

## **STAND-IN for OBRA**

an artistic intervention in public space, in solidarity with the feminist initiatives whose budgets have been slashed or entirely cut

**Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, 6pm, Ballhausplatz, 1010 Vienna**

### **Our Motivation**

In Austrian society, both women and girls are strongly affected by acts of violence against them: In the first six months of 2018 already as many women were killed as throughout the entire last year. In spite of the mounting violence against women and girls the means for prevention are cut by politics, and institutions protecting women from violence are no longer supported.

It is clear that a change of paradigm has to take place. The government promotes the return to a conservative concept of the family in which women are to be pushed back to the hearth, to fill a subordinate role. To speed up this backlash, the funds of numerous women's initiatives and groups advocating a modern image of women, an image of self-determination and self-empowerment, have been cut. Thus, OBRA is not the only initiative concerned by the drastic cuts of financial means.

### **What are OBRA's Goals?**

OBRA - One Billion Rising Austria is an artistic campaign for an end to violence against women and girls. Initiated by the global dance movement One Billion Rising, founded and proclaimed by performance artist Eve Ensler in autumn 2012, many thousands of persons dance on February 14<sup>th</sup> each year in the streets and on squares to bring about an end to violence against women and girls. OBRA, under artist director Aiko Kazuko Kurosaki, has since the beginning been organising OBR-Vienna, thus connecting and supporting initiatives throughout all of Austria. This work goes far beyond the annual event and has led to the formation of the One Billion Rising Austria association in 2015. OBRA cooperates with women's shelters and many women's initiatives and feminist groups, but also with art institutions such as TanzQuartierWien, Dschungel Wien and KosmosTheater. In 2017, OBRA was awarded the prize for effort of Freie Szene Wien and in 2018 Aiko Kazuko Kurosaki was awarded the prize of the Austrian Frauenring (the Austrian umbrella organisation of women's initiatives) for her work with OBRA.

### **Funding Cut Entirely**

Although the association of OBRA works for prevention, sensitization and consciousness-raising in numerous workshops, presentations, speeches, performances etc., approaches the population in easily-accessible formats, builds the bridge between art, activism and politics, this year's funding by the Ministry of Women's Affairs was completely slashed. Also, the application for funds from the Chancellor's Office for Art and Culture was rejected, on the grounds that the initiative was not artistic enough – although each year many artists take part in the projects. This kind of art is less of a decoration and more of an intervention, which might be the reason why it is unwelcome.

### **What are the Consequences for Us?**

OBRA is an activist, artistically inspired movement, which raises consciousness among people and stands up against violence of any kind. Currently, more action is needed than ever before. We are visible and we will remain visible – we won't give up!

For further information and contact:

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