

# Nordico Stadtmuseum

## Give Nature a Break Edgar Honetschläger April 11 to August 17, 2025

The Nordico Stadtmuseum dedicates a comprehensive solo exhibition to visual artist, filmmaker, and environmental activist Edgar Honetschläger. His artistic work has received numerous art and cultural awards in Austria, Japan, and Italy and has been featured at renowned platforms such as documenta X and the Berlinale. His creative spectrum spans drawing, painting, and photography to performance, installation, intervention, and short and feature films.

Since the late 1980s, Edgar Honetschläger has engaged in a multimedia exploration of the human/nature dichotomy. With a subtly critical approach that is both poetic and humorous, he questions conventional perspectives through surprising points of view. For Honetschläger, it is not enough for art to address the ecological crisis purely through aesthetics—he sees it as an artist's responsibility to take concrete action.

### A Life Between New York, Vienna, São Paulo, Tokyo, and Rome

Honetschläger's childhood in Linz laid the foundation for his engagement with nature. Decades spent living in major global metropolises have expanded his perspectives and left a lasting mark on his practice. From early on, the artist addressed the interrelationship between nature and humanity through photography, drawings, and film. His works challenge cultural conditioning and offer alternative views on the human/nature relationship. His time in Japan, in particular, influenced his artistic approach, characterized by minimalism, harmony, a critique of central perspective, and a questioning of Western notions of individualism.

"Artist Edgar Honetschläger moves between cultures; he is a cosmopolitan, a traveler between worlds. He enters the dynamic space between identity and alterity and discovers freedom at the threshold between the familiar and the foreign. It was important to me to dedicate a solo exhibition to this native of Linz at the Nordico Stadtmuseum," emphasizes Andrea Bina, Director of the Nordico.

"With Edgar Honetschläger, the Nordico Stadtmuseum honors an artist whose work extends far beyond the borders of Linz and Austria. His interdisciplinary exploration of nature, culture, and society makes him a compelling voice in contemporary art. Particularly impressive is his unwavering commitment to the preservation of nature, highlighted by the creation of a NON-HUMAN ZONE in Linz—a powerful gesture," explains Doris Lang-Mayerhofer, City Councilor for Culture, Tourism, and the Creative Industries.

### Artistic Engagement with Humanity and Nature

As early as 1989, in his photo series SENSING SOIL, the artist explored our relationship with the Earth. Honetschläger powerfully conveys the fact that humans are in constant interrelation with nature—exposing his own naked body to environmental elements in stark and uncompromising imagery.

Honetschläger's deep connection with Japanese culture influences both the form and content of his work. This is evident in the series White (2013), which presents large-scale canvas works and minimalistic, focused depictions of nature, offering a critical engagement with central perspective. His ongoing series SUMI-E, comprising Japanese ink drawings on handmade washi paper, also reflects this influence. Created

in locations such as Tokyo, Vienna, Yazd, and Rome, these works capture the tension between nature and culture in nuanced shades of gray and black.

Honetschläger also continues his critical reflection on the human-environment relationship through the medium of film. AUN (2011) and LOS FELIZ (2016) each explore human–nature interactions in different ways. THE ANTS OF MIDAS (2023) focuses squarely on the ecological crisis. The film traces how human conceptions of nature have evolved over millennia, ultimately leading to the Anthropocene—a term that Honetschläger critiques for what he sees as its emphasis on human hubris toward nature.

### **NON-HUMAN ZONE in Linz**

With his collective initiative GoBugsGo – Set Nature Free ([www.gobugsgo.org](http://www.gobugsgo.org)), Honetschläger takes things a step further. The project creates “NON-HUMAN ZONES”—areas where nature is left entirely to itself, free from human intervention. As part of the exhibition in Linz, the eighth such zone is now being established. The City of Linz has granted the GoBugsGo association a plot of land in the Heilham district of Urfahr, enabling the creation of the first NON-HUMAN ZONE in Upper Austria—a living sculpture of the 21st century located directly along the Danube River.

