



Christoph Schwarz

Artist / Filmmaker / Climate activist

Vienna



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born 1981 in Vienna, where he lives and sometimes work.

Media Art studies at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna with Peter Weibel, Thomas Fürstner and Karel Dudesek, diploma 2006. Conceptual Art studies with Jiří David at UMRUM Prague 2003/04.

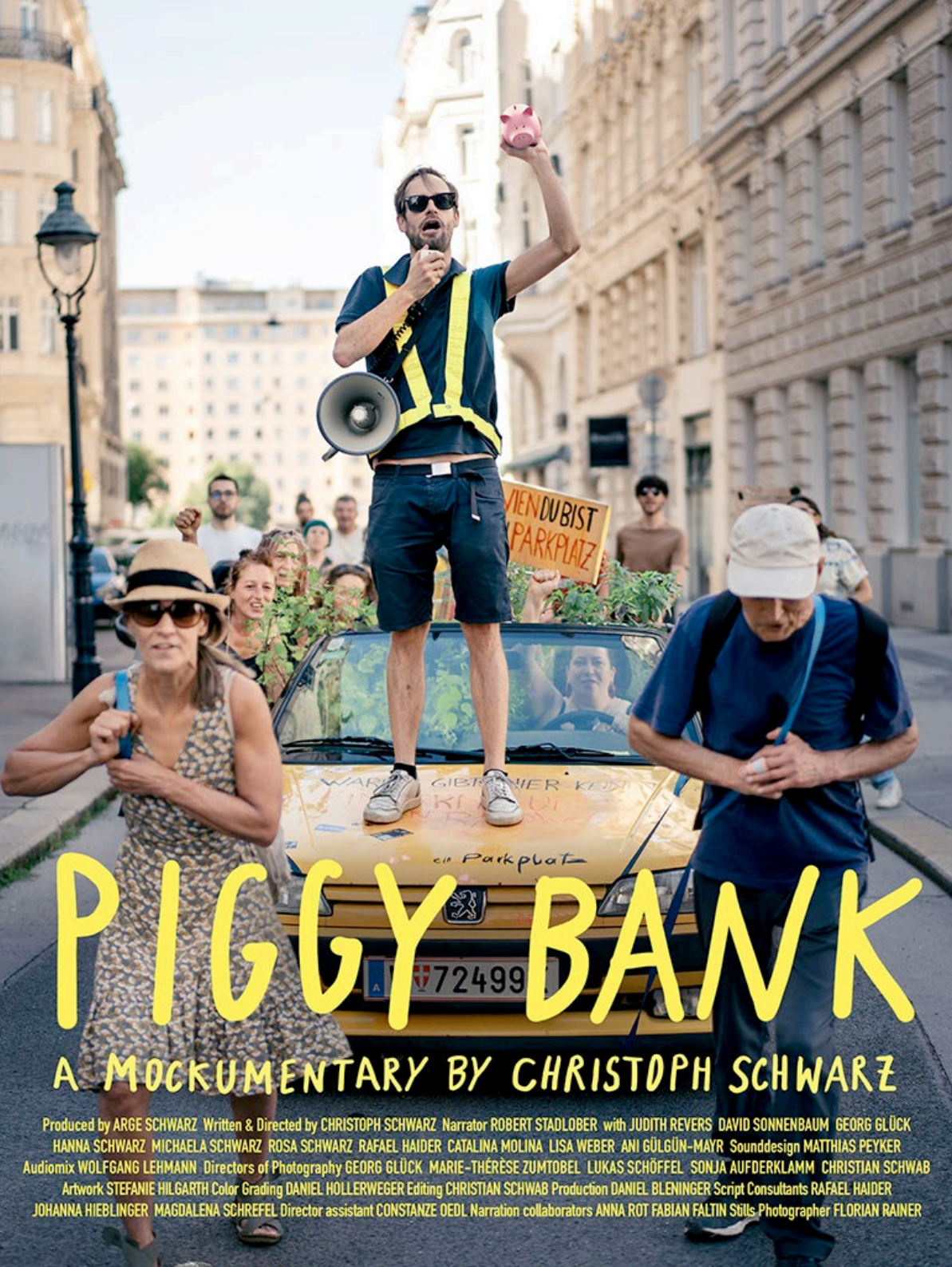
Typical of Schwarz's work are **autofictional experiments** as content, **self-fulfilling prophecies** as method, the cinema as ideal space of reception.

