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Foto: Innsbruck Art Biennial

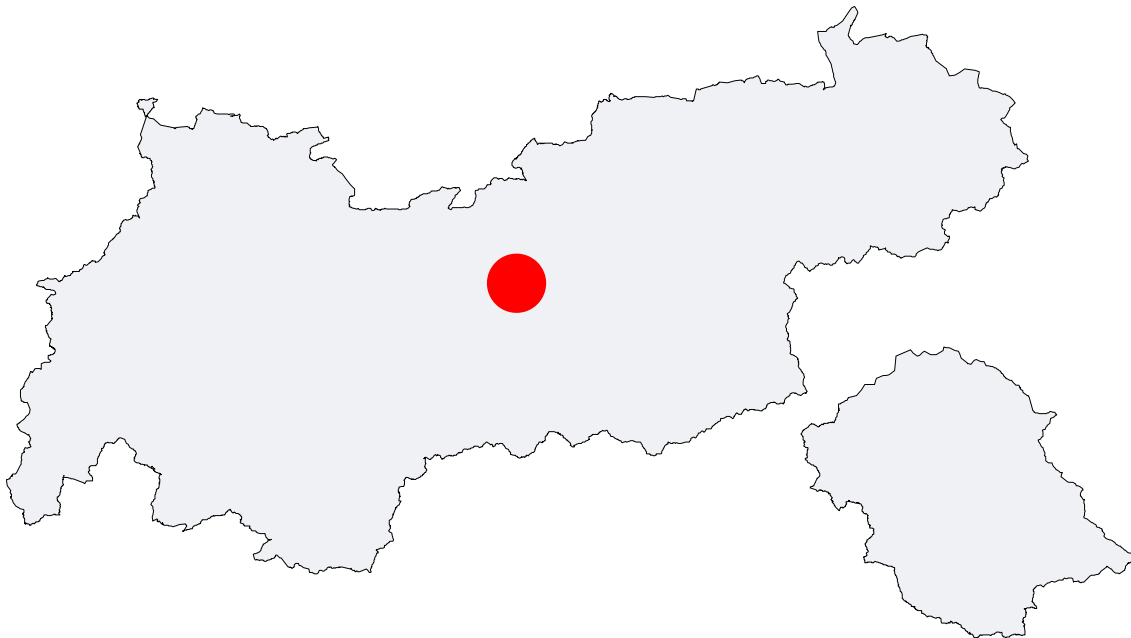
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CULTURE

Art Biennial on Welcome Culture

The "Innsbruck International" art biennial will host the state capital this year under the motto "Human Capital". Political art on the subject of welcome culture can also be seen in several locations with various artistic means.

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Although there is no official recommendation for visitors in which chronology the venues of "Innsbruck International" should be visited, it is nevertheless advisable to first visit the "Welcome Center" in the glass cube near the Tyrolean State Theater. There the mood is set and the attitude of the Innsbruck art biennial is shown. For "political reasons" this place was named, said Biennale director Teresa Kotyk on Thursday during a press tour in Innsbruck.

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Political statements

They wanted to "welcome everyone" and to give a clear rejection of ideas such as "exit centers", which had only recently been considered, she added. In the "Welcome Center", you quickly notice signs that were used during a demonstration in London a few years ago. It says "Open Borders" or "We are all foreigners". It is a work of art by the artist Nada Prlja, as one of the curators present, Chris Clarke, made known. They like to work with foreign material and make it their own, he explained.

In the center of the room there are chairs arranged in a circle, on the seats of which inscriptions primarily deal with hatred and fascism. The overall message in this room is very clear: openness to other cultures is not only desirable, but an absolute prerequisite for this biennial art experience. This openness can and must also be transferred to the understanding of art itself.



Foto: ORF

Soundinstallation im Hofgarten

You need that openness when you go to the sound installation by Etel Adnan and Ulrike Haag. In the newly renovated music pavilion in Innsbruck's Hofgarten, you can only expect to have sat on the green benches in the interior, abstract noises and scarcely understandable fragments of speech. "We also wanted a view from the pavilion into the green of the courtyard garden," said Kotyk about the location for the sound installation. In any case, nature and sounds form a symbiosis far beyond the specific "Open Borders" demands.



Foto: ORF

The bandstand in Innsbruck's Hofgarten

Bogenmeile, Servitenkloster and Kunstraum

In contrast, a very tangible reference to the present can be experienced again in the "A4" gallery. In a short film by Cecilia Stenbom you can see two friends, one of whom is afraid of viruses and the like in a shopping center. "The film was made before Corona, of course, but has now gained new relevance," Kotyk emphasized.



Foto: ORF

Other art venues from "Innsbruck International" include a room on Bachlechnerstrasse, the Kesselhaus, Bogen 55 of the city's arch mile, the art pavilion, the Servitenkloster and the Innsbruck art space. In addition to the permanently installed works of art and installations, you can also expect performances or concerts. The Innsbruck Art Biennial starts on Saturday and

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Link:

- [Innsbruck International Biennale 2020](http://2020.innsbruckinternational.com/de/) (<http://2020.innsbruckinternational.com/de/>)