

# 99 Fashion for the Stage

## Monika von Zallinger

### Costume Drawings

5 May until 6 November 2023



Im Palais Lobkowitz  
Lobkowitzplatz 2, 1010 Wien  
presse@theatermuseum.at  
T +43 1 525 24 4019

## About the Exhibition

Fashion for the Stage presents 100 of a total of 400 sheets with costume drawings of the Vienna artist Monika von Zallinger, born in 1940. Based on Zallinger's works for thirteen Austrian and foreign productions, including Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro* (Semperoper, Dresden, 1995), Arthur Schnitzler's *Reigen* (Theater in der Josefstadt, Vienna, 1989), Tankred Dorst's *Schattenlinie* (Akademietheater, Vienna, 1995), and Paul Engel's contemporary opera *Daniel* (Staatstheater am Gärtnerplatz, Munich, 1994), the exhibition conveys the creative power of the drawing at the threshold between (everyday) fashion and clothing for the stage.

Costume designs serve the theatre workshops as working materials. While the charm of many sheets of this kind lies precisely in their draft character, others, like those of Monika von Zallinger, are lent the status of autonomous works of art through drawing ability and imagination. In her works, sumo wrestlers appear with golden hoods, a dancer on a pedestal swings her legs beneath a pink skirt, the fever of the Venetian carnival seizes a group of masked figures during a colourful ball night, and bathers from the 1920s walk the catwalk.

Monika von Zallinger's figures literally jump out of the drawings and mingle with the audience. The large-format drawings especially captivate through the imposing arrangement of the figures: placed 'frieze-like' next to one another, they sometimes appear classical and statuesque, sometimes dynamic and playful. Monika von Zallinger groups them, allows them to enter into conversation with one another, and in this way creates entire production designs that make her beginnings as a stage designer visible. In her designs, the artist elevates the appearance of the persons, thus also transporting her stories and characters visually.

Monika von Zallinger's first works for the stage included her costume designs for the fairy-tale-like opera *Die Zauberflöte* by Werner Egk at the Bayerische Staatsoper. (1966). Compared with her graphic oeuvre, the format of the sheets is still unusually small, but they already suggest the tendency of the artist toward fantasy and colour with details like an excess number of buttons or conspicuously large buckles. For Jacques Offenbach's *Tales of Hoffmann* (Bayerische Staatsoper, 1986), Monika von Zallinger's drawings appear intensely choreographed and form imposing and dynamic tableaux, in which the figures appear to dance in a circle.

Directed by Otto Schenk, Monika von Zallinger's costumes guaranteed smooth and rapid scene changes in the production of Arthur Schnitzler's *Reigen* [*La Ronde*] at the Theater in der Josefstadt (1989).

Monika von Zallinger's sheets for the premiere of the opera *Daniel* (Staatstheater am Gärtnerplatz, Munich, 1994) of the Tirol-born composer Paul Engel are among her most imaginative. Sumo jacket meets gold hood, burka mask meets corset, Shinto hairstyle meets cardinal uniform—the perfect diabolical contrast with the rather orthodox outfit of the prophet Daniel.

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The development of Tankred Dorst's theatre piece *Schattenlinie* (Akademietheater, 1995) is also reflected in the costumes of Monika von Zallinger, and the killing of the figure of the African professor thus colours the sheets.

The artist clothed the figures in Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro* at the Semperoper Dresden (1995) in keeping with Spanish fashion but lent the garments an Austrian note.

The costumes are the result of an elaborate style design that does not forget even the tiniest detail. The forms of the bodies and the fall of the fabrics may be taken from nature, but the imagination knows no limits for the cutting and colouring of the costumes. 'It's all theatre!', as the artist says, referring to her costume design work.

The show on the ground floor of the Theatermuseum was curated by the artist Monika von Zallinger, together with Rudi Risatti, Curator of the Drawings and Models collections. The design was realized together with Gerhard Veigel. The costume designs are presented without frames, in keeping with their studio character.

**Guided Tours, workshops for adults and children and events** complete the exhibition.

## About the Artist

Born in 1940 in Munich, Monika von Zallinger grew up in Salzburg, Vienna, and Munich and first studied advertising art at the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich. At the Bayerische Staatsoper, she assisted her professor, Helmut Jürgens, with the preparation of stage designs and was later hired by the Salzburg State Theatre. After two years as assistant to Matthias Kralj at the Staatstheater Braunschweig, where she was responsible for stage design and costumes, Monika von Zallinger became a freelance artist. Her career led her to the Bayerische Staatsoper, the Bayerisches Staatsschauspiel, the Staatstheater am Gärtnerplatz, the Münchner Kammerspiele as well as various German stages in Hamburg, Düsseldorf, Stuttgart, Berlin, Dresden, Leipzig, and Essen. In Vienna, she worked for the Burgtheater, the Theater in der Josefstadt, the Theater an der Wien, and the Volksoper. She was internationally active in Amsterdam, Athens, Basel, Bern, Milan, Trieste, Venice, and Zurich.

Monika von Zallinger taught costume studies at the Max Reinhardt Seminar for 20 years. She was awarded the Golden Decoration of Honour of the Federal State of Vienna in 2000.

In 2021, Monika von Zallinger endowed 400 of her design drawings to the Theatermuseum.

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Monika von Zallinger  
 Theatermuseum © KHM-Museumsverband



Costume design Monika von Zallinger  
*The Tales of Hoffmann* (Jacques Offenbach)  
 Bayerische Staatsoper, Munich, 1986  
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Costume design Monika von Zallinger  
*The Marriage of Figaro*  
 (Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart)  
 Semperoper, Dresden, 1995  
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Costume design Monika von Zallinger  
*Daniel* (Paul Engel)  
 Staatstheater am Gärtnerplatz, Munich, 1994  
 Theatermuseum © KHM-Museumsverband



Costume design Monika von Zallinger  
*Daniel* (Paul Engel)  
 Staatstheater am Gärtnerplatz, Munich, 1994  
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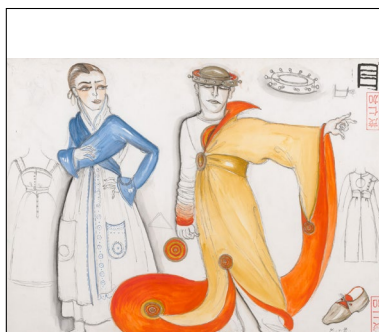
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Costume design Monika von Zallinger  
*Cat Tongues* (Miguel Mihura)  
 Theater in der Josefstadt, Vienna, 2001  
 Theatermuseum © KHM-Museumsverband



Costume design Monika von Zallinger  
*The Wise Woman* (Karl Orff)  
 Staatstheater am Gärtnerplatz, Munich, 1995  
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Costume design Monika von Zallinger  
*The Love of Danae* (Richard Strauss)  
 Bayerische Staatsoper, Munich, 1988  
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Costume design Monika von Zallinger  
*La Ronde* (Arthur Schnitzler)  
 Theater in der Josefstadt, Vienna, 1989  
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Costume design Monika von Zallinger  
*The Shadow Line* (Tankred Dorst)  
 Akademietheater, Vienna, 1986  
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Costume design Monika von Zallinger  
*A Night in Venice* (Johann Strauss Jr.)  
 Volksoper, Vienna, 1989  
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