View the location on Google Maps: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/aYczwVcLQAnrUnDH9>

“As his multimedia oeuvre demonstrates, Edgar Honetschläger is multifaceted, multitalented, and highly sensitive—his approach to the world is humorous and poetic. But he is also provocative and confrontational. His critical, always unconventional view of the world is nonconformist, revealing, and unafraid to challenge political and cultural establishments,” says Sabine Fellner, curator of the exhibition.

### **Accompanying Program for “Give Nature a Break”**

A diverse accompanying program enriches the exhibition, including Nature:Art Days on May 10 and 11, with artist and curator talks, city walks tracing wild nature, a film brunch, and a guided walk to the Non-Human Zone.

### **Cooperation with Crossing Europe Film Festival**

The Crossing Europe Film Festival (April 29 – May 4) will honor Edgar Honetschläger with a “Local Artist” special that thematically ties into the solo exhibition at the Nordico. Festival pass holders will enjoy free admission to the exhibition.

### **Exhibition on View Through August 17 at the Nordico**

The exhibition Give Nature a Break demonstrates how Honetschläger uses artistic expression to provoke new ways of thinking. His work is poetic, humorous, and provocative—an invitation to rethink the human relationship with nature. The solo exhibition on Edgar Honetschläger will be on view at the Nordico Stadtmuseum through August 17.

# Program

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## **Opening**

**Thu, April 10, 7:00 PM**

Welcome: Andrea Bina, Director of the Nordico Stadtmuseum

Introduction: Sabine Fellner, Curator

Edgar Honetschläger, Artist

Opening Remarks: Doris Lang-Mayerhofer, City Councillor for Culture, City of Linz

Musical program by the vocal and instrumental ensemble Reihe Zykan + (Katharina Adamczyk, Anna Hauf, Gernot Heinrich, Gebhard Heegmann; Conductor: Michael Mautner, Moderation: Irene Suchy)

Culinary accompaniment by Joseph Brot, Weingut Heinrich, and Mosberger Pilzmanufaktur

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## **Nature:Art Days**

**Sat, May 10 – Sun, May 11**

Artist and curator talks, nature walks through the city in search of wild nature, film screening, and excursions to “Non-Human Zones.”

Held in conjunction with the exhibitions of Edgar Honetschläger at the Nordico Stadtmuseum and Touch Nature at the Lentos Kunstmuseum Linz.

## **Sat, May 10**

The Saturday program will be interpreted in Austrian Sign Language. Free admission for the deaf.

## **Opening Lecture 10:00–11:00 AM**

Artist Elisabeth von Samsonow speaks on: “What is Ecological Aesthetics? The Ecological Drama ‘Land of the Goddesses’ in the Pulkau Valley.”

## **Artist Talk 11:00 AM–12:00 PM**

Edgar Honetschläger in conversation with exhibition curator Sabine Fellner.

## **Snack & Talk 12:00–1:00 PM**

In front of Nordico: Light refreshments, conversation about the “Green Museum Forecourt” project, and a contribution by insect researcher Dominique Zimmermann on “Insects in Urban Spaces – with a Focus on the Nordico Forecourt.”

## **Walk & Talk 1:00–3:00 PM**

City walk with expert input, nature observation, and discussions on nutrition, mobility, biodiversity, soil sealing, and climate protection.

Co-organized by Climate Alliance Upper Austria and Linz zu Fuß.

## **Touch Nature 3:00–4:30 PM**

Insight from Sabine Fellner on her curated exhibition Touch Nature at the Lentos. Followed by an artist talk with Elisabeth von Samsonow.

**Sun, May 11**

Mother's Day Special: Surprise for mothers and childcare at the creative station

**Creative Station 10:00 AM–2:00 PM**

Minimal nature interventions for all ages at the Nordico forecourt, with Gabriele Kainberger and Gary Whittaker.

**Film Brunch 10:00 AM–2:00 PM**

Short films by Edgar Honetschläger with a follow-up talk between museum director Andrea Bina and the artist.

