

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 Landesmuseum 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, Kunstmuseum 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

2026

Helga Philipp. Spaces of Motion, Albertina Museum, Vienna, AT

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 Landesmuseum Joanneum, Graz, AT

1994

The So-Called Abstract, Kulturhaus, Graz, AT

1996

Beyond Art, Ludwig Museum, Budapest, HR

1997

Beyond Art, Neue Galerie am Landesmuseum Joanneum, Graz, AT
Art Vienna 200, Stadtmuseum Kurashiki, Kurashiki, JP

2000

Concrete Art in 6 Countries in Central Europe, Stadtmuseum, Györ, 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 Exne, Vienna, AT

Metamorphosen. Konzept Erika Patka mit Widmung an Helga Philipp, Györ, 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, Parliament, 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 Landesmuseum 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

Terra Incognita, Museum Liaunig, Neuhaus, AT

X Incantamento. Marina Apollonio, Lucia Di Luciano, Helga Philipp, Esther Stocker, Galleria 10 A.M. ART,
Milan, IT

Cool. Sammlung Erwin Hauser, Lentos Kunstmuseum Linz, Linz, AT

The Line, Heidi Horten Collection, Vienna 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
Klockner Museum, Hall in Tirol, AT
Tiroler Landesmuseum Ferdinandeum, Innsbruck, AT
Neue Galerie am Landesmuseum Joanneum, Graz, AT
Lentos Kunstmuseum Linz, Linz, AT
Heidi Horten Collection, Vienna AT