

Exploring potentials, clearly identifying deficits, addressing them through art, and thereby paving the way to a self-determined future: the European Capital of Culture Bad Ischl Salzkammergut 2024 was a success in the first half of the year.

Bad Aussee, 10. Juli 2024

On the occasion of the mid-year press conference on 10 July 2024 in Bad Aussee, Elisabeth Schweeger, Artistic Director of the European Capital of Culture Bad Ischl Salzkammergut 2024, along with her team reviewed the first half of the year. As of 30 June, around 130 projects presented in the programme book had been implemented. In the first six months, approximately 220,000 visitors were recorded. Of these, more than 8 out of 10 projects had a regional connection. All of our own performative events with admission to date were sold out. A total of 827 participating artists, scientists and experts from the region, Austria and internationally as well as countless active members from regional traditional associations (singing and music, dance, crafts, Glöckler and Prangerschützen, etc.) and people from various population groups such as students, women and pensioners were involved in the realization of projects in the first half of the year. The numbers of arrivals and overnight stays from January to April 2024 are very positive. In the banner city of Bad Ischl, an 36% increase in arrivals and 21% overnight stays was recorded, while the entire Capital of Culture region saw an 8% increase in arrivals and nearly a 5% increase in overnight stays. Since the opening, media representatives from Austria and 16 other countries from Germany, United Kingdom, France, Spain, Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Poland, Estonia, Latvia, Australia, China and Singapore have visited the Salzkammergut region.

Press | European Capital of Culture Bad Ischl Salzkammergut 2024

Christina Werner c.werner@salzkammergut.at, M +43 699 10 48 70 72

Gustav Mahler's 2nd Symphony ALLES SCHON WEGKOMPONIERT in Steinbach am Attersee was attended by 1,060 music enthusiasts, while the spectacular performance of BRUCKNERS SALZ in the salt works in Ebensee was attended by 2,485 people (including dress rehearsal). Many music events are and were open to the public free of charge and more than well attended, such as the HAUSMUSIK ROAS with 4,195 visitors or the FÊTE DE LA MUSIQUE on 21 June. There were 5,000 visitors at the PRIDE PARADE in Bad Ischl on 15 June. The European Capital of Culture Bad Ischl Salzkammergut 2024 also scored with theatre and operetta performances: SALTICE in Laakirchen, URLICHT PRIMAL LIGHT and SHORT OPERETTA FESTIVAL in Bad Ischl – all three sold out. REMOTE BAD ISCHL, an audio tour by and with the theatre label Rimini Protokoll, has been very well received and runs until 27 July. Until the end of 2024, the audio theatre UNTERWEGS (ON THE MOVE) can be experienced online with your own mobile phone or via audio stations in two marked trains of the Traunseetram. The "Power and Tradition" programme line was met with great interest. HIDDEN IN THE ROCK. THE MOUNTAIN, THE SALT & THE ART by Simon Schwartz at the Salzwelten in Altaussee attracted 4,700 visitors (22 March to 30 June), the joint project (trilogy) with Lentos THE JOURNEY OF THE PAINTINGS in Linz, Lauffen and Bad Aussee attracted a total of 30,000 visitors and WHERE ARE WE NOW? by Japanese artist Chiharu Shiota in the Ebensee concentration camp memorial gallery attracted 5,000 visitors (27 April to 30 June). And the central exhibition SUDHAUS – art with salt & water, for which the exhibition catalogue was recently published, recorded 13,715 visitors from 18 January to 30 June.