**Non-Human Zone Linz 2:00–5:00 PM**

Excursion with Edgar Honetschläger to his Non-Human Zone art project in Heilham – a nature area entrusted by the City of Linz to the association GoBugsGo, off-limits to humans and intended as a retreat for nature, especially insects.

Takes place in all weather, not barrier-free.

Meeting point: Nordico

Registration for Nature:Art Days requested: +43 732 7070 1912 or online at [4ordico.at](http://4ordico.at)

Cost: Nordico admission + event ticket, valid for both days and all program events

Nature:Art Days are kindly supported by Joseph Brot

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**Family Workshop – Sumi-e: Japanese Ink Painting for All Ages****Sun, May 25, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM**

Cost: Family: 1st person €7, each additional person €3.

Registration required, max. 20 participants

**Fri, July 11, 6:00–8:00 PM**

As part of Family Night (no additional costs, limited capacity)

“Sumi” means black ink, and “e” means painting in Japanese. Sumi-e is the art of painting objects and themes using ink and a Chinese or Japanese brush. The unpainted areas are as important as the painted ones, which appear in varying shades of gray. The ink, diluted with water, ranges from deep black to light gray. The main subjects are the Four Gentlemen: the plum blossom (spring), orchid (summer), chrysanthemum (autumn), and bamboo (winter). Additionally, we'll practice drawing clouds and dragons.

All materials provided by Nordico.

Led by artist Klaus Scheuringer

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**Summer Festival****Thu, July 3****from 7:00 PM**

We celebrate summer on Nordico's blooming forecourt with music, food, and drinks.

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**Nature & Culture Hike in Neufelden****Fri 11 July, from 7:30 AM**

Hike along the Große Mühl to Edgar Honetschläger's summer house and on to the Teufelsstein, with a break at the inn *Hopfen & Schmalz* and a joint swim.

Hiking time: 3 hours, moderate difficulty, good fitness required.

Meeting point: Mühlkreisbahnhof Linz-Urfahr

Departure: 7:30 AM

In cooperation with Alpenverein Linz

The hike takes place in all weather conditions and is not barrier-free.

Cost: €18 (includes Nordico admission, excludes train ticket and food)

Max. 20 participants, registration required\*

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## Guided Tours

### Public Tours

#### Sundays 2:30–3:30 PM

Regular insights into Nordico's current exhibitions. Our education team tailors the experience to the needs and interests of each group. German only

Tour ticket: €4 plus admission

### Special Tour at the Natural History Museum Vienna

#### Fri 25 April, 2:00–4:00 PM

Entomologist Dominique Zimmermann co-authored the *Insect Manifesto* with Edgar Honetschläger for the GoBugsGo association. At the Natural History Museum, she researches insects such as wild bees and wasps, and will offer a behind-the-scenes look at her workplace and the collection.

Self-organised travel

Meeting point: NHM entrance, Vienna

Registration at +43 732 7070 1912 or online at [nordico.at](http://nordico.at) by 18 April, max. 15 participants

Cost: museum admission only

In cooperation with NHM Vienna

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## Bookable Group Tours

Whether as a family outing, part of a company celebration, or with friends: book a custom tour or a themed discussion.

Registration and info: [kunstvermittlung@lentos.at](mailto:kunstvermittlung@lentos.at) or +43 732 7070 1912

Tours with Sign Language Interpretation

Regularly scheduled. Find upcoming dates on our website: [nordico.at](http://nordico.at)

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## Schools at the City Museum

### Research Workshop: Earth to Beetle!

#### Grades 1–6

We use art, nature, and creativity as inspiration for our own creations. What messages do trees, seeds, and grasses have for us? What are the insects trying to tell us? Held outdoors in good weather.

Research Workshop: Nature

#### Grades 7–12

Our relationship to nature as a collective and democratic construction site: Do we meet nature as equals, inside or outside of it? What do our footprints mean for the planet's future? Where can we begin—through protest, mindfulness, utopia?

Held outdoors in good weather.

