

## BIOGRAPHY

Helga Philipp was born on June 2, 1939, in Vienna. In 1953, at the age of 14, she began her training at the Academy of Applied Arts, taking the sculpture course with Hans Knesl (she got her diploma in 1961). Via the 1958 Venice Biennale, and through friends such as Marc Adrian, in 1961 she came into contact with the emerging avant-garde Op Art movement, and with Concrete Art.

In 1968, on the occasion of an exhibition for the Forum Stadtpark in Graz, she founded a group of artists called "Gruppe Austria", along with Richard Kriesche and Jorrit Tornquist, and she was a constant feature of the small Austrian scene, embarking upon a concrete and constructive direction. With her Op Art works, Philipp had an international presence, and was successful in gallery and museum shows, and on the art market. She exhibited at famous galleries such as St. Stephan, sponsored by Otto Mauer, and she was closely integrated within the "Vienna Group", so much so that the poet H. C. Artmann described her as "one of our own".

With "New Tendency", Op Art attracted the public to many museums in central Europe, from Frankfurt to Zagreb. Moreover, in 1967, Werner Hofmann included Philipp in his "Kinetika" exhibition at the Museum des 20. Jahrhunderts. Between 1972 and 1974, her installations were displayed in the Stadtpark Wien public space. At the beginning of the 1990s, Philipp's links with New York intensified, thanks to funding from the federal government, and she also won a competition in Vienna which, in 1997, led to a spatial intervention with painted objects, and also Light Art, at the University of Althanstraße.

Since 1965, shortly after completing her studies, and until 2002, the artist taught as a university assistant at the University of Applied Arts. Her most well-known students were Gerwald Rockenschaub, Franz Graf, Brigitte Kowanz, Heimo Zobernig, Martin Beck and Thomas Freiler, some of whom went on to make careers for themselves, at the end of the 1980s, as representatives of "New Geometry", as well as in photography and Conceptual Art. After being a member of the "Exact Tendencies" group, which in 1979 gathered around Hildegard Joos and the collectors Gertraud and Dieter Bogner at Buchberg castle, Philipp founded, at her own initiative, the "Ternitz Cultural Association" at the Hansen-Villa of Ternitz/St. Johann. Here there was a close relationship with the "Werkstatt Breitenbrunn" under Fria Elfen and Will Frenken, an artist-couple, and indeed editions were printed in this very city.

In Ternitz she was able not only to devote herself to large-format painting, mainly single-colour or two-colour canvases, or multipartite canvases, but also to offer her students and other young artists a new platform to exhibit their work. In the 1980s and '90s she made several trips abroad, to Luxembourg and New York, and also made visits to Japan and held shows there. After winning numerous competitions, Helga Philipp received the City of Vienna Prize in 2001, shortly before her premature death, on 5 November 2002.

Helga Philipp's daughter, Olga Okunev, is responsible for her artistic legacy.

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

1965

*Helga Philipp, Marc Adrian*, Galerie Heidi Hildebrand, Klagenfurt, AT

1968

*Helga Philipp, Marc Adrian, Richard Kriesche*, Galerie nächst St. Stephan, Vienna, AT  
*Kinetic Objects*, Forum Stadtpark, Graz, AT

1971

*Helga Philipp*, Galerie nächst St. Stephan, Vienna, AT  
*Mirror Players Play Mirror Games*, Klagenfurt, AT

1972

*Helga Philipp, Silk-Screen Prints*, Galerie nächst St. Stephan, Vienna, AT

1973

*Kinetic Objects*, Galleria 73, Eisenstadt, AT

1974

*Objects and Graphics*, Neue Galerie am Landeemuseum Joanneum, Graz, AT

1976

*Kunstmorgen*, Galerie Patio, Frankfurt, DE  
*Embossing*, Galerie nächst St. Stephan, Vienna, AT

