

aut: press Exhibition
walter niedermayr
coexistences

Based on Walter Niedermayr's photographic examination of the subject, the exhibition explores questions as to the identities, qualities, and sustainability of Fiemme Valley village structures—both architectural and social.

place	aut. architektur und tirol lois welzenbacher platz 1 6020 innsbruck. austria + 43.512.57 15 67 office@aut.cc, www.aut.cc
press conferenc	Tuesday, October 24th, 11 am with Arno Ritter (aut. architektur und tirol) and Walter Niedermayr
opening	Tuesday, October 24th, 7 pm Introduction: Arno Ritter (aut. architektur und tirol) Walter Niedermayr
ausstellungsdauer	October 25th 2017 to February 23th 20 18
opening hours	tue – fri 11 am to 6 pm thu 11 am to 9 pm sat 11 am to 5 pm closed during holidays
informationen	aut. architektur und tirol lois welzenbacher platz 1, 6020 innsbruck t + 43.512.57 15 67, presse@aut.cc contact: Claudia Wedekind

short text

The Valley Community of Fiemme, a union of eleven municipalities in the Trentino-Alto Adige region, takes up an exceptional position due to the administrative autonomy and own jurisdiction established in the 12th century. For centuries, the most important economic and social decisions were made together via an administration structure similar to that of a peasant quasi-republic. This legal framework has given rise to specific morphologies of the villages with urban-style edifices and a high spatial density, hybrid house conglomerates and multidimensionally used structures.

The South Tyrolean artist Walter Niedermayr has been studying and photographing the specific building culture in the Fiemme Valley for many years. Based on his extensive research project the exhibition „Walter Niedermayr: Coexistences“ paints a detailed picture of this unique valley and its urbanesque village structures. Furthermore, the exhibition also raises a much more general question as to what extent the historically founded tradition of the Allmende could be a way to sustainably develop the landscape based on the 'spirit of the commons', especially in the small-scale cultural and economic area in the Alps.

Exhibition

walter niedermayr: coexistences

a project about the valley-community of fiemme, trentino-alto adige

October 25th 2017 to February 23th 2018

“In recent years the originality and character of regional areas along with their villages and landscapes are becoming more and more important. In this context questions arise as to spatial perception and the symbols in the space which influence that perception. The role of culture in this context forms the basis for the rediscovery of the idiosyncrasies of villages and the landscapes surrounding them.” (Walter Niedermayr)

The Valley Community of Fiemme (Magnifica Comunità di Fiemme) is a union of eleven municipalities in the Trentino-Alto Adige region that has existed for more than nine hundred years. This once free and autonomous administrative structure comprises to date nine Italian-speaking villages or communes—Predazzo, Ziano, Panchià, Tesero, Cavalese, Varena, Daiano, Carano, Castello-Molina di Fiemme—one Ladin-speaking community called Moena, and the German-speaking municipality of Truden. The cornerstone of this Allmende-like concept was laid in 1111 by a pact that granted the Valley Community administrative autonomy, its own jurisdiction, and certain tax and duty concessions. For centuries, the most important economic and social decisions were made together via an administration structure similar to that of a peasant quasi-republic.

Although the political and economic autonomy of the Fiemme Valley deteriorated increasingly in the nineteenth century as a result of the changing geopolitical situation, what has remained to this day is the institution of the Magnifica Comunità di Fiemme, which governs the collective ownership of its lands, forests, and pastures and divvies up the economic profits obtained therefrom among all the vicini. Today, life in the valley-community is still pervaded by the value system codified in the statutes of the Magnifica, which are based on solidarity and conceived as a socioeconomic principle that considers all property to be unalienable and indivisible common property. This legal framework and the resulting social and economic solidarity, which corresponds in its basic tenets to the philosophy of the now internationally discussed commons movement, have given rise to specific morphologies of the villages with urban-style edifices and a high spatial density, with a fascinating layering between public and private spaces, surprising circulation situations, hybrid house conglomerates and multidimensionally used structures.

The South Tyrolean artist Walter Niedermayr – internationally known for his photographic studies of space as reality occupied and shaped by people – has been studying and photographing the specific building culture in the Fiemme Valley for many years. Over the course of seven years he photographed the Valley Community, took roughly 10,000 preliminary photos—and based on them has focused on certain images—conducted conversations with the inhabitants, and studied relevant books and documents on the extensive history of the Valley. He immersed himself in the subject matter through scholarly papers, direct spatial experience on his countless visits, and above all through the personal accounts of “natives.” He constructed from this his distanced but subjectively focused gaze and photographically analyzed the idiosyncrasies of the structures of the spaces and buildings. He also directed his attention at unadorned everyday life, at the mundane present situation of building extensions, additions, new floors, and well-meaning restorations.