Duration selectable: 1, 1.5 or 2 hours

Cost: €4, €5, or €6 per student

# Biography

Visual artist, screenwriter, film director, and environmental activist. Edgar Honetschläger's work spans drawing, painting, and photography to performance, installation, intervention, as well as short and feature films. He lived and worked for five years in the United States, thirteen years in Japan, and one year in Brazil. Since 2011, he has primarily resided in Italy.

His artistic practice questions cultural conventions, notions of individualism, and the linear understanding of time—alongside the consequences these ideas have on how we relate to nature.

In 2006, Honetschläger founded the EDOKO Institute Film Production in Vienna; in 2018, he established the non-profit organisation GoBugsGo. His work has been featured at venues including documenta X and the Berlinale.

He lives and works in Vienna and near Rome.

[www.honetschlaeger.com](http://www.honetschlaeger.com)

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## Solo / Group Exhibitions (selection)

2024: CASA MADRE Galerie Naples; Pio Monte, Sette Opere di Misericordia, Naples / 2023: TARQUINIA, Charim Galerie Vienna; E LA NAVE VA, Globart, Abbey of Melk / 2022: Japonism, Städtische Galerie Bietigheim-Bissingen / 2021: Kulturstiftung H. Geiger Basel; Triennale MAK Vienna / 2020: Kunstverein Eisenstadt; Glaspalast Augsburg; GoBugsGo, Quartiere Intelligente Naples / 2019: Frankfurter Kunstverein; GoBugsGo, Forum Stadtpark Graz; GoBugsGo, Museum der Moderne Salzburg / 2018: GoBugsGo, Kunsthalle Wien Karlsplatz / 2016: LOS FELIZ, 21er Haus Vienna; Charim Galerie Vienna; Kunsthalle Darmstadt; LOS FELIZ MACRO, Museo d'Arte Contemporanea di Roma / 2014: Traklhaus Salzburg / 2013: Museum Kunst der Westküste, Föhr / 2012: Bambin, Art Gallery Tokyo / 2011: SOUND OF SIRENS, in collaboration with Sylvia Eckermann, OÖ Landesmuseum Linz; Charim Galerie Vienna; Rupertinum Salzburg; Gallery Out of Place Tokyo / 2010: Mudam Luxembourg / 2009: EDOPOLIS, Kunsthalle Krems; EDOPOLIS, Casino Luxembourg; Lentos Kunstmuseum Linz / 2008: Wien Museum; Fotohof Salzburg; National Library Vienna / 2007: Taiwan National Palace Museum Taipei; Ursula Blickle Stiftung; Kunsthalle Wien / 2006: CHICKENSSUIT, Aarhus Kunstbygning, Denmark / 2005: CHICKENSSUIT, World Expo Aichi, Japan; Hangar 7 Salzburg / 2004: Charim Galerie Vienna; Vienna ArtFair; Art Zurich / 2003: Hammer Museum Los Angeles / 2002: REGIE, Kunsthallen Brandts Odense, Denmark; Art Cologne / 2001: REGIE, OÖ Landesmuseum; Steirischer Herbst; Triennale Milano / 2000: Kunsthalle Wien; Kunsthalle Krems; FIAC Paris / 1999: Artforum Merano; Kunstraum Viktor Bucher Vienna / 1997: documenta X Kassel; Griffin Contemporary Exhibitions Los Angeles; Art Basel / 1995: Art Fair Yokohama; Philips Galerie Vienna / 1994: Sagacho Exhibit Space Tokyo / 1993: Gallery Hosomi Tokyo; SAI Gallery Osaka / 1992: Kunst Raum Stuttgart; Austrian Cultural Institute New York; Asacloth Gallery Tokyo / 1991: MJS Books and Graphics New York / 1990: Palais Wittgenstein Vienna

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## Films (selection)

