

ARSENAL WIEN

FOTO

Photo | Brut . Feeling Photography – From the Bruno Decharme Collection

Pressebilder | press images

Pressebilder sind für die Bewerbung der Ausstellung Photo | Brut . Feeling Photography – From the Bruno Decharme Collection im FOTO ARSENAL WIEN unter Nennung des korrekten Fotocredits lizenzfrei. Sie dürfen nicht zugeschnitten oder verändert werden und dürfen keinen Text enthalten.

Press images are royalty-free for the promotion of the exhibition Photo | Brut . Feeling Photography – From the Bruno Decharme Collection at FOTO ARSENAL WIEN with the correct photo credit mentioning. They may not be cropped, modified, or contain text.



ANONYMOUS „METTREAUX“, untitled, signed „METTREAUX“ on the reverse and dated February 19, 2020
© Photo | Brut, Collection Bruno Decharme



Elisabeth Van Vyve, untitled, between 1993 and 2013
© Photo | Brut, Collection Bruno Decharme



August Walla, untitled, around 1970
© Photo | Brut, Collection Bruno Decharme



Horst Ademeit, untitled, between 1991 and 2003
© Photo | Brut, Collection Bruno Decharme

ARSENAL WIEN

FOTO



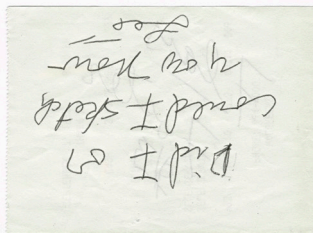
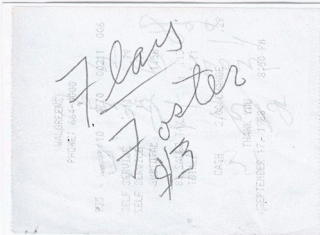
Anonymous „Type 42”,
around 1960-1970 © Photo
| Brut, Collection Bruno Decharme



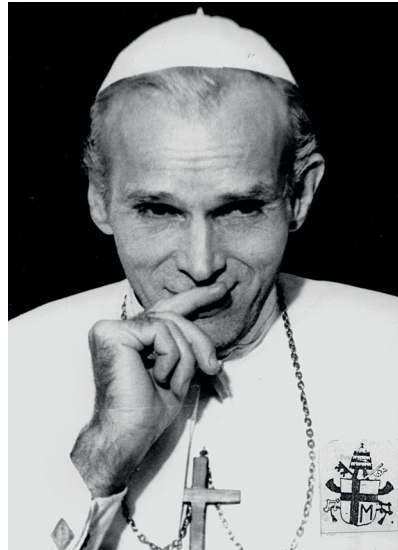
Anonymous „ZORRO”, untitled, 1967
© Photo | Brut,
Collection Bruno Decharme



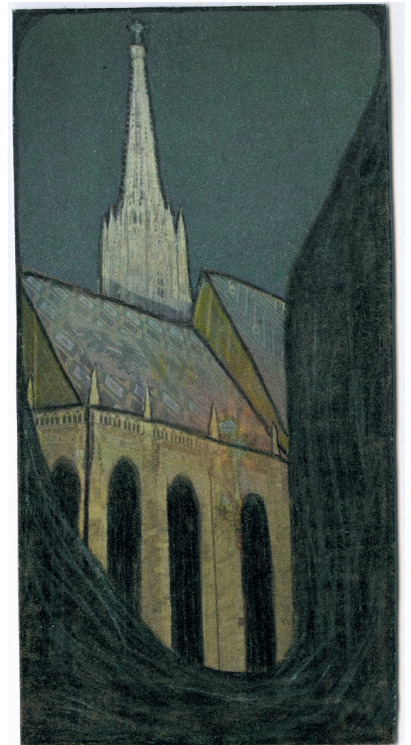
Jorge Alberto Cadi (El Buzo), untitled
© Photo | Brut,
Collection Bruno Decharme



Lee Godie, untitled, around 1970
© Photo | Brut,
Collection Bruno Decharme



Tomasz Machcinski, untitled, 1988
© Photo | Brut,
Collection Bruno Decharme



Leopold Strobl, untitled,
between 2015 and 2016
© Photo | Brut,
Collection Bruno Decharme

ARSENAL WIEN

FOTO

Photo | Brut . Feeling Photography – From the Bruno Decharme Collection

OPENING (D/EN/ÖGS): May 21, 2026, 7 p.m.

