

Talks in the KoKo Gallery in Vienna

The “Art and Knowledge Café KoKo” serves to revive the Vienna Coffee House tradition for intellectuals and artists, considering itself to be a place for knowledge exchange and communication going beyond universities and schools.

The program of this Café, having mutated from an Art Gallery (KoKo) to an Art & Knowledge Café, has its roots in the historical culture of intellectual circles in Vienna that had their meeting place in Coffee Houses, serving as an inspiring locatio for stimulating arts, literature, science as and political ideas.

Situated in the 6th district of Vienna since 2006, Café Koko began a series of talks in 2009, the initial subjects on the knowledge society and knowledge politics. A compilation of these talks was published through a radio program broadcast on April 19th, 2010, taking as a theme the “mini revolte” of students in Vienna during autumn 2010. This program had the title “Student’s Uprising 2009 – simply a smooth wind or a storm paving the way for a future Knowledge Society?”

From this beginning, the talks have been conceptualized as a series of discussion rounds, disputations, contemplations, readings, presentations, vernissages / finissages and performances. The goal of all these events is to convey insights, knowledge and elicitations in the ambience of an intellectual coffee house, but within a new societal context.

Visitors to KoKo are members of the KoKo Club and may acquire their socalled KoKo Credit Points, not by industrious participation, but rather than by engagement and interacting with each other.

The regular program, takes place mostly in late afternoon or early evening, and is defined by the coffeehouse management or, by those acting as performers, artists or speakers. If they wish, visitors to the Gallery Café enter discussions, either stimulated by the presentations, or by means of so called “World Cafés” or “Knowledge Cafés”. (Whoever wishes – we immediately think of students - may receive a KoKo Credit Point Voucher, as there is no future without justifying documents ;-)

Those entering into a dispute, giving a presentation, reading from their publication, performers, artists, actors, musicians ... are either invited by the Coffee House or commit themselves to invite guests and their friends to engage, so that the spirit of curiosity, innovation and knowledge is spread throughout the room.

Once confirmed, the program will be published day by day via the web pages of the gallery: www.galerie-koko.at