



# DONAU SCHULE

*7 days of water drawing between Inn and Morava*

11. to 17. September 2018

# 7 DAYS of WATER DRAWING

For years now our goal was – neither in mutual dependence nor independently of each other – to manifest a “social image” on the Danube and thus, initialize an impulse towards the future.

Our current work on the Project “Draw the Danube, Build a Bridge” facilitates interconnectivity of approximately 2000 people. The personal persuasion of each individual creates the initial platform and contributes towards the realization of this social vision (social sculpture).

Since that we see this project as an action of the civil society, we focus our cooperation efforts specifically on people and not on institutions.

Initially, we plan to organize 7 days of water drawing between Inn and Morava (Passau and Bratislava) on 11.-17. September 2018, simultaneously on 40 drawing sites along the Danube.

The diverging personae of Nature and Environment in Paintings dated in the 1500's, located at the upper course of the Danube (West), as compared with the contemporaneous icons painted on golden surfaces on locations on lower reaches (East), appear as impulses of awareness.

The „Donau - Schule“ (Danube - school) occupies a vital role in this scenario. Both intellectual currents appear here as they were. Central Europe manifests as a mediator and facilitator of diverging intellectual movements and – via the Arts – emerges as the embodiment of the idea of Europe.



# a SOCIAL IMAGE

Yet furthermore, glancing at the development of democracy, the image appears as many independent, regional creations, which unify through a common inner image, inspiring and educating as a stimulus.  
The Arts have the potential to play a formative role as a catalyst for the future of social development.

“Europe is a bestowment of the Danube”.  
Within all human beings, there is an image, a life force that forms the human, the nature and culture!

The President of Austria, Alexander Van der Bellen, has declared patronage over the Project “Draw the Danube, Build a Bridge”. Cordial thanks!



# 40 DRAWING LOCATIONS

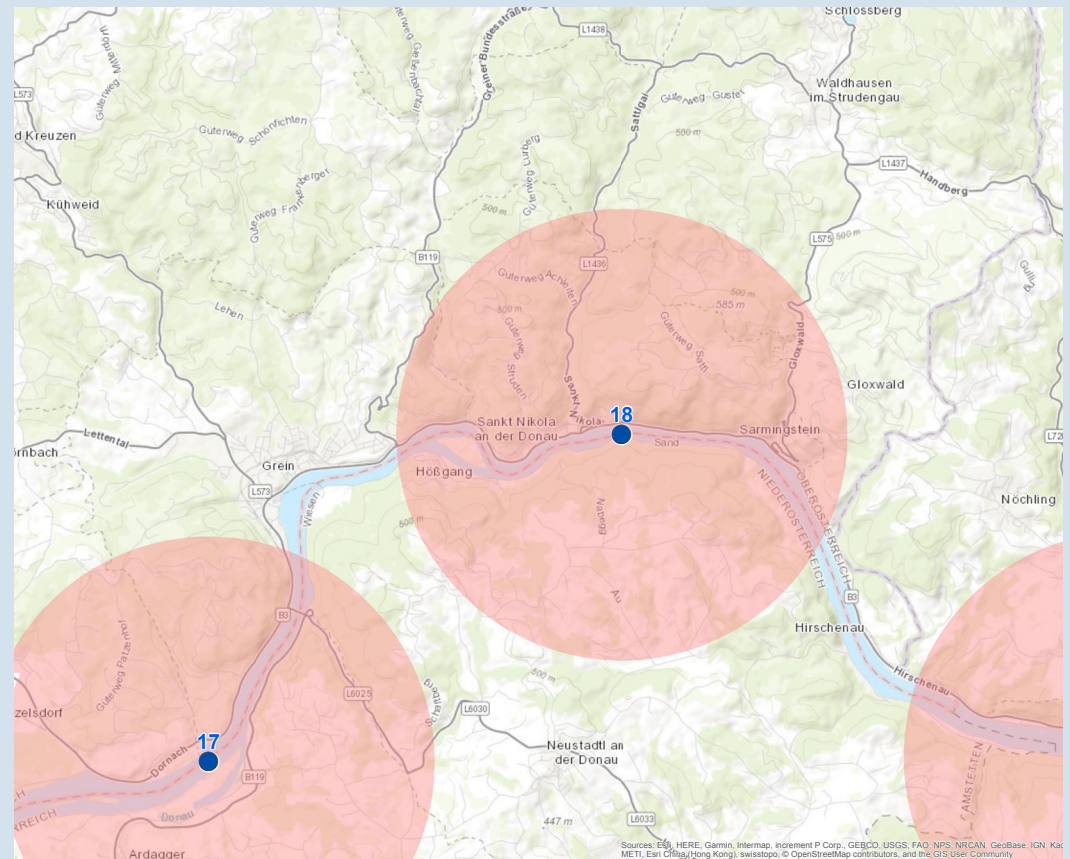
Initially, project “Draw the Danube, Build a Bridge” begins with 7 days of water drawing between Inn and Morava (Passau and Bratislava) on 40 drawing sites along the Danube.