Kulturhauptstadt Bad Ischl
Salzkammergut 2024 GmbH
Auböckplatz 4 | 4820 Bad Ischl
www.salzkammergut-2024.at

Pressekontakt
presse@salzkammergut-2024.at
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"For me as Artistic Director and my team, however, these positive figures are only part of the picture. For me and all my colleagues, it's also about the question: have we given art the right framework and have we fully utilized the power that lies within it, which I still believe in? It was not about organizing a festival, but from the beginning, demonstrating the enormous potential of this region, clearly naming its deficits, infusing them with art, and thereby paving the way for a self-determined future." **Elisabeth Schweeger, Artistic Director of the European Capital of Culture Bad Ischl Salzkammergut 2024**

"We can already say: Something has been achieved with the European Capital of Culture Bad Ischl Salzkammergut. We are experiencing at firsthand how a region is rethinking itself with the means of art and culture embracing the joy of experimenting and exploring new paths, a great pleasure in working together, and also a cultivated culture of debate as it moves into the future. The European Capital of Culture Region is thus also an example of a common Europe that needs creative and constructive forces more urgently than ever." **Werner Kogler, Vice-Chancellor and Minister of Culture**

"The extensive and wide-ranging programme of the European Capital of Culture Bad Ischl Salzkammergut 2024 has moved and inspired people from the surrounding area and far beyond. The first six months have already impressively demonstrated the potential of this region and how art and culture can act as a bridge between tradition and modernity. Not only has the local identity been strengthened, but significant international attention has also been generated. I am convinced that art and culture will remain the 'salt' of this region in the future, in line with the motto of the 'Culture salts Europe' project. My sincere thanks go to everyone involved, especially Elisabeth Schweeger and Manuela Reichert, the artists and, of course, the dedicated audience." **Andrea Mayer, State Secretary for Art and Culture**

"I congratulate Elisabeth Schweeger and her team on their success! I was able to see the ambition and quality of the programme for myself back in February. It is clearly successful in combining old and new, local and global into exciting impulses for the future in this traditionally rich region. The exhibition 'sudhaus – art with salt & water' is an impressive example of this." **Alexander Schallenberg, Federal Minister for European and International Affairs of the Republic of Austria, Vienna**


"Tradition not as a cushion to rest on, but as a source of strength for new ideas and actions, that is the success strategy of Elisabeth Schweeger and her team. It is wonderful that, in cooperation with the Salzburg Festival, the Austrian premiere of 'everything that happened and would happen' by Heiner Goebbels will take place in the rooms of the former saline on the Pernerinsel in Hallein." **Helga Rabl-Stadler, Special Representative of the Foreign Minister for International Cultural Affairs and Committee Member of the European Capital of Culture Bad Ischl Salzkammergut 2024**

"The European Capital of Culture Bad Ischl Salzkammergut 2024 is not only popular and successful nationally, but also internationally – this is shown by the reactions of visitors and the media. I am also delighted. I am particularly pleased that the cooperation with all players in this very special year of culture is working so well. This enriches the art and cultural experience for all visitors. I am already looking forward to the many events in the second half of the Capital of Culture year." **Thomas Stelzer, Governor of Upper Austria, Linz**

"The Salzkammergut region is growing even closer together. The brand 'Salzkammergut' has never shone so brightly across Austria and internationally. With the European Capital of Culture Bad Ischl Salzkammergut 2024, we have succeeded in sending art, culture, tradition and a piece of Styria out into the world and thereby setting new impulses. I am eagerly awaiting the next round of events, in which the Green Heart will be a particularly powerful part of the European Capital of Culture." **Christopher Drexler, Governor of the Province of Styria**

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Salzkammergut 2024 GmbH
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www.salzkammergut-2024.at

Pressekontakt
presse@salzkammergut-2024.at
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"I am very pleased that the events of the European Capital of Culture Bad Ischl Salzkammergut 2024 are so well attended and that the tourism figures are also heading in the right direction. The European Capital of Culture will make the Salzkammergut region even more exciting, both for the people who live here and for visitors and tourists. Our motto 'Culture is the new salt' is, in my opinion, fully accurate. By the middle of the year, we have shown that with relatively little money for a European Capital of Culture, a lot has been achieved, and we are also within the budget plan." **Manuela Reichert, Commercial Director of the European Capital of Culture Bad Ischl Salzkammergut 2024**

GIVING TRADITIONS NEW ROOM FOR MANOEUVRE

The definition of culture is a question of how tradition can be combined with modernity, creating a new modernity that carries traditions within itself and is prepared for a future that will surely be challenging. The Salzkammergut region has the potential of its traditional and traditional costume associations and one that goes far beyond this and ties in with what once made this region rich: openness, tolerance and the will to develop further. Reflecting on the first half of this year clearly shows what is meant by this. Eighty percent of the projects were implemented together with, among others, regional folk song, dance, and costume associations, choirs, and brass bands such as the *Glöckler* and the *Prangerschützen*, as well as artists.

