

**Discussion on art in public space
Walking is The Constant – The Art Medium is The Variable
with Hamish Fulton and Michael Höpfner**

**on Tuesday, 29 November 2016, 18:00
in the Kunstraum Niederoesterreich, Herrengasse 13, 1010 Vienna**

After a series of talks on the thematic topic of art in public space, the next discussion concentrates on two artistic positions: Kunst im öffentlichen Raum in cooperation with Kunstraum Niederoesterreich has invited Hamish Fulton and Michael Höpfner to present their works and reflect on the concepts of walking, performance, public art and environmental engagement; the talk will be moderated by curator and museum director Lorenzo Giusti of the MAN_Museo D'Arte Provincia Di Nuoro. The lectures and the discussion will be held in English.

“Walking is part of life; art reflects life in the most varied ways. Walking is a simple form of existence and it is a direct way to perceive our environment: the process always remains the same – one step follows the next.

People’s thinking and the arts change over the years; walking is the constant. Hamish Fulton has been walking for more than 40 years and making art with and about it. For Michael Höpfner walking is likewise the search for a different state of being that makes artistic action possible in the first place.

Höpfner met Fulton 20 years ago at the beginning of his studies – since then their paths have repeatedly crossed in deserted landscapes, without necessarily having to meet.

Both seek and explore people’s relationship to nature. Both have repeatedly travelled in Asia, for various reasons but nevertheless following a similar idea. In many of their wanderings both have sought a direct confrontation with still unspoilt landscapes, with lifestyles of people who have a deeper, ancient understanding of nature; people who demand a different form of freedom, stubbornly subordinate themselves to nature and reject to follow any state of law and order.

Walking isn’t art, it is a simple state of human life.”
(Michael Höpfner)

Hamish Fulton, * 1946 in London, lives and works near Canterbury. Fulton studied at St Martin’s School of Art, London, and the Royal College of Art, London. Solo exhibitions i.a. in the Turner Contemporary, Margate / GB (2011); Museo Transfrontaliero del Monte Bianco, Courmayeur / IT (2010); Museo Extremeño e Iberoamericano de Arte Contemporáneo, Badajoz / SP (2009); Center for Contemporary Art, Kitakyushu / JP and Museum of Modern Art, NY (2006); Museum for Modern and Contemporary Art, Bolzano and Museion Bolzano, Bolzano (2005); Haus Konstruktiv, Zürich, CH (2004); and Tate Britain, London (2002).

Michael Höpfner, *1972 in Krems/Donau, lives in Vienna. Degree at the Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna, and the Glasgow School of Art. Exhibitions i.a. in the Tresor, Kunstforum Wien (2015), in the MAN, Sardinia (2015), in the Camera Austria in the Kunsthaus Graz (2015), in the Kunsthalle St. Gallen (2013) and in the Sienna Art Institute (2013).