

## SHOWING STYRIA

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# SHOWING STYRIA 2023

## Diversity of Life

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Herberstein Animal World  
Buchberg 50, 8223 Stubenberg am See  
Duration: April 29, 2023 to November 5, 2023  
www.steiermarkschau.at

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**Titled Diversity of Life, SHOWING STYRIA 2023 addresses the fascination and importance of, and threats to, biodiversity as well as climate change, in a new House of Biodiversity and with new nature locations found on the Path of Variety in the Herberstein Animal World, the adjoining Feistritzklamm/Herberstein European Nature Reserve and in a mobile pavilion.**

With the first edition of SHOWING STYRIA, the State of Styria began in 2021 a biannual exhibition focused on the future, setting itself the goal of tackling current social issues. The **second SHOWING STYRIA** is dedicated to the **Diversity of Life** from **April 29, 2023**. The main venue for this is the Herberstein Animal World, which has been part of the Universalmuseum Joanneum since 2022.

With its premiere in 2021, SHOWING STYRIA was already concerned with current questions of the present day, specifically the development and identity, and options for the future, of many areas of Styria from the perspective of science, culture and art. The second edition shines light on a subject no less current: the importance and thus necessity of **preserving biodiversity**, taking the example of Styria. This is explained more closely to visitors in a new **House of Biodiversity** in Herberstein Animal World as well as with the aid of the **Path of Variety** with **numerous nature locations** in the animal park and in the neighbouring **Feistritzklamm/Herberstein**

**European Nature Reserve.** The fascinating variety is revealed mainly by means of interactive exhibition techniques. The mobile pavilion is also a central element of the show in 2023 and presents a film-based exhibition titled 'Atmospheres', in which art, climate and space research are combined.

The term **biodiversity** is used to describe biological variety. To protect this is one of the greatest challenges of our time. The change to our planet that has been brought about by human intervention, and its negative effects, are presently driving forward a loss in biodiversity that is worryingly rapid. If one species dies out, then it is lost to the planet irreversibly with all its specific functions, and – in the worst scenario – causes an imbalance in functions of eco-systems vital for mankind. Biodiversity is our precious, natural heritage – the basis of human existence and the foundation of life for future generations. Its functional, material and aesthetic value is beyond measure. The diversity of life is unique – throughout the globe and in our own backyard. We are each and every one of us affected.

### **To experience and to act**

The goal of SHOWING STYRIA is to awaken a sense of fascination and curiosity, to reveal in all its facets the diversity of life, and to stimulate the visitor to act in a creative capacity. The heritage-protected barn, 350 years old, in which previously parts of the Gironcoli Museum were accommodated, now hosts the new House of Biodiversity. Together with the **Path of Variety** in the Herberstein Animal World, visitors are offered here an exciting, interactive exhibition on biological diversity. The show's aim is to encourage visitors to act in an empathetic and conscious way, setting out to show perspectives for an alternative, future-oriented mode of behaviour. Based on personal connections, the potential for creative action is foregrounded here – responsible handling of life's diversity can thereby arise in a person's own immediate surroundings.

The Universalmuseum Joanneum is the institution responsible for SHOWING STYRIA. Chiefly in charge of the conception of the House of Biodiversity and the nature locations on the Path of Variety of SHOWING STYRIA 2023 are the **Department of Natural History at the Universalmuseum Joanneum** led by **Wolfgang Paill** and the Herberstein Animal World. In 2023, too, the mobile pavilion, designed by **Alexander Kada** and curated by **Astrid Kury**, once again tackles the theme of SHOWING STYRIA from the perspective of art.