

# ARSENAL WIEN

# FOTO

## SCIENCE/FICTION—A NON-HISTORY OF PLANTS

October 4, 2025–January 18, 2026, FOTO ARSENAL WIEN

Opening in conjunction with FOTO WIEN: October 3, 2025, 7 p.m.,  
FOTO ARSENAL WIEN

What if plants were more intelligent than we thought? What if they could observe, communicate—and perhaps even dream? A gleaming bronze-colored foxglove hovers in a dark green space, almost too beautiful to be true. *Digitalis ferruginea* is the name of the plant that Dutch artist Elspeth Diederix captured in a photograph from her series *The Miracle Garden*. Alluring, mysterious, and almost extraterrestrial—like a creation of botanical magic—it symbolizes the promise that this exhibition holds: it is a journey into the unknown and the speculative, into the realm between nature and fiction.

FOTO ARSENAL WIEN's exhibition *Science/Fiction—A Non-History of Plants* combines early photography with current tendencies of artificial intelligence, turning classic plant photography upside down and perfectly matching the program of the FOTO WIEN 2025 festival that starts on the same day.

## Launched with FOTO WIEN

Under the banner of “dynamic futures,” Austria's largest biennial photography festival, which begins at the same time as the exhibition, explores speculative scenarios of the future and demonstrates how these narratives are shaped by scientific progress, technology, and art.

The exhibition *Science/Fiction—A Non-History of Plants* brings together works by over forty international artists, from historical pioneers such as Anna Atkins and Karl Blossfeldt to contemporary artists including Agnieszka Polska (PL), Ágnes Dénes (HU), and Jochen Lempert (GER). Six captivating sections confront visitors with plants as active beings, observers, allies, and political players. Between cyanotypes, videos, microphotography, and sci-fi imagery, new perspectives unfold on the thing that we once took for granted: the green that surrounds us.

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The exhibition is a collaboration between the MEP - Maison Européenne de la Photographie (Paris) and FOTO ARSENAL WIEN. An accompanying publication is available from Spector Books.

Curators for MEP: Victoria Aresheva, Clothilde Morette  
Curator for FOTO ARSENAL WIEN: Mona Schubert

While FOTO WIEN takes place at numerous venues throughout Vienna, the exhibition at FOTO ARSENAL WIEN is the main program event of the festival with an extended run. It addresses the festival's subject in an exemplary way and can be visited even after the festival is over.

## **PRESS CONFERENCE:**

Friday, October 3, 2025, 10.30 a.m., FOTO ARSENAL WIEN. Artists and program partners of FOTO WIEN 2025 will be attending and present on side.

More information and images are available at [www.fotoarsenal.at](http://www.fotoarsenal.at).

Funded by Stadt Wien Kultur, Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation

In collaboration with the Maison Européenne de la Photographie

Media partners and cooperation partners: DATUM, DER STANDARD, ORF Ö1 Club

## **About FOTO ARSENAL WIEN**

FOTO ARSENAL WIEN is Austria's new center for photographic images and lens-based media. Inaugurated by the city of Vienna in March 2025, 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 Kunsthalle Wien, the annual Festival Vienna Digital Cultures.

# FOTO ARSENAL WIEN

fotoarsenalwien.at  
fotowien.at  
viennadigitalcultures.at

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