2023: The Ants of Midas, 75', feature film, AT/IT / 2018: Flucuthukh, 15', experimental short film, AT/IT / 2016: LOS FELIZ, 105', feature film, AT/IT/US/JP; retrospective at the Austrian Film Archive and the Cineteca Nazionale Rome / 2015: 320 Filosofiana, 18', AT/IT / 2013: Omsch, 80', documentary film, AT / 2012: Sehnsucht, short feature, 4', AT; Kazue, short feature, 3', AT / 2011: Aun, feature film, 95', AT/JP; Tarzan 2011, short feature, 3', AT / 2008: Sugar and Ice, short feature, 5', AT/BR / 2007: Beijing Holiday, short feature, 13', AT/JP/TW/CN / 2006: Evergreen and the Modern Age, experimental film, 2 × 60', AT/AR/BR/UY/US/JP / 2005: Erni, short feature, 7', AT/JP / 2003: Il mare e la torta, film essay, 60', AT/IT / 2002: George in Hollywood, short feature, 4', AT/US / 2001: Enduring Freedom, short feature, 4', AT / 2000: L+R, film essay, 79', AT/JP; colors = the history of chocolate, masacchio, in times of emergency, film trilogy, 33', AT/IT / 1997: Milk, feature film, 102', AT/JP / 1996: 97–(13+1), documentary, 17', AT/JP / 1995: HCN MIAU, commercial for HUMANIC, 2 × 30" / 1991: Sequences, experimental film, 20', AT/US

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**Public / Private Collections (selection)**

Lentos Kunstmuseum Linz / Nordico Stadtmuseum Linz / Albertina Vienna / Wien Museum MUSA / Art Collection of the Province of Upper Austria (OÖLKG) / Federal Artothek Vienna / Tyrolean State Museum Ferdinandeum Innsbruck / Museum der Moderne, Rupertinum Salzburg / IBM Vienna / Bank Austria Vienna / T-Mobile Center Vienna / Red Bull Salzburg / Minato Mirai Yokohama / MUDAM Luxembourg / MAK Vienna / Eichendorff Gesellschaft / Strabag Kunstforum Vienna / Museum Angerlehner Wels / Ursula Blickle Stiftung Vienna / VIG (Vienna Insurance Group) Vienna

**Books / Catalogues**

2016: Ein Kappa geht nach Tokyo, Schlebrügge.Editor / 2013: Sugar and Ice, Schlebrügge.Editor / 2009: Edopolis, Kunsthalle Krems; Casino Luxembourg / 2008: Tokyo Plain, Fotohof Salzburg / 2001: Regie, OÖ Landesmuseum Linz; Kunsthalle Brandts Odense, Denmark / 2000: Ich habe Zeit, Vienna / 1997: 97–(13+1), documenta X, Vienna/Cologne / 1994: Schuhwerk, The Executive Committee of Schuhwerk, Tokyo / 1992: Tools, Galerie Cross Osaka; Galerie Asacloth Tokyo; Galerie im StifterHaus Linz / 1990: Palais Wittgenstein, Vienna

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**Awards**

2024: Culture Award of Lower Austria for GoBugsGo; Premio Miglior Lungometraggio for Le Formiche di Mida at the Italia Green Film Festival / 2021: Heinrich Gleißner Prize / 2019: Georg Heindl Cultural Prize / 2016: LOS FELIZ, Best Foreign Film at Siena Film Festival, Best Sound Design at Diagonale Graz / 2013: Omsch, Prix Buyens-Chagoll at Visions du Réel International Film Festival Nyon / 2009: State Culture Prize of Upper Austria for Interdisciplinary Art / 1999: L+R, Japan Foundation, Tokyo / 1996: Feature film MILK, JEC Fund Osaka / 1995: Talent Promotion Award of the City of Linz / 1993: Japan Foundation scholarship for SCHUHWERK / 1991: 1st Prize at the 22nd Austrian Graphic Arts Competition

