

Luttach/Ahrntal Valley, 6th February 2025

Invitation to the 16th International Wooden Sculptors' Symposium in Ahrntal Valley/South Tyrol

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen!

For 25 years, the Marantha Nativity Museum in Luttach has been delighting visitors with the diversity and beauty of nativity scenes from all over the world. Whether traditional depictions or modern interpretations - the museum brings the magic of Christmas to life.

To mark this anniversary, the theme for this year's woodcarving symposium has arisen of its own accord: **„The crib tells its story: then and now“** and will transform the village of Luttach in the Ahrntal valley into an expansive artists' studio.

From Sunday 6th to Saturday 12th July 2025, there will be hold the 16th edition of the International Wooden Sculptors' Symposium in the Ahrntal Valley. Once more selected artists will receive a presentation platform for their objects.

NEW this year: This time, international teams of artists consisting of 2 or 3 wood carvers will be invited to give the raw larch logs a new shape in keeping with the theme. Together, the team members will carve a unique nativity scene in which each artist will contribute to the overall work of art with his/her own style and skills.

You are sincerely invited to apply for participation!

Each sculptor will receive an expense allowance towards costs of 2.000,00 € (2.666,67 € gross). Local residents and holiday guests can vote for their favorite object.

Please find the regulations and the registration form in the attachment. We kindly ask you to fill it in completely, sign it and return it to the organizer by 31st March 2025 (closing date) at the latest. If you know other artists, who are interested in participating, we would of course be pleased if you could pass on the documents and we would look forward to their application, too.

With best regards

The president BA Michael Zimmerhofer

Tourist association **AHRNTAL VALLEY**

Regulations

16th International Wooden Sculptors' Symposium

Organizer

The Tourist Association Ahrntal Valley is organizing the event in cooperation with the "Maranatha - Nativity Scene and Folk Museum" in Luttach/Ahrntal Valley.

Participants | Conditions of participation

Sculptors from all over the world are invited to participate in the symposium. The participants must be sculptors.

Realisation | programme

Arrival, check-in, welcoming and information

Number of working days = 4 and a half days (from Monday to Friday noon)

Official closing act, evaluation of the sculptures by jury of experts, common gala dinner

Individual departure on the day after the symposium

Theme of the Symposium and usage of the sculptures

The theme of this year's competition is **The crib tells its story: then and now***. The sculptures after the Symposium will be put up in the village of Luttach.

Appointments | tender | selection of the artists

The following documents must be submitted for the registration:

- Registration form completely filled in and signed (see attachment)
- Sketch/photo of a model and a short description about the planned object
- short curriculum vitae

31st march 2025: closing date for registration

Mid April: Selection of the participants (maximum 4 teams) by the organizing committee and the expert jury (with certificate of participation or refusal)

Eligibility criteria

The designs will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. Completeness of the application documents
2. Idea and originality in realization of the sculpture
3. Realizability
4. Technical effort
5. Overall impression
6. Utilization of the offered material

Sculptures

Each team is provided with 2 - 3 tree trunks (larch, green) of the desired length (max. diameter 0.60 m). The log length does not have to be utilized 100%. The wood can also be supplied and processed in a cut state. At least 50% of the team's object must be made from the wood provided. A second material may be used (procurement and costs to be borne by the sculptors).

Equipment

The following auxiliary means will be offered to the participants:

1. Sun and rain protection (tent)
2. Current supply (220 Volt)

All other tools have to be brought by the sculptors. It is allowed to use tools with combustion engines. While pneumatic chisels are not allowed.

Exhibition opportunities

The participants will be given the opportunity to present up to three objects in an own exhibition during the symposium.

Working hours

Daily from 9 am to 7.30 pm (Monday to Friday afternoon)

Benefits by the organizer

1. Every participating team gets a contribution towards costs of 2.000,00 € (net amount)
2. Free board and lodging (extra consumptions excluded, e.g., minibar, telephone) from Sunday evening to Saturday morning. *(We recommend taking out travel insurance for unexpected events)*
3. Travel expenses will not be refunded
4. other accompanying people who are not part of the team must pay for their own accommodation and meals
5. Care by specialists/experts
6. Publicity for the participating sculptors (exhibition opportunity)
7. Certificate of participation
8. Framework program

Prize money

As this is a Symposium and not a competition, no separate prize money will be paid.

Evaluation

A local expert jury will view the sculptures with the participating artists.

Local residents and holiday guests will be able to vote for their favorite object among the sculptures during the summer. The winner of the public vote will be announced afterwards.

Works | usage of the objects

On the evening of the last working day the works will be presented. The sculptures belong to the organizer.

Communication | language

The organizing committee communicates in German, Italian and English.

Insurance & privacy

The organizer rejects any liability to third parties. Each participant is obliged to have liability, accident and health insurance. Furthermore, each artist is responsible for his/her own security as well as for the protection of the workplace.

Insurance and accident insurance are to be arranged by the participants. With the registration, the sculptors agree to the use of their personal data in the context of data protection.

Registration

The registration takes place at the :

Tourist Association Ahrntal Valley

16th International Wooden Sculptors' Symposium

Ahrner Str. 22

I-39030 Luttach/Ahrntal Valley (BZ)

Tel. +39 0474 671136

E-Mail Kerstin.oberleiter@ahrntal.it | **Web** www.ahrntal.com

Programme

Sunday, 6th July 2025

- **Arrival and check-in**
- 7 pm: Dinner
- 8.30 pm: **Official welcoming** at the "Maranatha - Nativity Scene and Folk Museum" in Luttach/Ahrntal Valley, assignment of the working areas and explanation of the rules. Afterwards visit of the museum, which is one of the most impressive crib museums in Europe.

Monday, 7th July 2025

- 9 am: **Start of the symposium**
- 12 am: Lunch
- 7 pm: Dinner

Tuesday, 8th July 2025

- 9 am: **Continuation of the symposium**
- 12 am: Lunch
- 7 pm: Dinner
- 9 pm: **Evening visit** of the studio of the local artist Friedrich Sebastian Feichter in St. Johann/Ahrntal Valley (Gisse) and get together with local artists

Wednesday, 9th July 2025

- 9 am: **Continuation of the symposium**
- 12 am: Lunch
- 7 pm: **Common gala dinner**

Thursday, 10th July 2025

- 9 am: **Continuation of the symposium**
- 12 am: Lunch
- 7 pm: Dinner
- 8.30 pm: **Bowling nigh at the Hotel Adler** in St. Johann/Ahrntal valley

Friday, 11th July 2025

- 9 am: **Continuation of the symposium until 12 am**
- 12 am: Lunch
- 6 pm: **Common dinner and presentation** of the sculptures framed with traditional music at the fairground in Luttach/Ahrntal Valley

Saturday, 12th July 2025

- Breakfast at the hotel and **departure**

subject to modifications!

Some impressions from the last Symposiums