Schwarz has participated in numerous exhibitions and international film festivals since 2011. He is a strong supporter of the climate justice movement in Vienna and combines art and activism in his current practice.

Schwarz' last projects deal primarily with **car-centric city planning paradigms** and criticizes the city of Vienna with humourous yet cristal clear artworks.

His first feature film "Sparschwein" includes many of his latest interventions and was released in Austrian cinemas in Spring 2024. The international version "Piggy Bank" will be shown in 2025 at film festivals across Europe.

www.christophschwarz.net



PIGGY BANK

A MOCKUMENTARY BY CHRISTOPH SCHWARZ

Produced by ARGE SCHWARZ Written & Directed by CHRISTOPH SCHWARZ Narrator ROBERT STADLOBER with JUDITH REVERS DAVID SONNENBAUM GEORG GLÜCK
HANNA SCHWARZ MICHAELA SCHWARZ ROSA SCHWARZ RAFAEL HAIDER CATALINA MOLINA LISA WEBER ANI GÜLGÜN-MAYR Sounddesign MATTHIAS PEYKER
Audiomix WOLFGANG LEHMANN Directors of Photography GEORG GLÜCK MARIE-THÉRÈSE ZUMTOBEL LUKAS SCHÖFFEL SONJA AUFDERKLAMM CHRISTIAN SCHWAB
Artwork STEFANIE HILGARTH Color Grading DANIEL HOLLERWEGER Editing CHRISTIAN SCHWAB Production DANIEL BLENINGER Script Consultants RAFAEL HAIDER
JOHANNA HIEBLINGER MAGDALENA SCHREFEL Director assistant CONSTANZE OEDL Narration collaborators ANNA ROT FABIAN FALTIN Stills Photographer FLORIAN RAINER

Piggy Bank

Mockumentary, Austria 2024, 97min

Filmmaker Christoph Schwarz goes on a money strike for an Austrian TV documentary series: "Striking years". As an introduction to anticapitalist climate activism and a unique opportunity to secretly buy a weekend house for the film budget.

Christoph sources food in supermarket bins, grows potatoes on roundabouts, plants herbs in a yellow convertible and blocks diggers on motorway construction sites. However, the problem of having earned money with a money strike is not so easy to get rid of.

An ironic mockumentary about double standards in times of climate crisis, about the privileges of car traffic in the city and the possibilities of fighting against it, humorously told with Christoph Schwarz's typical, playful handling of truth and lies.

Piggy Bank is the international version of Christoph Schwarz' first feature film **Sparschwein** and won the Hof Critics Award "Best Production" at the 58th Hof International Filmfestival.

The border between fact and fiction in **Piggy Bank** is unclear. The catastrophic consequences of man-made global warming are foreseeable.

Secret Screening Link:

Piggy Bank (2024, 97min)

<https://vimeo.com/1005873955/62adb56673>

www.christophschwarz.net/piggybank



Cabribeet / Convertible herbal bed

Social sculpture / Climate activism, 2021-ongoing

The easiest way to get permission for a raised herbal bed in public space in Vienna: if you own a convertible underneath. Together with neighbours, a roadworthy, officially registered convertible was converted into a raised bed: Kitchen herbs for everyone instead of privatisation of public space at a ridiculously low price. In Vienna, a parking permission costs 10 Euros/month. The Cabribeet became a symbol in the media against the space privileges of motorised private transport in the city and is a still ongoing project tackling the city's car-centric politics.



“The Cabribeet supports street festivals and road blockades of climate activists. Consequently, travelling to the event is already a highly visible performance: if you love your car, you have to push it.”

www.cabribeet.net



NO MORE SUVVERING

A wide shot of a city skyline with colorful balloons strung across the sky. The balloons are in various colors (red, yellow, blue, green, orange) and are arranged to spell out the words 'NO MORE SUVVERING' across the sky. The city buildings are in the background, and the foreground is a grassy field.

PREPARE BALLONS
FOR GOOD VIBES

A man wearing sunglasses and a dark shirt is standing next to a table filled with colorful balloons. The balloons are in various colors (blue, pink, orange, yellow, green, white) and some have letters on them. The background shows a grassy field and a city skyline.

USE TIRES
OF BIG CARS
TO INFLATE
THEM

A man wearing a brown shirt and dark shorts is crouching next to a dark-colored car. He is inflating a blue balloon into the car's tire. There are other balloons on the ground next to him. The background shows a grassy field and a city skyline.

