

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

I-AM-ESCAPE PRESENTS

REISENBERG CHAPTER II

PETER JELLITSCH OPENS A PORTAL IN THE FOREST



Opening: 20. September 2025, 2pm till 6pm
Shuttle every 30min from Iris Porsche
Landhotel, 9361 St. Salvator.
www.air-reisenberg.com

I-AM-ESCAPE is proud to present the second chapter of its Artist in Residence program, an ongoing initiative that invites contemporary artists to engage with the natural landscape of Reisenberg—subtly, radically, and always with a profound connection to time, place, and ecology.

Austrian artist Peter Jellitsch offers a striking new perspective with his latest work:

“Portal”

A Palm Tree. In the Middle of Austria.

Rooted among spruces and larches, this surreal installation challenges perceptions of nature, place, and art.

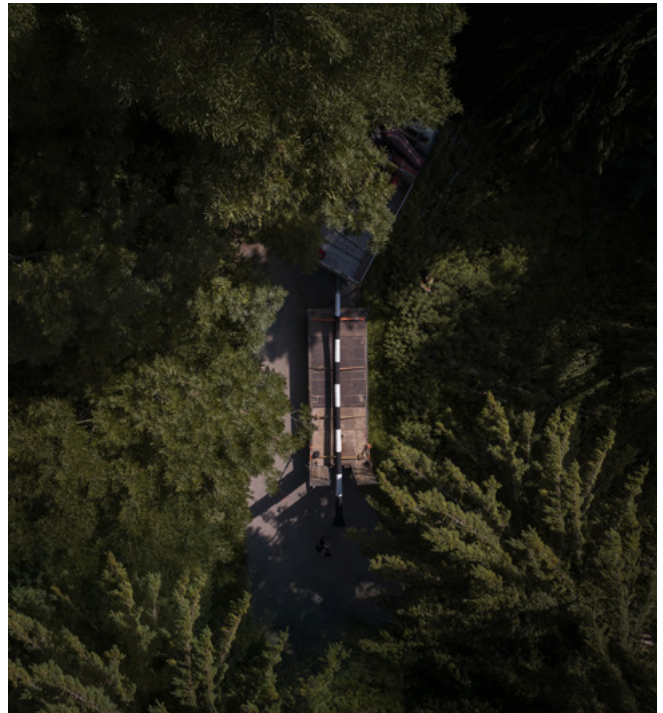
Exhibition Curators: Bernhard Schluga and Kathrin Schluga, I-AM-ESCAPE – co-founders and responsible for the artistic direction and concept of the residency program.



An Exclamation Mark in the Landscape: The Palm that Questions “Nature”

A singular object rises in a forest clearing: a twelve-meter-high, black-and-white striped palm tree—neither naturally grown nor organically integrated, but deliberately placed like an exclamation mark.

Jellitsch’s sculpture contrasts radically with its surroundings. While native trees grow in organic rhythms—shaped by cultural ideas of nature and historical evolution—this palm follows a strict visual code: black, white, black, white. Its trunk resembles a linear algorithm; its crown explodes in drawn lines. What appears at first to be an anomaly—a palm tree in the middle of the forest—is in fact a precisely composed interference signal.



Between Fiction and Forest

Portal is an intervention that raises questions: What is nature? What is artificiality? How do we project our ideas of “naturalness” onto the world? The black-and-white checkerboard pattern on the palm’s leaves is more than aesthetic—it symbolizes duality: nature versus artificiality, here versus there, reality versus fiction.

Through the Looking-Glass of Nature: A Tree That Shouldn't Be

In the spirit of Lewis Carroll's *Through the Looking-Glass*, where a chessboard becomes a threshold into another world, this palm opens a mental portal. It marks a transitional, in-between space. A rigid, coded structure becomes surreal, turning the familiar into something flickering and uncertain. This portal is not a literal door, but a perception—an irritation that invites reflection. The sculpture stands in solitude yet communicates, not in words, but through form, contrast, and meaning.



A Time Portal

Reisenberg wasn't always forest. „Millions of years ago, this land was underwater. The Paratethys Sea covered vast areas of Central Europe – a warm, shallow sea home to marine life, coral, and yes, also palms.” – University of Vienna – Department of Botany and Biodiversity Research

Jellitsch's palm stands as a living time capsule, a botanical ghost of this prehistoric shore. IT INVITES THE VIEWER TO QUESTION WHAT WE TAKE FOR GRANTED AS “NATURAL”, inviting existential questions about nature. Bring your own ones.



Jellitsch succeeds in creating a sculptural drawing on a 1:1 scale—a line that does not run on paper but across the landscape. He combines digital aesthetics with sculptural gestures, ironic displacement with serious spatial assertion. A palm tree where none should grow—and yet something is growing here: an idea, a doubt, a new image.

Nature, Artificiality, and the Infinite Algorithm



About the Artist

Peter Jellitsch was born in Villach, Austria, in 1982. He studied Fine Arts at the Art Academy of Vienna and the University of Applied Arts Vienna and has exhibited widely around the world. His work is held in major collections including the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA), the Museum of Modern Art Carinthia (MMKK), and Vienna's MAK.

He has received numerous honors, including the Strabag Artaward (2014), the Theodor Körner Prize (2014), and Austria's Outstanding Artist Award (2010). He has completed international residencies in Los Angeles, Paris, and New York and currently teaches at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna.

Jellitsch's practice often explores hidden environmental connections through drawing and installation.

Artworks available on request.

If you are interested in one of the artworks, please contact: info@i-am-escape.com