taking place during opening hours, the live installation invites visitors to share time and presence with six dancers in the Secession's iconic exhibition hall. Over several weeks they will navigate a choreography that unfolds at a decelerated pace within a sculptural environment. Embedded in a sound composition, a female voice counting the seconds from 1 to 14,399 fades in and out, underlining the eternal succession of time. Immersed in this continuum, the dancers' movements create a situation of everchanging presence, one that demonstrates the slippery nature of "here-ness."

The dancers' extended stillness forces them to slip in and out of affirming their presence and here-ness as it becomes ever more difficult to distinguish whether they are unconscious or resting,

self-sufficient or in a state of crisis. Yet their apparent passivity is the result of physical attention and virtuosity. Muscles tremble, eyes squint, sweat drips, breath becomes visible. These micro-movements—the physical side-effects of time and labour—can anchor both the dancers' and the viewers' awareness to the present moment.

Since the early 2000s, Maria Hassabi has carved a unique choreographic practice that concentrates on stillness and the in-betweenness of bodies in motion. Considering conventions, hierarchies and codes common in theatres, museums, and public spaces, her acclaimed works always reflect the given context of their presentation and are developed in dialogue with a site's unique architecture. Her live installations reformat the principles of a theatrical performance into an exhibition that spans days, weeks, or months, adapting their duration to the opening hours of the venue. At the centre of these works, stillness and deceleration are utilized as both technique and subject, as the performing body oscillates between dance and sculpture, subject and object, live body and still image. The setup of the work allows visitors to keep to their usual behaviour within institutions while giving them time to consider the live bodies both as physical entities and still image embedded with multiple references.

Maria Hassabi, born in Cyprus. Lives and works in New York and Athens.

HERE is commissioned by Vienna Secession and Wiener Festwochen.
Co-produced with Onassis Culture, Athens, and OGR – Officine Grandi Riparazioni, Torino.
Developed with the support of Milvus Artistic Research Center (MARC), Knislinge, Sweden and Onassis Stegi, Athens.

The exhibition program is conceived by the board of the Secession.
Curator: Jeanette Pacher

Artistic Director Wiener Festwochen: Christophe Slagmuylder
Executive Director: Wolfgang Wais
Dramaturgy: Carolina Nöbauer

Artist's book

Maria Hassabi. 2015 – 2021

Format: 24 x 31 cm

Details: Hardcover, thread binding, 200 pages

Concept: Maria Hassabi

ca. 280 images

Secession 2021

Distribution: Revolver

€ 35,-

Opening hours

With the start of Maria Hassabi's exhibition, we are extending the opening hours from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Press images

Installation views are available for download at <https://www.secession.at/en/presstype/aktuell/>

Press contact Secession

Julia Kronberger

T. +43 1 587 53 07-10

E-Mail: julia.kronberger@secession.at

Press contact Wiener Festwochen

Anne Zimmermann

T: + 43 1 589 22 330, M +43 664 22 589 36

E-Mail: a.zimmermann@festwochen.at

secession

Association of Visual Artists Vienna Secession
Friedrichstraße 12, A-1010 Vienna, Austria
T +43-1-587 53 07, office@secession.at
www.secession.at

Exhibitions

Hauptraum

Maria Hassabi: HERE

May 14 – June 20, 2021

Galerie

Daniel Dewar & Grégory Gicquel

March 26 – June 20, 2021

Grafisches Kabinett

Yuji Agematsu. 2020

March 26 – June 20, 2021

Artist's books

Maria Hassabi. 2015 – 2021, 200 pages, ca. 280 images, € 35,-

Daniel Dewar & Grégory Gicquel. Sculptures in the Round,
112 pages, 112 images, € 26,40

Yuji Agematsu. Four Seasons, 128 pages, ca. 250 images, € 35,-

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

Adults € 9,50; Pupils, students and senior citizens € 6,-

Press contact Secession

Julia Kronberger

T. +43 1 587 53 07-10, julia.kronberger@secession.at

Press images

download at <https://www.secession.at/en/presstype/aktuell/>

Main Sponsor



Public funding and supporters:



 Bundesministerium
Kunst, Kultur,
öffentlicher Dienst und Sport

freunde
der
secession

Christian und Franziska
Hausmaninger

Cooperation-, media partners, sponsors:



VÖSLAUER

legero united
Initiator of con-tempus.eu



Co-production:

ONASSIS
CULTURE



secession

WIENER FEST WOCHEN

Biografie Maria Hassabi

Maria Hassabi ist Künstlerin und Choreografin.

Geboren auf Zypern, lebt und arbeitet sie in New York und Athen.

Ihre Performances und Installationen sind weltweit in Theatern, Museen, Galerien und im öffentlichen Raum zu sehen, u. a. Gropius Bau, Berlin; Serralves Museum, Porto; MUDAM, Luxemburg; Pulitzer Arts Foundation, St. Louis; Centre Pompidou, Paris; K20 Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf; documenta14, Kassel; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; 55. Biennale Venedig; Kunstenfestivaldesarts, Brüssel; Art Sonje Center, Seoul; Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne; sowie MoMA, Performa Biennial und The Kitchen, New York.

Hassabi ist Trägerin des 2019 Performa Malcolm McLaren Award. 2016 erhielt sie den New York Dance and Performance Award "Bessie", 2015 den Herb Alpert Award und 2012 den President's Award for Performing Arts des Lower Manhattan Cultural Council. Sie ist ein 2011 Guggenheim Fellow und von 2019 bis 2029 Onassis Decade Resident.

Biography Maria Hassabi

Maria Hassabi is an artist and choreographer.

Born in Cyprus, she lives and works in New York City and Athens.

Since the early 2000s, her performances and installations have been exhibited worldwide in theatres, museums, art galleries and public spaces, among others the Gropius Bau, Berlin; Serralves Museum, Porto; MUDAM, Luxembourg; Pulitzer Arts Foundation, St. Louis; Centre Pompidou, Paris; K20 Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf; documenta 14, Kassel; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; 55th Venice Biennale; Kunstenfestivaldesarts, Brussels; Art Sonje Center, Seoul; Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne; as well as MoMA, Performa Biennial and The Kitchen, New York.

In 2019, Maria Hassabi received the Performa Malcolm McLaren Award. In 2016, she was the recipient of the New York Dance and Performance Award "Bessie"; in 2015, of the Herb Alpert Award; and in 2012, of the President's Award for Performing Arts from the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council. She is a 2011 Guggenheim Fellow and, from 2019 to 2029, a Decade Resident of the Onassis Foundation.