"Traditional forms of expression thrive on their diversity and are constantly adapting to the current needs of a situation, group or place. What can be adapted is passed on. This is also demonstrated by the material from the archive of the Austrian Folk Song Organization, which is over 100 years old. I was delighted to receive the offer from the European Capital of Culture Bad Ischl Salzkammergut 2024 to incorporate new variants of festival traditions into existing forms and thus involve different people from the region and elsewhere. The VOLXFEST project has succeeded in giving stories about traditions new room for manoeuvre." **Irene Egger, Managing Director of the Austrian Folk Song Organisation, Vienna**

"The project 'The slow shot – Salzkammer(sc)hall 2' was an outstanding example of how tradition and modernity can merge harmoniously. From the very beginning, the enthusiasm of the Prangerschützen for this idea and the project was clearly noticeable. The collaboration between the Prangerschützen and the composer and artist Georg Nussbaumer not only emphasized the cultural significance of customs, but also showed that old traditions can remain alive and relevant through creative approaches and innovative presentations. The European Capital of Culture Bad Ischl Salzkammergut 2024 event was a complete success and left a lasting impression on all participants and spectators. The traditions of the festival marksmen are already recognized as national cultural heritage and enjoy great respect. The marksmen are currently endeavouring to have this valuable custom recognized as a world cultural heritage site." **Franz Huber, Chairman, Upper Austrian Shooters' Association, Vöcklamarkt**

COMBINING TRADITIONAL CRAFTSMANSHIP AND CONTEMPORARY ART

Under the motto "Art Meets Craft Meets Art", SCALA has been inviting Austrian and international artists and craftspeople to work in the Salzkammergut since March 2023 and will continue to do so until October 2024. The PerLMUT exhibition at Hand.Werk.Haus in Bad Goisern runs until 8 November. The ANALOG! Festival also focuses on the tradition of craftsmanship with contemporary artistic references and is looking for co-operations from Bad Goisern. A week-long festival with productions, workshops, concerts and performances will take place in September. The results will be shown in an exhibition that will be on display until the end of October. But traditions are also successfully transported abroad, such as the hats made by milliner Claudia Gams for London Craft Week 2024.

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Salzkammergut 2024 GmbH
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"As a craftswoman, it was a great pleasure for me to be able to represent the Salzkammergut at London Craft Week 2024 as part of the European Capital of Culture Bad Ischl Salzkammergut 2024. Among renowned manufacturers and designers from Austria and all over the world, I had the opportunity to present my headwear outside the European Union for the first time. There was great interest in new, fresh designs and men's and women's hats made from wool or hair felt. I have already been able to establish collaborations with two luxury brand managers and my hats were worn at the prestigious horse race in Ascot. I see my future sales opportunities primarily in the area of headwear such as fascinators for tea parties, horse races and weddings." **Claudia Gams, milliner from Ebensee am Traunsee**