No More Suvvering

Installation & social media clip, 2022

If you love your children, you blow up the balloons for the birthday party on the tyres of SUVs (super unnecessary vehicles). As part of the speculative “Deflating Seestadt” campaign, I used balloons to write the words “No more suvvering” across the skyline of Vienna’s largest urban expansion area “Seestadt Aspern”. To minimise police contact, the tyres of the cars were immediately inflated again.

“No More Suvvering” was part of the performance/video project “Full Mouth”, a collaboration between Notgalerie and Tim Voss and part of my first feature movie “Sparschwein”.



Kreiskartoffel St.Marx Potatoe-Go-Round Vienna *Participatory art/activism project, 2021*

A roundabout in Vienna/St. Marx becomes a potato field! The artefact of car-centric urban planning is reinterpreted as a symbol of urban food sovereignty in the sense of a de-growth economy.



In a low-threshold way, the neighbourhood can grow its own potatoes every Sunday with a view of a deserted car park. At the centre of the roundabout is a sculpture made of water tanks with the words "We are in the World War" - a message that combines eco-activist, economic, historical and self-ironic readings.

"As a requirement of the authorities, an additional sign had to be added to our message from Monday to Saturday to ensure road safety: World War became World Market. As long as the euro is rolling, the flow of traffic must not be disrupted. On Sunday, however, critical reflections were allowed in the concrete jungle."





Cabriostrand / Convertible beach **2022, Convertible with parking permission as sandbox**

A fully licensed and drive-able convertible with a parking permission in a central Grazer neighbourhood was converted to a sandbox: the easiest way to reclaim public space for children as playgrounds in front of the house is to use a convertible. Quickly, the project triggered discussions about the privileges of cars in the city of Graz - in the media and on the streets.

Unfortunately, the city of Graz removed the neighbourhood parking permission after a few weeks - turning the Cabriostrand in a parking refugee for the rest of the season.

*“Cabriostrand Graz” was part of the exhibition
“Kindersicherheitsmesse” @ Forum Stadtpark*