May 22—September 6, 2026

What happens if, over decades, someone writes inscriptions on photographs using tiny letters—not just on a few pictures, but thousands? What happens if a car mechanic dresses up for the camera as Cleopatra, Pope John Paul II, or a Hollywood star—and hundreds or even thousands of other roles? What if someone collects countless photographs, cuts them up, sews them together again, and uses them to create intriguing structures?

Photo | Brut . Feeling Photography presents these sorts of passionate explorations of artistic processes by autodidacts who create independent artistic and visual worlds outside the normative understanding of art. These include people with emotional or physical limitations, social outsiders, and clandestine creators who investigate new artistic issues and aesthetic approaches, creating—sometimes over decades—works of great aesthetic relevance that are not oriented on an academic canon, social norms, or rules of the art market, but are dedicated to processing feelings.

Like the art movement Art Brut, Photo Brut was inspired by personal passions, marginalized living situations, and extreme conditions. Some of the makers of Photo Brut are not even aware that they are creating artwork. Since several artists in this exhibition struggle with psychological problems, their practices and the distinctive worlds that they have constructed can often be interpreted as a

reaction to the severe trauma in their lives. Their artworks bear traces of their unique experiences—whether they were institutionalized because of their emotional problems or whether they withdrew from society of their own accord. This is why it is extremely important to familiarize oneself with the life stories of the individual Art Brut and Photo Brut artists, as well as with the physical and psychological disruptions that triggered their creative process.

French artist Jean Dubuffet (1901–1985) was the first to use the term *Art Brut*—which means “raw” or “unpolished” art—when he founded an artists’ group in 1948, declaring works from outside the conventional art world and its institutional parameters as art, in many cases without the knowledge of the artists. Dubuffet’s designation covers the rudimentary, disconcerting art of psychiatric patients, prisoners, and people in socially precarious situations—works that he valued for their often immanently dramatic impact and their unpretentious, spontaneous attitude. The term *Photo Brut* did not establish itself as a “branch” of photography until the first decade of the twenty-first century.

For the first time, FOTO ARSENAL WIEN gives visitors in Austria the chance to experience one of the largest collections of Photo Brut, which French filmmaker Bruno Decharme has been amassing for over forty years. The exhibition, which was organized in collaboration with the Robert Capa Contemporary Photography Center in Budapest and the University of Vienna, will be accompanied by numerous events.

With support from
Stadt Wien Kultur, Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation

In cooperation with
Robert Capa Contemporary Photography Center, University of Vienna, museum gugging, Polish Institute in Vienna, Adam Mickiewicz Institute

Media Partners and Collaborations
Der Standard, Ö1, Datum

Photo | Brut . Feeling Photography – From the Bruno Decharme Collection

May 22—September 6, 2026

Tue—Sun 11 a.m. —7 a.m.

May 22+23, 2026, 5 p.m., May 24, 2026, 12 p.m.,

The collectors Bruno Decharme and Barbara Safarova give a tour of the exhibition

OPENING (D/EN/ÖGS): May 21, 2026, 7 p.m., FOTO ARSENAL WIEN

PRESS BRIEFING: May 21, 2026, 10:30 a.m., FOTO ARSENAL WIEN

Press contact

Nicole Spilker

presse@fotoarsenalwien.at

Other information and image material are available at

www.fotoarsenalwien.at

About FOTO ARSENAL WIEN

FOTO ARSENAL WIEN is Austria's new center for photographic images and lens-based media. Inaugurated by the city of Vienna in March 2025, the institution presents and explains contemporary photography in all its forms and uses. FOTO ARSENAL WIEN also organizes the platform FOTO WIEN, Austria's largest, biennial photography festival, and, in a collaboration with the Kunsthalle Wien, the annual Festival Vienna Digital Cultures.

FOTO ARSENAL WIEN

Arsenal Objekt 19A, 1030 Wien

fotoarsenalwien.at

fotoarsenalwien.at

@foto_arsenal_wien

fotowien.at

viennadigitalcultures.at