REVITALISING VACANT SPACES AND CREATING ART SPACES

Vacant spaces in ÖBB railway stations are at the heart of SALT LAKE CITIES. Since April and until August, young Austrian and international artists have been revitalizing the partially listed and sometimes architectural landmarks with more than 30 artistic positions. The central exhibition SUDHAUS – art with salt & water is shown in an old boiling house. From 2025, the future cultural centre of Bad Ischl will be located here. The Literature Museum in Altaussee has been in operation since January following a comprehensive remodelling. The official reopening took place on 9 July. The Bartlhaus Museum of Writing in Pettenbach has an important collection of ex-libris, and the CALLIGRAPHY EXHIBITION 2024 BEYOND TRADITION can be seen there until 27 October. HOTEL AUSTRIA, the new Bad Ischl town museum, used to be a well-known hotel, which opens on 18 July with the exhibition THE OTHER LIFE. PHOTOGRAPHS BY KONRAD MAUTNER and its newly installed permanent collection. A new visitor centre has been set up on the first floor of the Steinberghaus Salzwelten Altaussee. Since March, the permanent exhibition HIDDEN IN THE ROCK. THE MOUNTAIN, THE SALT & THE ART by Simon Schwartz has been on display since March. The BLAUE BUTTER art centre in the Stadtgarten art quarter in Gmunden was officially opened in May with the exhibition ALL ABOUT THE VESSEL (City of Ceramics). It will host contemporary exhibitions in the future – a new space for art, an industrial building repurposed into an art space, a project initiated by the European Capital of Culture Bad Ischl Salzkammergut 2024, as well as the Lehár theatre, whose renovation is now underway.

"The town of Bad Ischl is delighted that it has succeeded in initiating and implementing the revitalization of vacant buildings, renovations and new openings as part of various initiatives of the European Capital of Culture Bad Ischl Salzkammergut 2024. The projects are part of a comprehensive strategy to revitalize and culturally enrich our town. One highlight is the redesign of the 'Museum of the City of Bad Ischl' under the historic name 'Hotel Austria'. When it opens on 18 July, the museum will be a cultural centre that preserves and presents the history and cultural heritage of Bad Ischl. Preliminary planning for the renovation of the Lehár Theatre has already begun. The theatre, named after the famous operetta composer Franz Lehár, is due to reopen in the anniversary year 2027. As part of the refurbishment, the theatre will be restored to its architectural origins and equipped with state-of-the-art technology to enable a variety of cultural events. The 'Wirtshauslabor' in Bad Ischl has been successfully helping to revitalize historic inns since the opening of the European Capital of Culture Bad Ischl Salzkammergut 2024. By promoting local businesses and utilizing existing buildings, new life has been brought to this traditional location, which strengthens the community and revitalizes our local economy." **Ines Schiller, Mayor of the town of Bad Ischl**

LITERATURE AND MUSIC IN EXTRAORDINARY SPACES

"The poetry vending machines in Bad Aussee, Altaussee, Grundlsee and Bad Mitterndorf are the result of various workshops with children, young people and adults in Ausseerland. My most positive experience at the workshops was the enthusiasm with which young authors got involved in writing poetry. I have included some of the best poems in the poetry dispenser 'Fresh Poems', which is located in the spa gardens of the municipality of Grundlsee." **Matthias Göritz, poet, novelist and translator**

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CULTURE NEEDS THE ECONOMY, THE ECONOMY NEEDS CULTURE

"Intact and vibrant regions are inconceivable without cultural impulses. Culture connects social and economic forces and poses questions about what the future can look like in the regions. The European Capital of Culture Bad Ischl Salzkammergut 2024 brings together many committed people in order to create lasting positive effects. It is therefore an expression of the culture of the WE culture and, as a 100 per cent regional banking group, we are a proud partner." **Martin Schaller, General Director, Raiffeisen-Landesbank Steiermark, Graz**

"The European Capital of Culture Bad Ischl Salzkammergut 2024 is this year's cultural flagship project. Its wide range of historically rooted, contemporary art and culture is also reflected in the exciting projects of the four participating Styrian municipalities. At Energie Steiermark we are therefore delighted to be able to actively support the top-class programme of events in the Capital of Culture year." **Christian Purrer and Martin Graf, Management Board of Energie Steiermark, Graz**