A selection of these photographs by Walter Niedermayr can be seen in the exhibition “Coexistences” designed by the Vienna-based firm PAUHOF Architekten (Michael Hofstätter and Wolfgang Pauzenberger). Along with interviews with Fiemme Valley inhabitants and published material documenting the valley-community, the exhibition paints a detailed picture of this unique valley and its urbanesque village structures. Further-

more, the exhibition also raises a much more general question as to what extent the historically founded tradition of the Allmende could be a way to sustainably develop the landscape based on the 'spirit of the commons', especially in the small-scale cultural and economic area in the Alps.

An exhibition sponsored by Barth Innenausbau KG (Brixen), LEITNER ropeways (Sterzing), STRABAG Kunstforum (Spittal/Drau), Amt der Tiroler Landesregierung Abteilung Kultur, Bundeskanzleramt Kunstsektion, Aut. Provinz Bozen, Abteilung Deutsche Kultur

publication

In conjunction with the exhibition "Walter Niedermayr: Coexistences" Hatje Cantz will publish an eponymous book with over 180 photographs by Walter Niedermayr and texts by the writer Giorgio Falco and the architect and philosopher Florentina Hausknotz.

walter niedermayr: koexistenzen/coexistences

Editor: aut. architektur und tirol

Concept, photos: Walter Niedermayr

Foreword: Arno Ritter

Texts: Giorgio Falco, Florentina Hausknotz

Graphic design: Mevis & Van Deursen in collaboration with Daria Kiseleva, Amsterdam
25.5 x 19.8 cm, approx. 240 pages, approx. 180 images, German/English

Publisher: Hatje Cantz

ISBN 978-3-7757-4390-7 (DE/EN)

walter niedermayr

born 1952; lives in Bolzano

Since the 1980s Walter Niedermayr has been developing projects in which he investigates space as a reality occupied and shaped by man. Spatial perception and spatial atmosphere in both open and closed spaces have been recurring themes in his photographic and video works. He constantly revisits and explores such sites as alpine regions, urban, architectural, and industrial structures, as well as prisons and hospitals. This can be seen in the series of works Alpine Landschaften (Alpine Landscapes) since 1987, Raumfolgen (Space Con/Sequences) since 1991, Rohbauten (Shell Constructions) since 1997, Artefakte (Artifacts) since 1992, and Bildraum (Image-Space) since 2001. Niedermayr completed the series Iran between 2005 and 2008, and he has been working on The Aspen Series since 2009. In 2012 he started his new series Portraits. Between 2011 and 2014 Walter Niedermayr taught fine art photography at the Faculty of Design and Art, Free University of Bozen/Bolzano.

Special projects

Raumaneignungen / Appropriations of Space - Lech 2015/2016; Aspen Series, project-based work with multi-sites installation and publication, ASC Aspen, Winter Series 2009/2012, Summer Series 2014; Pitztalgletscher 5/1997, facade design for Austria Expo Pavillion, Zaragoza 2008; Fluchtwege und Sackgassen, with Karl Unterfrauner, Festival der Regionen, 2007; Artefakte 85/2005, Mythos 4, Neues Mercedes Benz Museum, Stuttgart, 2006.

Selected monographs

2016 „Raumaneignungen – Lech 2015/2016“; 2013 „The Aspen Series“, 2012 „Conjunctions“; 2011 „Appearances“; „Mose“; 2009 „Station Z – Sachsenhausen“; 2007 „Walter Niedermayr / Kazuyo Sejima + Ryue Nishizawa (SANAA)“; 2006 „Novartis Campus – Fabrikstrasse 4“; 2004 „Titlis“; 2003 „Zivile Operationen“; 2001 „Raumfolgen 1991 – 2001“; 1998 „Reservate des Augenblicks“; 1993 „Die bleichen Berge“