MIT DEM BAU DER ERSTEN ÖKOPYRAMIDE



KLIMAFREUNDLICHER WOHNBAU



BALD FLÄCHEN DECKEND

AM STADT RAND

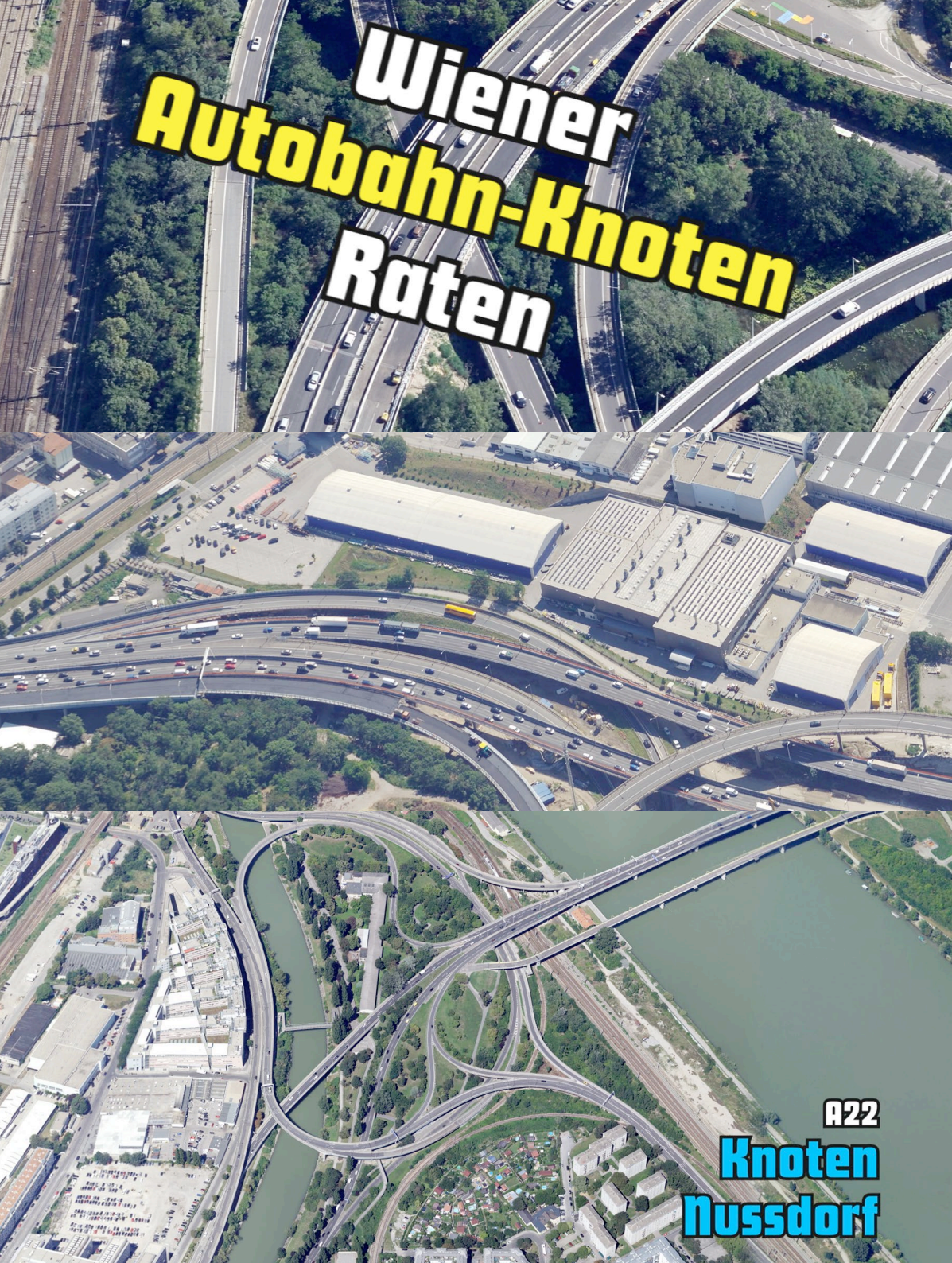
First Vienna Eco-Pyramid

20sec Clip for Infoscreen TV in public transport, 2022

In February 2022 the blocked construction sites for a city highway by climate activist movement #LobauBleibt were evicted by the police. Images of the demolition of the icon of the movement, a pyramid, are used for an ironic reinterpretation: Played backwards, a demolition becomes an new construction.

An example, what the PR machinery of the “climate model city” of Vienna is capable of: despite the clear findings of climate and traffic science, the construction of motorway infrastructure is declared as measure against (!) urban sprawl, a new city bypass is sold as a measure against (!) transit traffic and a motorway connection as a must-have for the urban expansion area. Anyone who succeeds in this communication could also sell demolition as new construction – as proposed in the video.

“We never managed to get the pictures of our protests in city funded media channels. Only via a short video competition on the topic of climate it was possible to present our protests on Infoscreen, playing the award winning clip in metro stations, busses and trams.”



Wiener Autobahn-Knoten Raten

A22
Knoten
Nussdorf

Vienna Motorway-Interchange Quiz

Shortfilm, 6 Videoclips for Social Media, 2021/22

Vienna's motorway interchanges are tied like tentacles to recreational areas: the car-centred urban planning of the 1970s had the most beautiful landscapes of Vienna concreted over and sacrificed to motorway infrastructure. A misanthropic mobility paradigm, documented by aerial photographs, reinterpreted and animated by Christoph Schwarz as a humorous guessing quiz show: Which interchange am I? Of course, the not yet existing infrastructure of Vienna's "Stadtstraße" are the grand finale.

"I'm a knot of pretzels made of concrete. My walls offer shadow to the fishermen and space for graffiti. What would the Danube Canal be without me? A generic recreational area without personality!"



Die beste Stadt ist keine Stadt

ein Film von
Christoph Schwarz

The Best City is No City At All *Essay film about the city expansion area in Vienna*

Between 2017 and 2020 an abandoned wooden church was relocated to the city expansion area “Seastadt Aspern”. Under the name “Notgalerie” (Emergency Gallery) it was used as an artspace. I followed the project for four years and produced several films about it.

“A young man sitting in a rusted hangar and playing the guitar. An abandoned wooden church that is no longer needed and has been moved to the outskirts of the growing city as a temporary cultural use. Kindergarten children who talk in a circle of chairs what they are not doing at the moment. In his essay film “The best city is not a city”, Christoph Schwarz mixes multiple perspectives on Vienna’s largest urban expansion area. What they have in common is sentimental criticism of growth and a romantic refusal to progress in the face of the impending ecological collapse, which seems more credible to us than any happy ending. (Daniel Bleninger).”