"The fusion of art and culture with economic interests has a very long tradition in our company, which will reach a new peak in the European Capital of Culture Bad Ischl Salzkammergut 2024. Apart from the media presence and the almost inexhaustible stories that we can use in the social networks, this cooperation allows us to reach a great many people who appreciate the value of art, craftsmanship and our design projects. After just over two months, we have already welcomed 15,000 visitors to our current exhibition 'Moss People' by Kim Simonsson, and our goal is to attract 50,000 visitors to our location in Gmunden and, of course, to our shops by the end of the year. In addition to the purely financial aspect, the effect of employee motivation should not be underestimated; our employees have the opportunity to work with international artists and learn a lot from them. This pride in being part of the European Capital of Culture 2024 is reflected in their productivity and direct satisfaction. I can only advise every company to think outside the box and not just look at the costs of such an involvement, but to focus much more on the opportunities and potential that it offers a company." **Andreas Glatz, Managing Director, Gmundner Keramik, Gmunden**

"In February, 'SALTICE – The Tale of Salt and Ice' was shown at the ALFA Kultur- und Veranstaltungszentrum (papermaking museum & culture and event centre) in Laakirchen. I was there myself with great enthusiasm and was able to experience the visually stunning musical theatre project for children inspired by the regional legends and fairy tales of the Salzkammergut region with its salt mines and ice caves. The performance, in which pupils from the regional music school also took part, left a lasting impression on me. I am delighted about the successful cooperation between the European Capital of Culture Bad Ischl Salzkammergut 2024 and Heinzl Holding GmbH. It's great that we were able to support this extraordinary project." **Alfred Hannes Heinzl, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the Heinzl Group**

"The salt warehouse, which normally stores up to 100,000 tonnes of road salt, was transformed into a cultural venue for one evening. It was a great honour for us that the Bruckner Orchestra Linz and a large number of choirs made the salt works resound – thank you very much!" **Peter Untersperger, CEO Salinen Austria AG**

TOGETHER WE

The European Capital of Culture Bad Ischl Salzkammergut 2024 has successful partnerships with numerous institutions, associations, tourism organisations in the region and hotel accommodation providers. They are the guarantee that art and culture can take place in the most diverse facets. Examples include Salzburg Festival, Salzburg Philharmonic Orchestra, Upper Austrian KulturEXPO Anton Bruckner 2024, Linz, Bruckner Orchestra Linz, Ars Electronica Festival, Linz, Upper Austrian Choir Association, Upper Austrian Brass Music Association, Prangerschützen, Lentos, Linz, Joanneum Graz, Buddhist Centre Gomde, Scharnstein, Stefan Zweig Centre Salzburg, Salzkammergut Festwochen Gmunden, Austrian Society for Literature, Vienna,

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Zeitgeschichte Museum & KZ-Gedenkstätte Ebensee, Landesmusikschulen der Kulturhauptstadtregion, Circa, FRANUI Musicbanda, Les Théâtres de la Ville de Luxembourg, Spoleto Festival dei Due Mondi and GmC lighthouse, EU-Japan Fest Japan Committee, Salinen Ebensee, AltBadSeer Musi, Banda Adriatica, D'Attergauer Volkstanzgruppe und Lederhosengirls, D'Vöcklataler, Heimat- und Trachtenverein Alt-Gmunden, Grundlseer Geigenmusik, Viechtauermusikanten, Heimatverein Viechtau, KateRock Verein & ChrisMooves (Hip Hop), Oberösterreichisches und Steirisches Volksliedwerk, Salzkammergut Geigenmusi, Salzkammerqueer, Volkstanzgruppe Altaussee, Volxfestler*innen, Volxfestorchester, Ortner & Ortner, Mozarteum University Salzburg and the Ensemble Multilatérale, Salzwelten GmbH, Kultur Gemeinsam Beleben/Kulturplattform Goisern, Otelo Goisern, Otelo eGen, Hand.Werk. Haus Salzkammergut, HTBLA Hallstatt, Tourismusschulen Bad Ischl, HLW Bad Ischl, HLW Don Bosco, Vöcklabruck, BFS für Holzbildhauer München, Fachschule für Gestaltung Hamburg (specialising in Gewandmeister), Modeschule Ebensee, NMS 1 & 2 Bad Goisern, BG/BRG Bad Ischl, Wolf Systeme, Lidauer, Asamer, Sägewerk Löberbauer, Trewit, KFD, Limberger, Fologram, Salzkammergut/Malwerkstatt, Community Nurse Ebensee am Traunsee, facilities for senior citizens, Women's Forum Salzkammergut, children's and youth ministry of the Catholic parish Ebensee and Roith, Museum Ebensee, Austrian Children's Friends-Salzkammergut region, schools, kindergartens and other educational institutions, Vogelfreunde Ebensee Himmel, private brewery Schloss Eggenberg, Vorchdorf, Keramik Verein Gmunden zur Förderung internationaler Keramikunst, Oberösterreichischer Verkehrsverbund, Österreich Werbung.

