



UNKNOWN
ARTIST

UNKNOWN
ARTIST

UNKNOWN
ARTIST

UNKNOWN
ARTIST

UNKNOWN
ARTIST

UNKNOWN
ARTIST

UNKNOWN
ARTIST

UN
KN

Roman Buxbaum

UNKNOWN ARTIST

12.6.–12.7.2026

Opening & Performance
Saturday, 13.6.2026, 3 pm

Wasserkirche
Limmatquai 31, 8001 Zürich

UNKNOWN ARTIST is a transnational project unfolding between Prague and Zurich by Czech-Swiss artist and psychotherapist Roman Buxbaum. Developed in collaboration with students from various art academies, the project takes the form of a performative procession and immersive installation, paying tribute to unnamed and forgotten artists while reflecting on authorship, visibility, memory, and the desire for recognition. Situated at the intersection of performance, somatic and therapeutic practices, exhibition-making, and institutional intervention, the project examines the conditions under which artistic value is assigned, preserved, or erased.

First presented at the National Gallery Prague and subsequently at Wasserkirche, the project creates a layered dialogue between living bodies, historical artworks, and the silent persistence of artistic memory. In Zurich, the performance adapts to the architecture and historical resonance of the church space, amplifying themes of anonymity, remembrance, devotion, and the afterlife of images. Psychotherapeutic and group-dynamic elements are employed to initiate collective processes and address existential themes. After a closed experiential part, the group moves into the public spaces of the church and develops performative interactions with visitors.

UNKNOWN ARTIST enters into dialogue with The House of Dead Images, an immersive installation developed by Buxbaum since 2021 and presented for the first time at the Wasserkirche. Composed of numerous artworks and found objects collected and reworked over the years, the installation is housed within a wooden structure made of painted slats, evoking attic or cellar compartments — spaces of storage, neglect, and latent memory. Working with found objects, a recurring strategy throughout Buxbaum's practice, the installation assembles a dense scenography inhabited by traces of painters, sculptors, and anonymous makers. These artifacts are granted a second life within the structure, complicating notions of authorship and originality while proposing an ethics of reuse and care. Visitors are invited to enter the installation as a space of introspection, embarking on a journey through their own visual memory and early image experiences.

Roman Buxbaum is a Swiss interdisciplinary artist, curator, and documentary filmmaker of Czech origin. His work explores identity and human existence through painting, installation, conceptual practice, and interactive performance. Trained both in medicine and fine arts, he studied at the University of Zurich and later at the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich. His projects often engage with personal and collective trauma, revealing tensions between the individual and society while addressing themes of alienation, creativity, and memory. He is also known for his long-term collaboration with Miroslav Tichý and for founding the tichyocean foundation.

Exhibition

Roman Buxbaum "The House of Dead Images"
Wasserkirche, Limmatquai 31, 8001 Zürich
June 12 – July 12, 2026
Tuesday – Sunday, 2–6pm*

*The performance and exhibition are part of the Zurich Art Weekend, with special opening hours:

Friday June 12, 1pm–6pm
Saturday June 13, 11am–6pm
Sunday June 14, 11am–6pm

Opening & performance

Roman Buxbaum "UNKNOWN ARTIST"
June 13, 3pm
Duration: approx. 120 minutes
Admission: Free

Concept and dramaturgy: Roman Buxbaum
Exhibition curator: Christoph Lichtin
Performance curatorial and dramaturgical collaboration: Karina Kottová
Performers: Karolína Kubešová, Zbynek Rohlík, Barbora Šošolíková, Alessandra Toconová (DAMU), and students of art academies

Wasserkirche
Limmatquai 31, 8001 Zürich

artbuxbaum.com
wasserkirche.ch