

## What is Infrastructural Critique? (Vienna, 29–31 Oct 25)

Universität für angewandte Kunst Wien, Auditorium, VZA, Vordere Zollamtsstraße 7,  
1030 Wien, Oct 29–31, 2025

Rose-Anne Gush

A conference in celebration of the life and work of Marina Vishmidt.

The conference What is Infrastructural Critique? will feature artists, critical theorists and collaborators with Marina Vishmidt, who will come together to think through Marina Vishmidt's concept of infrastructural critique, a materialist approach to the infrastructures of contemporary art oriented towards aesthetics and political struggle in all of its interconnected modes and scales. Themes of discussion will include: infrastructural critique and ecology, infrastructural critique vs. institutional critique, art and political economy, art and logistics, the politics of abolition in contemporary art, infrastructural critique and music and the relationship of infrastructure to race.

With talks and presentations by Marwa Arsanios, Hannah Black, Maria Bussmann, Helmut Draxler, Rose-Anne Gush, Danny Hayward, Angela Melitopoulos + Kerstin Schroedinger, Taylor Le Melle Mattin, Andreas Petrossians, Natascha Sadr Haghighian, Robert Schlicht + Romana Schmalisch, Kerstin Stakemeier, Alberto Toscano

Marina Vishmidt was Professor of Art Theory at the Angewandte between October 2023 and April 2024.

The event will begin with a talk on the book *Infrastructural Critique: Contemporary Art Between Reproduction and Abolition*, forthcoming with Verso in 2026.

Overview times of the conference

29.10, 18-20.00

30.10, 10.30-18.30

31.10, 10.30-18.30

Detailed schedule

Wednesday 29th

18-20.00

Welcome: Sofia Bempeza and Annette Krauss (dep. Art and Communication Practices)

Opening of the conference: Vice Rector Brigitte Felderer

Keynote: Danny Hayward: We are here and we are in it

Moderated by Annette Krauss

Thursday 30th

10.30.-13.30

Welcome: Annette Krauss

Natascha Sadr Haghighian: flames to dust'

Rose-Anne Gush: Figures of Entropy as Anchors of Value

Helmut Draxler: Institution, Infrastructure, or Critique? Reconstructing the lines of conflict

Moderated by Sofia Bempéza

14.30-16.00

Taylor Le Melle: tbc

Marwa Arsanios: Reading Marina Vishmidt in Beirut: A conversation that did not happen yet had happened long ago

Moderated by Nanna Heidenreich

16.30-18.00

Maria Bussmann: take a virtual tour: thoughts and images for Marina

Angela Melitopoulos und Kerstin Schroedinger: Being Moved: Infrastructures of Denial

Moderated by Rose-Anne Gush

Friday 31st

10.30-13.30

Welcome: Sofia Bempéza

Robert Schlicht und Romana Schmalisch: Talking the enemy's language

Hannah Black: tbc

Andreas Petrossiants: tbc

Moderated by Amanda Holmes

14.30-16.00

Kerstin Stakemeier: The Popular Front of Disalienation. On Infrastructural Sense/s

Mattin: Noise in the Gaps

Moderated by Alexi Kukuljevic

16.30-17.15

Alberto Toscano (online): This World We Must End

Moderated by Danny Hayward

17.15- 19.00

Summary discussion

Moderated by Annette Krauss and Sofia Bempéza

The conference is curated by Danny Hayward and Rose-Anne Gush, and organized by Sofia Bempéza, Rose-Anne Gush, Danny Hayward, Annette Krauss.

Moderations by: Alexi Kukuljevic, Amanda Holmes, Annette Krauss, Danny Hayward, Nanna Heidenreich, Sofia Bempéza, Rose-Anne Gush

Hosted by the department Art and Communication Practices, Institute of Studies in Art and Art Education, University of Applied Arts Vienna.

Thank you for your generous support!

Student assistants: Meret Caderas, James Elsey, Claudia Florentina Marija Jančić, Valentina Sant-

ner, Anna Schoissengeyer, Ronja Wolf

Technicians and videographers: Fine Freiberg, Tatia Skhirtladze, Thomas Mitterböck, Maximilian Maitz

Administration and Facility Management: Martina Dragschitz, Alexandra Frank, Shirley Thurner, and the departments of the Institute of the Study of Art and Art Education

Registration: [infrastructural\\_critique@uni-ak.ac.at](mailto:infrastructural_critique@uni-ak.ac.at)

Reference:

CONF: What is Infrastructural Critique? (Vienna, 29-31 Oct 25). In: Arthist.net, Oct 28, 2025 (accessed Dec 20, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/51008>>.