"'Bruckner's Salt' resonates in a special way as a one event among events for many people who experienced and shaped it. This event is representative of the unbeatable spirit of a culture of community, which the large-scale formats European Capital of Culture and the KulturEXPO Anton Bruckner 2024, together with the Bruckner Orchestra Linz and the Upper Austrian Choral Association, bring to life. Culture means always finding a fresh WE. WE have proven it and will continue to do so." **Norbert Trawöger, Artistic Director KulturEXPO Anton Bruckner 2024 & Artistic Director Bruckner Orchestra Linz**

"The project 'The Journey of the Paintings', which includes the current special exhibition of the same name at Lentos in Linz, the show 'The Life of Things. Looted – Displaced – Salvaged' in Bad Ischl/Lauffen and the exhibition 'Wolfgang Gurlitt. Art Dealer and Profiteer in Bad Aussee' at the Kammerhofmuseum Bad Aussee, has already attracted a total of 30,000 visitors. We are delighted about the great demand and the lively interest in these historically and artistically significant exhibitions. It shows how important it is to keep history and its impact on art in the public consciousness. We are also particularly pleased with the great international interest shown by specialist audiences, the media and academics. This successful collaboration underlines the high cultural value and broad resonance that initiatives such as the European Capital of Culture Bad Ischl Salzkammergut 2024 can generate." **Hemma Schmutz, Director, Lentos, Linz**

CIVIL SOCIETIES NEED DEBATES AND ARE BASED ON RESPECTFUL INTERACTION WITH ONE ANOTHER

"People keep telling me that at the end of our events over the past six months, they have sat at a table with many people they would not otherwise have met. I myself have learnt to understand many things better and think that these people have had a similar experience with me and my ideas about the world. We realized that all the projects are of very high standard and deal with the region in an international and European context. This is exactly what art and culture can do best. They help us develop a differentiated picture of our societies and thus create the basis for taking the right decisions. This is the cultural foundation, it's about a culture of togetherness." **Elisabeth Schweeger, Artistic Director of the European Capital of Culture Bad Ischl Salzkammergut 2024**

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SALZKAMMERGUT 2024 THRIVES WITH VIBRANCY AND QUEERNESS...

"Since 20 January 2024, when I enthusiastically followed the opening of the European Capital of Culture year in the afternoon with thousands of interested people in the freezing cold and bright sunshine, the work of Elisabeth Schweeger and her entire team has been a single success story for me. So many themes, so many places, so much history, so much knowledge, enthusiasm and passion. So many unique artists, from the region and international, who are involved – that alone is a total work of art. Salzkammergut 2024 thrives with vibrancy and queerness... And we, the Salzkammergut Festwochen Gmunden, particularly enjoy the joint projects. The 'Hausmusikroas', of course. For me, however, 'Briefgeheimnisse interaktiv' (Interactive Secret Letters), which people from the region have created with their private testimonies and documents, is my personal highlight. While the first part in April with the history from 1905 to 1945 was a wonderfully entertaining lesson in democracy, in October Nicole Beutler, Fritz Karl and Marie-Luise Stockinger bring us closer to the second republic through the private records of people from the region. So: there are plenty of good reasons to look forward to the second half of the European Capital of Culture Bad Ischl Salzkammergut 2024!" **Karin Bergmann, Head of Literature and Theatre, Salzkammergut Festwochen Gmunden**

