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The controversial »Runway West« of Frankfurt's airport, its construction for a long time forestalled by opponents of airplane noise and militant environment activists, has been put out of service on 23 March 2020. The runway is now used as a parking area for passenger aircraft withdrawn from service because of the pandemic. Could it be that the giant cruise ships abandoned by tourists worldwide may be converted to enormous off-shore quarantine installations?

There will most likely be fewer rabbits killed on the road during this Easter season, says

*Oliver Schuster*

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885 km / 550 miles

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**Eva Grubinger** »MALADY OF THE INFINITE« Single object exhibition at Belvedere 21 museum in Vienna, 22 November 2019 through 13 April 2020.

The body of a luxury yacht appears to be sinking, surrounded by sea mines, in form eerily similar to corona viruses.

## Friends of the Arts

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### Cancelled or Closed until Further Notice

Austria is a paradise for season passes: e.g., buy one for public transportation and you can use them without restrictions for 365 days. Cost? □ 365.00, or »one Euro a day.« Senior citizens even pay less. Such season passes are of course available for all kinds of other venues and activities, e.g. for a gym, for one of Vienna's many museums. The choices are endless.

Because of its vast superb collections and therefore a seemingly end-

less variety of exhibitions in three different but organizationally related venues, a season ticket for the group of Belvedere museums seemed like a good choice. The additional benefit (which however is at no cost to anyone) is access to the magnificent garden between the Upper and the Lower Belvedere, from the top of which you have a wonderful view of the city of Vienna, already prized by painters in earlier centuries such as the Italian Canaletto.



**Renate Bertlmann**  
*»Murano Glass Roses« Exhibition in the Series Carlone-Contemporary, Carlone Hall, Upper Belvedere, Vienna.*

As »Friend of the Belvedere« access to any exhibition is free of charge, and you also can jump the queue at the entrance which invariably forms at most museums in Vienna during the tourist season. Also, the museum sends you invitations to special occasions, for example presentations by the artists in person, lectures by curators, receptions/vernissages. As to the latter, one must say that mingling with the invitees doesn't leave one much time for appreciating the artworks themselves.

#### **Vernissage with Red Roses**

A sizable crowd of »Friends« assembled in the evening of 20 February 2020 in the Great Marble Hall of the Upper Belvedere to take part in the vernissage of Austria's multi-media artist Renate Bertlmann. Over one hundred people did attend, sat on uncomfortable small wooden chairs painted in gold, lined the walls of the hall. The artist designed Austria's pavilion at Venice's Biennale, the one in 2019, a first that a woman was selected for this prestigious work. Curator for this exhibition at the Belvedere was Felici-

tas Thun-Hohenstein.

This exhibition of her Venetian artwork, a multitude of roses lined up in meticulous precision, in the center of each flower a thin razor-sharp blade, was now to be shown in the Carlone Hall, rechristened as »Carlone Contemporary«, with a beautiful interior featuring baroque ceiling frescoes by Innocenzo Carlone (1686 – 1775), to offer a location rich in contrast to the modern art exhibits. This evening however, after introductions, the laudatio and the performance of the choir in the Great Hall, the guests to the vernissage barely took time to walk to the Carlone hall next to it to admire Bertlmann's art work but rather crowded the street-level entrance hall, the Sala Terrena to enjoy glasses of wine and pieces of plain dry bread and try to approach the artist and her husband, the physical scientist Dr Friedrich Bertlmann, to pose her questions, talk about her artwork.

Grasping an opportune moment —



#### **Renate Bertlmann**

*Renate Bertlmann listening attentively to the Mala Sirena Choir. This choir composed of queer-feminist members also performed at the opening of the Austrian Pavilion at the Venice Biennale 2019.*



*Sala Terrena, the Upper Belvedere palace's great entrance hall the invitees mingle during the reception after the main event. Dr Friedrich Bertlmann, with white hair and beard, can be seen to the back on the left side.*

Renate Bertlmann escaping the crowd and have a look at her roses in the Carlone Hall — I was able to ask her: »For transportation purposes, can the blades inside the flowers be removed and packed separately?« »No, the artist said, they are a unity and can't be separated.« Every single rose is well padded and then packed into an individual container. I forgot to ask her how

many roses comprise the artwork; she was already talking with another group of guests. Trying to figure the number from my photo I took of the roses, it must be around 120 of them. It would be have been nice to have another look at the roses at a later occasion, if only for establishing the exact count, but now because of the coronavirus pandemic all museums are closed. □

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## Soccer Festival in Bergamo

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Distance  
Vienna – Milan  
885 km  
550 miles

Coronavirus  
Pandemic:  
What happened  
at the same time

At exactly the same day the Vernissage took place in Vienna, on 19 February 2020, Atalanta Bergamo of Italy played against FC Valencia of Spain, in the eighth final of the World Champion's League. Bergamo won 4:1. The match took



place in the famous San-Siro stadium, home stadium for both AC Milan and their rival Internazionale Milano: it has twice the number of seats compared to the stadium in Bergamo where the capacity is only 21 000 spectators.