Selected exhibitions

Solo exhibitions 2016 „Raumaneignungen – Lech 2015/2016“, Allmeinde Common-grounds, Lech a. A.; 2015 „Projection Spheres and Adventure Realms“, Month of Photography, Bratislava; 2014 Galerie Nordenhake, Berlin; 2013 „Appearances“, La Filature, Mulhouse; 2012 Istituto Italiano di Cultura de Paris; Galleria Suzy Shammah, Milano; 2011 „Walter Niedermayr 2005 – 2010“, Exospedale Sant' Agostino, Fondazione Fotografia, Modena; 2009 Robert Miller Gallery, New York; Galerie Nordenhake, Stockholm; 2008 Galleria Suzy Shammah, Milano; 2007 „Walter Niedermayr / Kazuyo Sejima + Ryue Nishizawa (SANAA)“, with SANAA Architects, DeSingel, International Arts Centre, Antwerpen, Arc en Rêve Centre d'architecture, Bordeaux, aut, Innsbruck und Accademia di Architettura Mendrisio; 2006 Robert Miller Gallery, New York; 2005 Galleria Suzy Shammah, Milano; 2004 „Zivile Operationen“, Museion, Bozen; 2003 „Zivile Operationen“, Kunsthalle Wien, Kunstverein Hannover, Museum der bildenden Künste Leipzig und Württembergischer Kunstverein Stuttgart

Group exhibitions 2017 Snow Future, Naturmuseum Bozen; The Power of Images, MAST, Bologna; 2016 Extraordinary Visions / L'Italia ci guarda, MAXXI, Rom; Snow Future, ERES Stiftung, München; 2015 Italia. Inside Out, Palazzo della Ragione, Mailand; Grand Tour, Harley Gallery, Welbeck/Nottinghamshire; Landscape in my Mind, Bank Austria Kunstforum, Wien; 2014 Architekturbiennale Venedig; 2013 TAV Bologna Milano – Fotografia, ricerca e territorio, MAXXI, Rom; CONCRETE – Fotografie und Architektur, Fotomuseum Winterthur; 2011 Tokyo Art Meeting (II), Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo; Alpine Desire, Austrian Cultural Forum, New York; 2010 Architekturbiennale Venedig; 2009 Manifesta 7, Alumix Bozen; All inclusive, Kunsthalle Schirn, Frankfurt; 2006 Peintres de la vie moderne, Centre Pompidou, Paris; Opening up Art, Tate Modern, UBS Art Collection, London; 2005 Sanaa, 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa (with Sanaa architects)

aut: presse photos

walter niedermayr: koexistenzen

The photographs are available in printable resolution (image width: approx. 15 to 20 cm) in the "press area" of our website www.aut.cc and can be printed free of charge for the purpose of media coverage of the exhibition if precise photo credits are provided.

Please note—the photographs may not be altered in any way, including sharpening the image or increasing color intensity. Please do not crop the images, and under no circumstances are fragments to be used but always the entire image only.



1_Moena_Niedermayr_300.jpg

Walter Niedermayr, Moena 2016

Courtesy Walter Niedermayr, Galerie Nordenhake, Berlin/
Stockholm und Galerie Johann Widauer, Innsbruck



2_Varena_Niedermayr_300.jpg

Walter Niedermayr, Varena 2016

Courtesy Walter Niedermayr, Galerie Nordenhake, Berlin/
Stockholm und Galerie Johann Widauer, Innsbruck



3_Cavalese_Niedermayr_300.jpg

Walter Niedermayr, Cavalese 2017

Courtesy Walter Niedermayr, Galerie Nordenhake, Berlin/
Stockholm und Galerie Johann Widauer, Innsbruck



6_Ziano_Niedermayr_300.jpg

Walter Niedermayr, Ziano 2016

Courtesy Walter Niedermayr, Galerie Nordenhake, Berlin/
Stockholm und Galerie Johann Widauer, Innsbruck



4_Predazzo_Niedermayr_300.jpg

Walter Niedermayr, Predazzo 2015

Courtesy Walter Niedermayr, Galerie Nordenhake, Berlin/
Stockholm und Galerie Johann Widauer, Innsbruck

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5_Tesero_Niedermayr_300.jpg

Walter Niedermayr, Tesero 2016

Courtesy Galerie Nordenhake, Berlin/Stockholm und
Galerie Johann Widauer, Innsbruck



7_Daiano_Niedermayr_300.jpg

Walter Niedermayr, Daiano 2015

Courtesy Galerie Nordenhake, Berlin/Stockholm und
Galerie Johann Widauer, Innsbruck



8_Truden_Niedermayr_300.jpg

Walter Niedermayr, Truden 2017

Courtesy Walter Niedermayr, Galerie Nordenhake, Berlin/
Stockholm und Galerie Johann Widauer, Innsbruck



9_Predazzo_Niedermayr_300.jpg

Walter Niedermayr, Predazzo 2015

Courtesy Walter Niedermayr, Galerie Nordenhake, Berlin/
Stockholm und Galerie Johann Widauer, Innsbruck