WOMEN'S AND GIRL'S FOOTBALL IN THE SALZKAMMERGUT REGION

"For some years now, we have been able to observe that women's football in Austria is steadily gaining in popularity and is also constantly developing in terms of quality. In rural areas, we owe this development above all to numerous private individuals who are involved in women's football on a voluntary basis – as coaches, players, officials or people in other positions. Clubs such as SV Gmundner Milch are also crucial, as they are willing to run women's teams with 100% support and the right level of appreciation. In order to drive this development forward, a group of players from the newly founded SV Gmundner Milch women's team have submitted a project as part of 'Next Generation You', which aims to promote women's football in the Salzkammergut region, make it even more popular and inspire new girls and women to play club football. I am delighted that the European Capital of Culture Bad Ischl Salzkammergut 2024 is supporting the coaches of 'Next Generation You', the first steps of implementation and presentations of the submitted projects, contributing thus to the further development of women's football in the Salzkammergut." **Julia Spießberger, member of the SV Gmundner Milch women's team**

CULTURE AND CLIMATE PROTECTION ARE NOT MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE

"I really like the idea of the European Capital of Culture Bad Ischl Salzkammergut 2024 project, the advertising pillar magazine for Ausseerland and Bad Ischl, to visualize environmental protection using exemplary animals and plants in public places in Bad Aussee, Altaussee, Bad Mitterndorf and Grundlsee. The daffodil, as the region's leading flower, was the perfect start. The Narcissus Meadow Protection Association pursues the same interests and attaches great importance to protecting the daffodil and its companion plants. I can only welcome broader attention to this issue." **Rudolf Grill, Chairman, Daffodil Festival Association, Bad Aussee**

VOLUNTEER OF THE EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE BAD ISCHL SALZKAMMERGUT 2024

"I retired at the beginning of 2020. After an exciting and technically dominated professional life spanning more than 43 years in the private sector and self-employment, I came across the European Capital of Culture Bad Ischl Salzkammergut 2024. Looking for something meaningful to do, I took a closer look. I liked the concept with the diverse participation across municipal and national borders. I also found the variety of artistic themes exciting. As a volunteer, I thought I could contribute my experience to various projects. And I was curious about the new contacts within the artistic environment. So I applied. So far, I've been able to put my knowledge to good use, for example, in setting up Maruša Sagadin's sculptures in the foyer of the Alte Post, at the openings on 18 January, and receiving guests at Bad Ischl railway station and at the exhibition 'Villa Karbach. How Surrealism comes into the world'.

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I have had many positive experiences with the European Capital of Culture Bad Ischl Salzkammergut 2024, both in the professional and appreciative cooperation with the team members and with the many other volunteers." Helmut Engl from Ebensee am Traunsee

HIGHLIGHTS IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE YEAR

MUSIC including MRS. THOMAS AND MR. MARTIN – An open air variety show with Tom Neuwirth and Martin Zerza on 19 and 20 July in the music pavilion in the Kurpark Bad Mitterndorf +++ GEORG NUSSBAUMER Salzkammer(sc)hall 3 THE SUNG HORIZON on 29 September in Offensee and Salzkammer(sc)hall 4 THE LANDSCAPE ORGAN from 5 to 29 October in Vorchdorf +++ BILL FONTANA with SILENT ECHOES from 4 September to 10 November on the Dachstein, at the Ars Electronica Festival, at Kunsthaus Graz and at MuseumsQuartier Wien. The show kicks off on 3 September in the Dachstein giant cave. The US-American artist is developing a sound sculpture as an artistic statement on the consequences of climate change +++ EISKLANG (ICE SOUND) – Extraordinary musical experiences in one of the most remarkable "concert halls" in the world – the Parzival Dome in the Dachstein Giant Ice Cave Obertraun from 16 August to 6 September +++ HUBERT VON GOISERN – A sound sculpture as an artistic statement on the consequences of climate change. September +++ HUBERT VON GOISERN – ACOUSTIC TRANSFORMATIONS OF A SPECIAL KIND from June to the end of August +++ As always HAUSMUSIK ROAS together with Salzkammergut Festwochen Gmunden +++ EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED AND WOULD HAPPEN – A fantastic roundelay by HEINER GOEBBELS on 23 and 25 August on the Pernerinsel in Hallein +++ ATTWENGER GOES DACHSTEIN – A concert in the airy caves of the Dachstein mountains on 31 August +++ NEW SALT – A festival for experimental musical positions from 5 to 8 September in Bad Ischl (Trinkhalle, Stadtpfarrkirche St. Nikolaus, Lehár Theater, Hettegger, Kurpark, Alte Kurdirektion and Pfarrsaal) +++ IDYLLE DER MODERNE – ARNOLD SCHÖNBERG AM TRAUNSEE – A concert on 1 September in Traunkirchen +++ SALZ after Peter Handke. Kali – A pre-winter story on 7 and 8 September +++ SALON SCHÖNBERG AND HIS MUSIC – A concert with exhibition in Gmunden on 4 October +++ SONG/SONG – Stories in songs, legends and secret languages at Kitzmantelfabrik in Vorchdorf on 25 October.