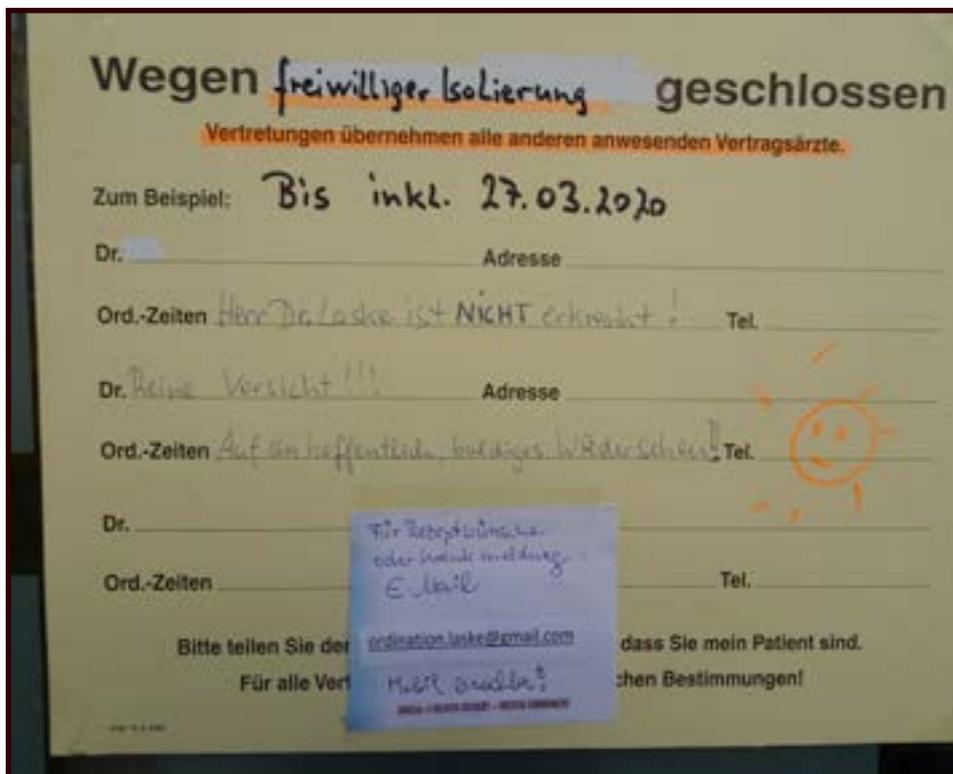
The many fans who'd come from the city and the surroundings of Bergamo were elated, they hugged, embraced each other. Nobody knew at that time that the virus had infected already

quite a number of those from Bergamo. The spread of the virus probably started in a hospital in Alzano, as Giorgio Gori, the mayor of Bergamo, said. In that hospital there had been an unusual increase of patients dying of pneumonia. No one was even thinking that this was caused by a coronavirus infection. But the infected spectators in the stadium rapidly spread the virus in the region of Lombardy.

In the following three weeks up to the rematch on 10 March most everybody realized the dangerous increase of coronavirus cases that no spectators and no journalists were allowed in the stadium in Valencia for the replay. None of the Italian fans were there to cheer the Atalanta

Bergamo victory of 4:3. Nevertheless many of the aficionados must have followed the game on TV in the pubs, and then celebrated en masse driving through the streets.

News spread fast. That very day Vienna's museums, movie theaters, concert halls, theaters and operas were closed, as well as the zoological garden and the beautiful butterfly exhibit hall near the Albertina, and remain so to this day. □



Notice next to the shingle of a physician's office: »**Out of voluntary quarantine offices are closed ... till 27 March 2020.**«

Sunday, 15 March the Republic of Austria published in the Federal Law Gazette the following: »§1 To prevent the spreading of COVID-19 it is prohibited to go out on public spaces«. In the afternoon of the same day, the local fitness enterprise Kieser notified its members by e-mail that all venues will be closed until further notice.

On the same day the city of Bath in the county of Somerset in England had its much-publicized annual road running half marathon **BATHALF**. The course wound itself in two rounds through the historic center of the city, along the river Avon.

Despite the signs and portents that the coronavirus pandemic was reaching Europe the organizers did not cancel the run. They feared more than the threat of infections the loss of revenue

(Actual quote: »It is now too late for us to cancel or postpone the event. The venue is built, the infrastructure is in place, the site and our contractors are ready«). About 15 000 runners had registered to participate in the Bathalf; maybe half of them eventually decided to not participate. Still, 6816 runners crossed the finish line.

One could assume that three to four times as many people lined the course to cheer the runners; add to this helpers, police, ambulance personnel on duty; adding up to an overall number of 30 000 people attending this event. Some of them could have been infected by the virus and carried it with them returning to their home bases in Great Britain, with disastrous results for the country.

Towards the end of March the situation in China and Korea had appar-

## Bathalf Marathon

Mass Gathering in England at the beginning of the Corona pandemic

ently ameliorated. But in Europe and America the cases of coronavirus victims increased; the resulting pneumonia has been named COVID-19, the pathogen: SARS-CoV-2. A delay in developing symptoms may have led some country to believe they got off easily.

he himself did not follow the rules he imposed on all the other citizens.

Rigorous quarantine, »social distancing« (a term that also found entry into the German vocabulary), could still last for weeks, if not months, according to the experts. Only once increase of daily new infections



*An unforgivable stupidity in England: Despite warnings about corona infection many participants started the race in Bath and spread the virus all over the country.*

In the meantime the British Prime Minister Boris Johnson himself fell victim of COVID-19. At the same time, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care tested positively for the virus. Sooner or later other members of the Cabinet may become infected. Leading scientists have been criticizing Johnson for negligence in dealing with the coronavirus outbreak;

decrease significantly could a relaxation of restrictions be contemplated. This »doubling time« is an expressive number: it shows how many days it takes to double the number of infected persons. □

## Corona-Facts and Figures – The Doubling Time



Doubling time in Germany from March 17 to March 30.  
On **30 March 2020 was 5.5 days**. Once doubling time comes down to 10 days rigorous restrictions can be loosened.

### Doubling time per country, on 30 April 2020

USA.....	3,6 days
Great Britain.....	3,9 days
Germany .....	5,5 days
France .....	5,9 days
Austria .....	6,8 days
South Korea.....	59,5 days

The higher the number the slower the transmission rate. □

## Impressum



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