Within a week along the determined river section – on 40 locations – in small groups, 1000 litres of water will be drawn from the Danube into containers by each group.

40 containers / 40 locations / 40 drawing teams

The project relies on the voluntary personal commitment of people for the realization of a social image. Unified by a creative drawing activity on the river, they perform uninhibited, bound by a common inner image, a spiritual fellowship of the idea of creation.

In the sense of the „Donau- Schule“, nature and environment resonate within the spatial inner world of humanity.



# the PULSE of INSPIRATION

## The „Danube-Bridge“ 2019

The 7-days-drawing 2018 is an introduction of the art project “Draw the Danube, Build a Bridge” scheduled for 2019.

The collective drawing of water from a river is a deeply unifying act.

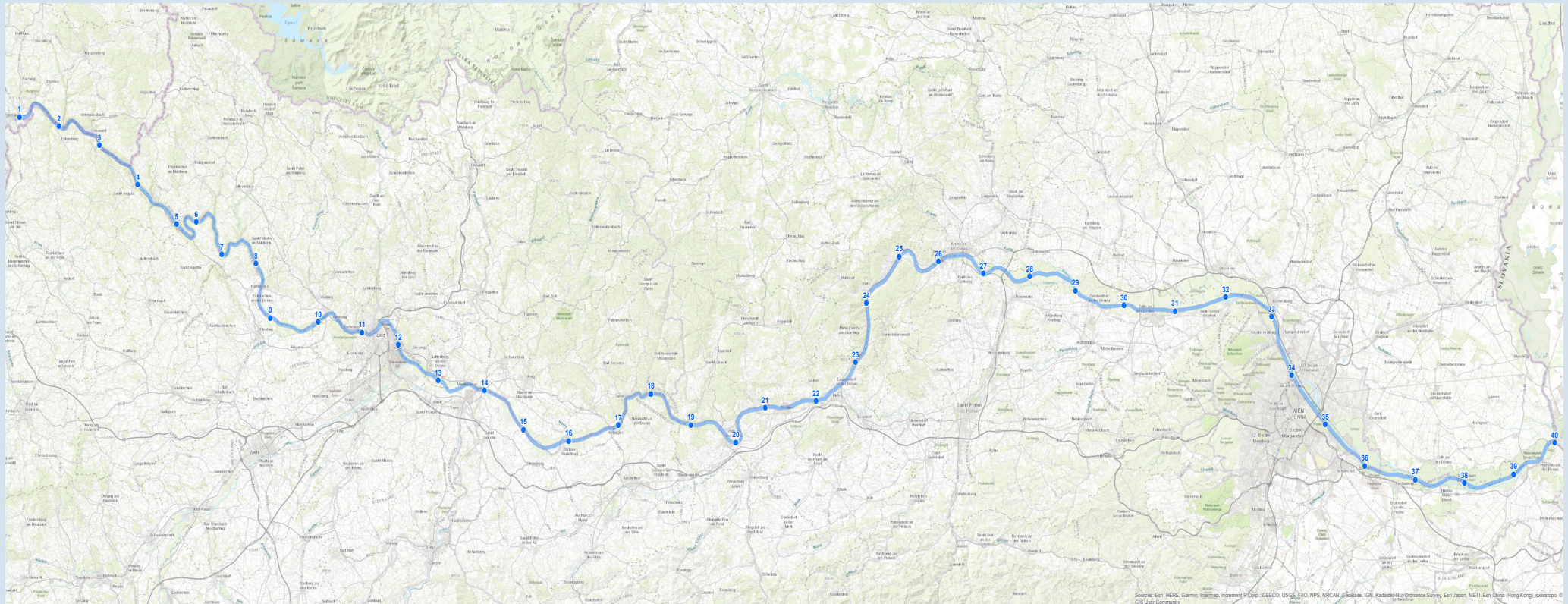
Bridges are being created, connecting not only people but also cultures and nature.

