

viennacontemporary and JP Immobilien Announce Winner of the 2025 Sculpture Project

Lukas Thaler, represented by Galerie Elisabeth & Klaus Thoman, wins the second edition of the Sculpture Project.



Lukas Thaler, © Vincent Bauer

Vienna, February 2025 – viennacontemporary and JP Immobilien are delighted to announce Lukas Thaler as the winner of the second edition of the Sculpture Project. Thaler, represented by Galerie Elisabeth & Klaus Thoman, impressed the jury with his proposal, *Seating Variations (Bench #1, #2, #3)*, a series of engraved limestone sculptures designed to merge functionality, conceptual depth, and aesthetic innovation.

The Sculpture Project invites galleries participating in viennacontemporary to propose outdoor sculptures by their represented artists. Following a rigorous selection process, the jury—comprising Michelle Cotton (Artistic Director, Kunsthalle Wien), Kasia Matt-Uszynska (Director, Neuer Kunstverein Wien), Daniel Jelitzka (Managing Partner, JP Immobilien), and Francesca Gavin (Artistic Director,

viennacontemporary)—unanimously selected Thaler’s project for its innovative reimagining of public sculpture.

“Lukas Thaler’s proposal is a fascinating fusion of function, aesthetics, and concept. His work challenges traditional notions of public art by creating a space for reflection and interpersonal exchange, encouraging viewers to engage both physically and intellectually with the sculptures,” the jury stated.

Thaler’s *Seating Variations* consists of three modular limestone benches, each composed of natural stone blocks engraved with enigmatic phrases: *“This is it, there is nothing else”*, *“incredibly vague”*, and *“this changes everything.”* The sculptures’ adaptable arrangement encourages interaction and dialogue, bridging the gap between the soft, human body and the rigid permanence of stone. The project invites audiences to question entrenched personal and social patterns while serving as a space for conversation, reflection, and rest.



Lukas Thaler, seating variations (bench #1) engraved limestone, 2025, courtesy of Galerie Elisabeth & Klaus Thoman

The selected artist receives a prize and production fee. The completed sculpture will be unveiled and exhibited in the Foyer of Messe Wien Halle D during viennacontemporary 2025 (September 11–14). JP Immobilien retains a priority right to acquire Thaler’s work.

Lukas Thaler (*1989), based in Vienna, is known for his innovative exploration of the relationship between material, form, and meaning. His work has been exhibited across Europe and internationally, from Belvedere 21 in Vienna to Ed. Varie in New York City. Represented by Galerie Elisabeth & Klaus Thoman since 2024, Thaler’s practice blends manual craftsmanship with digital processes, creating objects that animate the seemingly inanimate and provoke dialogue between abstraction and reality.

The Sculpture Project, initiated by JP Immobilien in partnership with viennacontemporary, highlights the significance of public art. Inaugural winner, Carola Dertnig of Galerie CRONE, won 2023 with the feminist sculpture “*Feldenkreis_FL_001_Lucia Westerguard*”. Acquired by JP Immobilien, the artwork has been permanently installed in the forecourt at the entrance of the Hoxton Hotel in Vienna, where its prominent location ensures high public visibility and invites passersby to engage with its themes.

“We are proud to support emerging artists and create opportunities for public art that inspire connection and dialogue. This demonstrates how art in shared spaces can spark reflection and bring people together in meaningful ways,” emphasizes Daniel Jelitzka of JP Immobilien, underlining the broader mission behind the initiative.

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viennacontemporary 2025

viennacontemporary.at

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Press Photos: www.viennacontemporary.at/press

About viennacontemporary

Austria’s leading fair for contemporary art, viennacontemporary, gathers established galleries and exciting newcomers to present artworks alongside curated special exhibitions. viennacontemporary is renowned for its unique focus on the emerging scenes of Central and Eastern Europe and a dense supporting program of performances, guided tours, and high-profile VIP events. Taking place in the spacious Halle D of Messe Wien, the event will host thousands of professionals, artists, collectors, visionaries, and communities, inviting them to experience international encounters and the rich diversity of contemporary art.

About JP Immobilien:

JP Immobiliengruppe (JP), founded in 1996 by Dr. Daniel Jelitzka and Reza Akhavan, has developed and realized over 520 projects in Austria. The group is active in the areas of marketing, investment (apartment buildings), property development and hospitality and offers customized solutions and personal advice. As the largest private inner-city and hotel developer and a leading marketer of residential real estate and investment apartments in Vienna, JP plays an important role in the real estate market. More at jpi.at

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