THEATRE AND LITERATURE including THE 'WEISSE RÖSSL' FROM LAUFFEN, world premiere on 9 August with further performances on 10 and 11 August +++ HAMMER. THE STORY OF ROBERT AND JULIA, further performances in September +++ EUROPEAN THEATRE FESTIVAL at the Lehár Theatre – top-class performances by young, regional and international theatre makers dealing with the culture of remembrance and Europe, including MEIN LIEBLINGSTIER HEISST WINTER (My favourite animal is called Winter), an operetta series in 5 episodes on 11 October, and SONS OF SISSY on 13 October +++ The continuation of the series DIE REISE AUS DER WELT VON GESTERN IN DIE WELT VON MORGEN (Journey from the World of Yesterday to the World of Today) in cooperation with the Stefan Zweig Center Salzburg and the Österreichische Gesellschaft für Literatur. After the sold-out reading with Tobias Moretti during a boat trip on Lake Grundlsee, Thomas Köck and Birgit Minichmayr will read on 29 August and Mavie Hörbiger SECRET LETTERS on 10 October in Gmunden – a collaboration with Salzkammergut Festwochen Gmunden. Klaus Maria Brandauer will also be reading Éric Vuillard on 12 September at the parish church in Bad Ischl and 20 October at Brucknerhaus Linz.

CONSTRUCTION CULTURE AND CRAFTS SOLENAUT*INNEN – An international brine spaceport in Bad Ischl enables space experience for all from 27 July to 25 August +++ SIMPLE SMART BUILDINGS – A participatory knowledge transfer with the topics wood, lime burning/lime slaking, clay, investigation of historical substance with workshops for employees in the municipalities and building yards, students and all people interested in crafts from 2 to 9 September +++ INTERVENTA HALLSTATT 2024. RURAL CONSTRUCTION CULTURE – A symposium between tradition and innovation from 19 to 22 September.

Kulturhauptstadt Bad Ischl
Salzkammergut 2024 GmbH
Auböckplatz 4 | 4820 Bad Ischl
www.salzkammergut-2024.at

Pressekontakt
presse@salzkammergut-2024.at
+43 699 10 48 70 72

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Bad Ischl Salzkammergut

ART YOUR VILLAGE negotiates local identities and peculiarities and how they relate to the "big picture" in line with the "Culture in Motion" programme line. Some projects are open to the public free of charge until September +++ SALT LAKE CITIES will continue to surprise visitors until the autumn with artistic interventions in empty spaces along ÖBB railway lines +++ SELMA SELMAN. UNTIL WE ARE MORE THAN GOLD: A TRIPTYHCH takes a stand in the Salzkammergut from 27 September to 31 October +++ EUROPEAN EYES ON JAPAN | JAPAN TODAY focuses on intercultural exchange from 21 September to 31 October +++ GREEN An exhibition with contemporary art positions on climate change, overexploitation, species extinction and natural disasters from 5 October to 16 November.

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+43 699 10 48 70 72

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