

mumok Museum moderner Kunst
Stiftung Ludwig Wien
Museumsplatz 1, 1070 Wien

Exhibition dates
July 12, 2018, to February 3, 2019

Press conference
Wednesday, July 11, 2018, 10 am

Opening
Wednesday, July 11, 7 pm



Kurt Kren, *Box 3, Szondi-Test*, 1973,
mumok Museum moderner Kunst Stiftung
Ludwig Wien, © Bildrecht Wien, 2018

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Film and More

From the Archives of Kurt Kren and Ernst Schmidt jr.

The exhibition *Film and More. From the Archives of Kurt Kren and Ernst Schmidt jr.* is devoted to two highly influential filmmakers of the Austrian postwar avantgarde and sheds light on trends in art and film in the 1960s and 1970s.

The papers of Ernst Schmidt jr. (1938–1988) were given as a gift to mumok in 2015, and in 2018 the Republic of Austria gave the estate of Kurt Kren (1929–1998) to mumok on permanent loan. The museum has taken the opportunity of making both archives accessible to the public in an exhibition presenting the two contemporaries together, not least because their art had much in common.

Kurt Kren and Ernst Schmidt jr. were both firm features of the film and art scene in the 1960s, with many connections to literary figures and fine artists, and to Vienna Actionism. But they also each developed their own specific film idioms, which did not adhere to the purely documentary, and the artistic work of both also goes far beyond mere belonging to the scenes of the time. Both took a comparable interest in materiality and physicality, a shared concern that the exhibition highlights alongside their individual artistic practice. There is a further parallel in their participation in the foundation of the *Austria Filmmakers Cooperative*, together with VALIE EXPORT, Hans Scheugl, Gottfried Schlemmer, and Peter Weibel, in 1968. Several years later, Schmidt jr. and Scheugl edited the two-volume and to date most comprehensive compendium on the theme, *Avantgardefilm. A Sub-History of Film* (1974).

As the title suggests, the exhibition is based on notes, sketches, correspondence, and other work-related materials from the archives of Kurt Kren and Ernst Schmidt jr., and a selection of films. One key work group is Kurt Kren's notations, which illustrate his structural way of working and his visual way of thinking. In the work of Ernst Schmidt jr., a conceptual exploration of language plays a key role, whether as author, critic, editor, or filmmaker.

The exhibition display has been developed by the artist Josef Dabernig. The focus is on the archive material, and a formal framework is developed that allows the diversity and detail of many small exhibits to be appreciated.

Curated by Marie-Therese Hochwartner, Naoko Kaltschmidt, Matthias Michalka and Susanne Neuburger

We wish to thank the mumok sponsors, UNIQA and Dorotheum, and our media partners Der Standard, Falter, Wien live, and Ö1.