“The Best City is No City At All” won the Austrian Short Film Award in 2021 and was nominated for the European Film Awards.



CSL - The Christoph-Schwarz-Lodge

Short film, 2018

Six men in their early thirties share the same name- is this enough for a friendship? CSL tells the story of the foundation of the “Christoph-Schwarz-Lodge” from the perspective of filmmaker Christoph Schwarz. The Lodge offers a discreet network for professional and private purposes, and tries to foster help among namesakes. To fulfill the expectations of his script doctor, filmmaker Schwarz adds some fictitious elements to the story, which challenges the true spirit of the fraternity.

While everyone else in his generation is pushing the own career by networking, Viennese filmmaker’s Christoph Schwarz became father. Something has to change! Christoph starts his own, contemporane network, and invites his namesakes to join: a pilot, a musician, a journalist, a network engineer, and Christoph Schwarz from Salzburg- is it enough for a modern fraternity to have the same name? Accompanied by a camera, a self-ironic film essay evolves around the activities of the “Christoph-Schwarz-Lodge”. (Magdalena Schrefel)



Prizes / Grants / Residencies

2024 Hof Critics Award @ Hofer Filmtage for "Piggy Bank"
2020 Austrian Short Film Award, Vienna Shorts
2019 Working grant, BKA Filmabteilung
2016+2018 K3 Film Festival Villach, Main prize
2016+2013 ORFIII Artist in Residence "Pixel, Bytes & Film"
2015 Audience Award, Vienna Independent Shorts
2012 Black Sea Calling, Residency Plovdiv/Bulgaria
Prize of the Bavarian Television, Regensburger Kurzfilmwoche
2011 Vienna Independent Shorts, Audience Award
VAM Emerging Artist Award
2010 START-Stipendium Video/Medienkunst, BMUKK Austria
Interesting People in Residency, HANARERAD, Kyoto/Japan
Art Workshop Grant Casino Luxembourg Shanghai
2009 Art Workshop Grant Casino Luxembourg
2008 UNIDEE Residency Fondazione Pistoletto, Biella, Italy

Screenings of short films at festivals (2010-2020)

Hofer Filmtage (4x), Diagonale Graz (8x), Vienna Shorts (8x) Shortynale Klosterneuburg, Kurzfilmtage Winterthur (3x), Kino wie noch nie, Kasseler Dokfest (3x), Stuttgarter Filmwinter (2x), K3 Film Festival (3x), Glasgow SFF, Leeds FF, Uppsala SFF, First Crossings Nova Gorica / Shortynale, dot dot dot (Personale 2018), Antimatter Festival, Go Short Nijmegen (2x), Tampere, IndieLisboa, Regensburger Kurzfilmtage, Frontale, Memefest Melbourne, Kitzbühel, Winterthur / Regensburg (3x), Sarajevo Film Festival, Filmfest Dresden

Exhibitions (Selection)

2024 SUBSTANZ, Künstlerhaus Wien
„Wien liebt kleine Autos“ im_Flieger Landebahn, Wien
„24/7 – Arbeit zw Sinnstiftung & Entgrenzung“, Kunsthaus Graz
„PROTEST/ARCHITEKTUR“, Mak Wien
2023 „Niedliche Sabotage“, Kluckyland, Wien
2022 „Kindersicherheitsmesse“, Forum Stadtpark, Graz
2019 Kunstland Nord, Notgalerie Seestadt
2017 „The Munchhausen effect“, Galerie 5020 Salzburg
„Neue Arbeit“, Das Weiße Haus, Wien
2016 paraflows .XI Identites, BA Kunstforum Wien
„Minus EGO“, Goethe Institut Barcelona
2015 „Supercargo“, Kunstraum am Schauplatz, Wien
„A Climate Fictionalism“, Hong-Gah Museum, Taipei, Taiwan
2013 „Krochacarraldo et al“, Galerie Frey, Wien (Solo Show)
„Black Sea Calling“, HilgerBROTKunsthalle, Wien
„Greetings from Vienna“, Galerija Bel Art, Novi Sad, Serbien
2012 „Freedom“, Meta House, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
2011 „Overseas Assignments“, Galerie Frey, Wien (Solo Show)
„Kunst & Kapital“ Künstlerhaus, Wien
2010 „Moved, Mutated and Disturbed Identities“, DDM Warehouse, Shanghai