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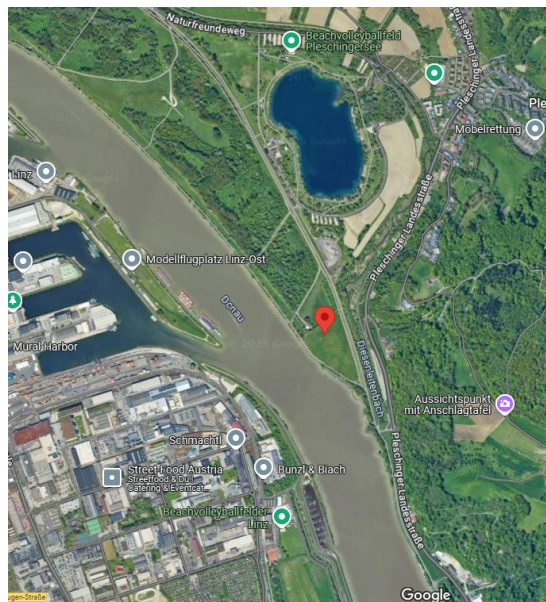
**Lectures / Workshops / Visiting Professorships**

Geijutsu University Tokyo / Nichidai University Tokyo / University of Yamaguchi, Japan / University of Olomouc, Czech Republic / University of Applied Arts Vienna / Academy of Fine Arts Vienna / University of Yazd, Iran / University of Art and Design Linz, Master Class in Painting

# Factsheet

Exhibition title	Give Nature a Break Edgar Honetschläger
Exhibition periode	Give Nature a Break Edgar Honetschläger April 11 to August 17, 2025
Exhibition venue	1st floor, Nordico City Museum Linz
Non Human Zone	The City of Linz has leased a plot of land in the Heilham district of Urfahr to the GoBugsGo association for two years, with an option to extend. The plot measures approximately 600 square meters.

You can find the location on Google Maps here:  
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/KPPCPVG5FztbVrWD9>



Credits	Curator: Sabine Fellner
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<b>In Cooperation with</b>	<p>The Crossing Europe Film Festival (April 29 – May 4) is dedicating a special program to Edgar Honetschläger as Local Artist, thematically linked to the solo exhibition at Nordico. Screening times will be available online at <a href="http://crossingeurope.at">crossingeurope.at</a> from April 18. With a festival pass, entry to the exhibition at Nordico is free!</p> <p><b>CROSSING EUROPE</b></p>
<b>Publication</b>	<p>A publication accompanying the exhibition, <i>Give Nature a Break</i>, will be released by Anton Pustet Verlag, Salzburg. Graphic design: Willi Schmid. Edited by Edgar Honetschläger, with contributions by Andrea Bina, Eduardo Cicelyn, Sabine Fellner, Edgar Honetschläger, Patrick Holzapfel, Christl Lieben, and Dominique Zimmermann. 240 pages, € 34. Available at the Nordico shop or online at <a href="http://shop.museenderstadtlinz.at">shop.museenderstadtlinz.at</a>.</p>
<b>Opening hours</b>	<p>Tue–Sun 10 am–6 pm, Thu 10 am–8 pm          Closed on Mondays          For special opening hours, please visit <a href="http://www.nordico.at">www.nordico.at</a>.</p>
<b>Admission</b>	<p>€ 8, reduced € 6 / € 3</p>
<b>Press contact</b>	<p>Clarissa Ujvari-Hanten          +43(0)732/7070-3603          +43(0)650/4849706  <a href="mailto:clarissa.ujvari-hanten@lentos.at">clarissa.ujvari-hanten@lentos.at</a>          Ernst-Koref-Promenade 1          4020 Linz</p>
<b>Web &amp; Social Media</b>	<p><a href="http://nordico.at">nordico.at</a>  <a href="https://facebook.com/nordicolinz">facebook.com/nordicolinz</a>  <a href="https://instagram.com/nordicolinz">instagram.com/nordicolinz</a>  <a href="https://youtube.com">youtube.com</a></p>

# Images

Press images and exhibition views are available for download on our website for the duration of the exhibition (<https://www.nordico.at/museum/presse/presse-kit-edgar-honetschlaeger-give-nature-a-break-11-04-bis-24-08-25>). Free of charge for editorial use only, with credit to the photographer, and exclusively for current coverage of the exhibition.