1979

*Helga Philipp*, Modern Art Galerie, Vienna, AT

1989

*Helga Philipp*, Hansen-Villa, Ternitz, AT

1991

*Helga Philipp*, Kunstverein, Ternitz, AT

*Helga Philipp*, Kunstraum, Buchberg, CH

*Schichtgrafiken*, Helga Philipp Studio, New York, US

1995

*Helga Philipp*, Kunstraum Martin Janda, Vienna, AT

*Helga Philipp*, Galerie im Griechenbeisl, Vienna, AT

1996

*Helga Philipp*, Tomayo Uchida, L'Atelier Q, Vienna, AT

*Helga Philipp*, Tomayo Uchida, Kunstraum, Ten Jin An, Fukuoka, JP

1997

*Helga Philipp*, Galerie Stalzer, Vienna, AT

*Helga Philipp*, University of Applied Arts, Vienna, AT

2000

*Helga Philipp*, European Forum, Alpbach, AT

2005

*Helga Philipp*, Kunstraum arcade, Mödling, AT

2007

*Helga Philipp*, Kunstfest, Weimar, DE

*Helga Philipp*, Stadtmuseum Waidhofen, Waidhofen, AT

2008

*Helga Philipp*, Galerie Konzett, Vienna, AT

*Helga Philipp*. *Poetry of Logic*, Museum Niederösterreich, St. Pölten, AT

2010

*Helga Philipp*, Egon Schiele Art Centrum, Český Krumlov, CZ

2013

*Helga Philipp*, Stadtgalerie im alten Herrenhaus, Ternitz, AT

2014

*Helga Philipp*, Galerie Winter, Vienna, AT

*Helga Philipp*, MUWA Museum der Wahrnehmung, Graz, AT

2015

*Helga Philipp*, Fuga - Budapest Center of Architecture, Budapest, HU

2016

*Helga Philipp*, Galerie Winter, Vienna, AT

2018-2019

*Helga Philipp*. *Poetry of Optical Transformation*, Museum Haus Konstruktiv, Zürich, CH

2023

*Rediscovering Helga Philipp. Op Art in Austria*, Galleria 10 A.M. ART, Milan, IT

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS

1965

*Nuova Tendenza 3*, Zagreb, HR

Studio f, Ulma, DE

1966

*Op-Pop*, Galerie d, Frankfurt, DE

*Konfrontationen 1966*, Galerie Heidi Hildebrand, Klagenfurt am Wörthersee, AT

1967

*Kinetika*, Museum des 20. Jahrhunderts, Vienna, AT

European Forum, Alpbach, AT

*Accrochage*, Galerie nächst St. Stephan, Vienna, AT

1968

*Accrochage*, Galerie nächst St. Stephan, Vienna, AT

1969

*Nuova Tendenza 4*, Zagreb, HR

*Multiples*, Galerie im Griechenbeisl, Vienna, AT

1970

*Tangents 70*, Museum für angewandte Kunst, Vienna, AT

*Miniatures 70*, Galerie 66, Hofheim am Taunus, DE

*Multiples*, Museum des 20. Jahrhunderts, Vienna, AT

*Large Format*, Künstlerhaus, Vienna, AT

1972

*Pneumatic Object*, Kunst im öffentlichen Raum, Stadtpark, Vienna, AT

1973

*Matrix*, Art research center, Kansas City, US

*Austrian Art Today*, Austrian Institute New York, New York, US

*Object in Metal. Serial Structure*, Kunst im öffentlichen Raum, Stadtpark, Vienna, AT

*The Real Christmas*, Galerie nächst St. Stephan, Vienna, AT

1974

*Leintuchobjekt mit Autoschlauch*, Kunst im öffentlichen Raum, Stadtpark, Vienna, AT

1975

*Integration. Fine Arts - Architecture*, Zentralsparkasse Hauptanstalt, Vienna, AT

1979

*Theory and Practice of Construction Art Today*, Kunstraum, Buchberg am Kamp, AT

1980

Peci Galeria, Ungarn, HR

1982

*Exact Tendencies 82*, Modern art galerie, Vienna, AT

1992

*Identity: Difference*, Neue Galerie am Landeemuseum Joanneum, Graz, AT

1994

*The So-Called Abstract*, Kulturhaus, Graz, AT

1996

*Beyond Art*, Ludwig Museum, Budapest, HR

1997

*Beyond Art*, Neue Galerie am Landeemuseum Joanneum, Graz, AT

*Art Vienna 200*, Stadtmuseum Kurashiki, Kurashiki, JP

2000

*Concrete Art in 6 Countries in Central Europe*, Stadtmuseum, Győr, HR

*Editions*, Galerie Edition Stalzer, Vienna, AT  
*Engraving*, The Printing Museum of China, Beijing, CN  
*Desire for Colours and Ideas for Form*, Frauenbad - Arnulf Rainer Museum, Baden, AT

2003

*Mimosen-Rosen-Herbstzeitlosen. Künstlerinnenpositionen 1945 bis 2000*, Kunsthalle Krem, Krem, AT  
*Traces in Snow*, Galerie Wolfgang Exner, Vienna, AT  
*Metamorphosen. Konzept Erika Patka mit Widmung an Helga Philipp*, Győr, HR - Budapest, HR - Athens EL

