

ARSENAL WIEN

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FOTO ARSENAL WIEN

Arsenal Objekt 19A, 1030 Wien

Christine de Grancy **Above the World, Beyond the Ages**

28 June – 21 September 2025
Opening: 27 June 2025

A majestic eagle sits atop the roof of the Hofburg, gazing out over the rooftops of Vienna. From dizzying heights, Christine de Grancy (1942–2025) pursued the emotions of power and powerlessness with her camera for decades.

Since 1975, the artist has told the story of the former Habsburg Empire's capital through the perspective of stone witnesses to time, whose legacy the small republic and its people must carry. Vienna's identity is also rooted in its hierarchies and the torn divide between above and below, between power and powerlessness, between history and the present.

From the 1980s onward, her extensive travel photography has focused on life in regions marked by political and social upheaval and often underrepresented – such as the Sahrawi refugee camps, Tuareg women in the Sahara, polo players in Pakistan, and the Roma in the Czech Republic.

Between 1979 and 1992, de Grancy also revolutionized theatre photography as the official photographer of Vienna's Burgtheater, capturing dynamic, candid moments during rehearsals and performances.

A Lifework in Images – Over 200 Works at FOTO ARSENAL WIEN

FOTO ARSENAL WIEN presents Christine de Grancy's visual narratives *Above the World, Beyond the Ages* for the first time. Of all the gods and goddesses on the rooftops, Mnemosyne is missing – the mother of the nine

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muses and goddess of memory. Expanded by selected moments from her life's work, this exhibition pays tribute to the recently deceased artist.

More information at www.fotoarsenalwien.at

Biography

After studying ceramics, pottery and applied graphics at the Ortweinschule in Graz, Christine de Grancy began working in 1963 as a graphic designer and art director in advertising agencies in Vienna. From 1975 onward, she increasingly turned her focus to artistic photography, with a special emphasis on the city of Vienna.

Beginning in the 1980s, she created an equally extensive body of travel photography that took her to Greece, Russia, Japan, the USA, Algeria, Western Sahara, Portugal, China, Tibet, Pakistan, Turkey, Georgia, Niger and Mali. From 1979 to 1992, de Grancy photographed at Vienna's Burgtheater. In 1993, the French magazine *PHOTO* listed her among the 100 best photographers in the world. In 2002, she was awarded the Gold Medal of Merit of the State of Vienna. Her work has been exhibited at the Austrian Theatre Museum (2022), the Jewish Museum Vienna (2015), WestLicht (2002), the LEICA Gallery in New York (2001), the IX Biennale Internazionale di Fotografia in Turin (2001), the *Visa pour l'Image* festival in Perpignan (1993 and 1999), and La Gacilly Baden (2022), among others.

With thanks to the BMEIA for providing the images.

In cooperation with AnzenbergerGallery

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About FOTO ARSENAL WIEN

FOTO ARSENAL WIEN is Austria's new center for photographic images and lens-based media. Initiated by the city of Vienna in fall 2022, the institution presents and explains contemporary photography in all its forms and uses. FOTO ARSENAL WIEN also organizes the platform FOTO WIEN—Austria's largest, biennial photography festival—and, in a collaboration with the Kunst-halle Wien, the annual Festival Vienna Digital Cultures.

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