“Draw the Danube, Build a Bridge” is founded on the power of inner images. It aims to inspire people to participate of their own volition.

In the summer of 2019 – neither being bound to each other, nor acting independently but intertwined by a common and deep inner vision – about 2000 people on 280 water drawing location along the entire course of the river will draw water from the Danube.



# from INN to MORAVA



Map view of the 40 drawing locations from Passau to Bratislava



# Between EAST and WEST

Danube and Danube-School  
as a bridge between East and West – Past and Future

„Donau-Schule“ refers to an art-style, which was developed by the end of the 15. Century, along the Danube - between Regensburg, Passau and Linz (Fimmel).

Albrecht Altdorfer, Matthias Grünewald and Lucas Cranach are among the most prominent representatives. Above all, it is the role of the landscape and the “meaning” of nature that emerges its distinguishing feature. The so-called “structuralism” in Altdorfer’s painting indicates a procedure which, beyond the phenomenon in particular, accentuates the overall unity of the landscape. Altdorfer is guided by – in a similar manner as in case of icon paintings – the sheer idea. The fluidity, the movement emanating from the vivid idea, is a significant feature of his organically formed symbolic landscapes..

At the transition from late Gothic to the Renaissance, the masters of the „Donau-Schule“ create with their works a bridge between the Gothic images of saints and a clear, sober observation of nature. Thus, they open a window into the nature, which resonates, as the environment, within the inner life of mankind.

In the Renaissance, then, the analytical consideration of matter - in works such as Dürer’s „Rasenstück“ or his „Hasen“ - leads to perfect images of nature.



# a NATURAL BRIDGE

In the West, this developed into a world view of natural sciences, which is being expressed in technical excellence and contemporary scientific materialism.

Towards the East - which is downstream the Danube - this development did not take place in such manner. The exhibited central role is held there by the icon painting on golden surfaces. This is about the devotional image and its spiritual power. As a cultural heritage of the East - in the stream of Platonic ideas - and embedded in intellectual history - there are the icons with their “reversed perspective” (Florensky) as the opposite to the central perspective in the west.

The Danube is a natural bridge between the West and the East. It connects the main polar currents of the European cultural development. The contrast between Western and Eastern European consciousness becomes palpable, when a direct comparison of works of the Danube School and icon painting is being made.

In order to make a connection between the two diverse streams of consciousness, a middle is required, which is already perceivable as an idea within both artistic directions and which also provides a view towards the emergence of the idea of Europe.

It is important to actively create this middle ground as a spatial connection, induced by the mutual affection towards the Danube (as a natural and cultural space) - through the inner image.





# a SPATIAL CONNECTION

In order to entice autonomous participants to enlist and help the realization of the social image by means of the collective water drawing on the Danube, performance lectures are being held at the Heimart station in Neufelden (Upper Austria).

The aim here is to get into conversation with people, to listen and to convey the idea of the collective water drawing on the Danube as a social sculpture.

These gatherings are held to initiate the foundation of the inner image, which in conclusion will continue towards the realization of the project. All details of the specific action will be discussed and partners will be determined to take charge of respective water drawing locations.

40 water drawing teams on 40 drawing stations along the river will fuse into a unifying collaborative image, into a social sculpture.

To participate in this project, if you require further information, or if you have any question, please contact:

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