2004

*Opposing Positions*, Museum moderner Kunst-Stiftung Wörlen, Passau, DE  
*Einbildung. Das Wahrnehmen in der Kunst*, Kunsthaus Graz, Graz, AT

2005

*Forms-Lines-Colours*, Galerie Wolfgang Exner, Vienna, AT

2006

*NÖ art im Palais*, Palais Niederösterreich, Vienna, AT

2007

*Metamorphosis*, Landesgalerie Burgenland, Eisenstadt, AT  
*Light and Dark*, Forum Konkrete Kunst, Erfurt, DE

2009

*um 1970*, Galerie Konzett, Vienna, AT

2010

*Helga Philipp - a Pioneer in Concrete Art*, Galerie Kunst und Handel, Graz, AT

2011

*Imagine - Die visionäre Kunst der 70er Jahre*, Dokumentationszentrum f. moderne Kunst, St. Pölten, AT  
*Female in Progress I - von den 1960er Jahren bis heute*, Grünspan, Mühlboden, DE  
*Absolutely Vienna - Acquisitions and Donations Since 2000*, Wien Museum, Vienna, AT  
*Ornament: Seriality*, Vasarely Museum, Budapest, HR  
*Die Sammlung 2*, Belvedere 21, Vienna, AT  
*Von Boeckl bis West - Kunst nach 1945*, Museum Niederösterreich, St. Pölten, AT

2012

*Neo Geo Post*, Vasarely Museum, Budapest, HR

2013

*Konkret - Abstrakt*, Parlament, Vienna, AT

2014

*Bildbaumeister extended*, Temporäre Halle für Kunst, Linz, AT  
*Ballet Concrete*, ZS ART, Vienna, AT

2015

*Conceptual & Applied III. Surfaces and Models*, Daimler Contemporary, Berlin, DE

2016

*Abstract Loop Austria. Kunst und visuelle Forschung seit 1950*, Belvedere 21, Vienna, AT  
*ABSTRAKT - KONKRET - SPATIAL: Malerei im Raum*, Kunsthalle Krems, Krems, AT  
*Eye Attack. Op Art and Kinetik Art 1950-1970*, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebæk, DK

2017

*Taumel. Navigieren im Unbekannten*, Neue Galerie am Landeemuseum Joanneum, Graz, AT

2018

*Curated by - Vienna Line*, Galerie Steinek, Vienna, AT

2019

*Vertigo. Op Art and a History of Deception 1520-1970*, Mumok Museum moderner Kunst Foundation Ludwig, Vienna, AT

2021

*Avantgarde und Gegenwart*, Belvedere 21, Vienna, AT

2022

*Die Kunst des Sammelns Teil I*, Klocker Museum, Hall in Tirol, AT

2023

*Follow the Rabbit – Taking stock of a collection and its reception through contemporary Chinese art*,  
Museum Liaunig, Neuhaus, AT

*Marina Apollonio, Claudio D'Angelo, Lucia Di Luciano, Helga Philipp, Giovanni Pizzo*, Galleria 10 A.M. ART -  
Vetrina BPM, Pietrasanta, IT

2024

*Art Treasures. From the Baroque to the present*, Kunsthalle Tübingen, Tübingen, DE

*Blind Date*, Museum Liaunig, Neuhaus, AT

2025

*We Will Go Right Up to the Sun. Female Pioneers of Geometric Abstraction*, Wilhelm-Hack-Museum,  
Ludwigshafen am Rhein, DE

*Endless Structures*, Stadtgalerie Klagenfurt, Klagenfurt, AT

## WORKS IN PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Museum Haus Konstruktiv, Zürich, CH  
Mercedes-Benz, Daimler Art Collection, Berlin, DE  
ZKM | Museum of Contemporary Art, Karlsruhe, DE  
Museum Ritter, Waldenbuch, DE  
Albertina Museum, Vienna, AT  
Mumok Museum Moderner Kunst Foundation Ludwig, Vienna, AT  
Belvedere 21, Vienna, AT  
Musa Sammlung der Stadt, Vienna, AT  
Museum Niederösterreich, St. Pölten, AT  
Museum Liaunig, Neuhaus, AT  
Kunstsammlung und Archiv, Vienna, AT  
Museum für angewandte Kunst, Vienna, AT  
Klocker Museum, Hall in Tirol, AT  
Tiroler Landesmuseum Ferdinandeum, Innsbruck, AT  
Neue Galerie am Landeemuseum Joanneum, Graz, AT