

Steinhaus/Ahrntal Valley, 13th February 2026

## **Invitation to the 17<sup>th</sup> International Wooden Sculptors' Symposium in Ahrntal Valley/South Tyrol**

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen!

For the 17th time, selected artists will receive a special presentation platform at the International Ahrntal Woodcarving Symposium from Sunday, July 5th to Saturday, July 11th, 2026. Ten sculptors from various countries will work on larch trunks using mallets and chisels to create new works.

Under the title **"Alpine Animals from the valley to the high mountains"** artistically designed seating and rest areas will be created this year for a themed trail at Klausberg. The carved sculptures of native alpine animals invite hikers and families to pause and experience nature. Art and function are combined by integrating figures into benches and rest areas, harmoniously embedded in the landscape. The trail is structured by altitude levels: from forest and valley animals to alpine pasture species and high-mountain wildlife – creating a varied experience trail from the valley to the high mountains with a strong connection to the fauna of the Ahrntal Valley.

**You are sincerely invited to apply for participation!**

Each sculptor will receive an expense allowance towards costs of 825,00 € (1.100,00 € 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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 (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

## 17<sup>th</sup> 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 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 "**Alpine Animals from the valley to the high mountains**". The sculptures will be installed along a themed trail in the Klausberg hiking arena in Steinhaus.

### 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

*31<sup>st</sup> march 2026*: closing date for registration

*Mid April*: Selection of the participants (maximum 10) 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 sculptor will be provided with one larch tree trunk (green wood) with a maximum length of 2.20 m and a diameter of 0.50 m, either as a full trunk or as a half-trunk (split lengthwise). The full length of the trunk does not have to be used. The wood may also be delivered pre-cut and worked in that condition. At least 50% of the object must be created from the provided wood. A second material may be used (procurement and costs are the responsibility of 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 must be brought by the sculptors. It is allowed to use tools with combustion engines. While pneumatic chisels are not allowed.

### Working hours

Daily from 9 am to 6 pm (Monday to Thursday and Friday until noon)

### Benefits by the organizer

1. Each participant will receive an expense allowance of €825.00 (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 persons traveling with participants must cover their own accommodation and meal expenses.
5. Care by specialists/experts
6. Certificate of participation
7. 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 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**

17<sup>th</sup> International Wooden Sculptors' Symposium

Ahrner Str. 22

I-39030 Luttach/Ahrntal Valley (BZ)

Tel. +39 0474 671136

**E-Mail** [Kerstin.oberleiter@ahrntal.it](mailto:Kerstin.oberleiter@ahrntal.it) | **Web** [www.ahrntal.com](http://www.ahrntal.com)

## Programme

### Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> July 2026

- **Arrival and check-in**
- 6.30 pm: Dinner
- 8.30 pm: **Official welcoming**, assignment of the working areas and explanation of the rules. The location will be communicated

### Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> July 2026

- 9 am: **Start of the symposium**
- 12 am: Lunch
- 6.30 pm: Dinner
- **Free evening**

### Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> July 2026

- 9 am: **Continuation of the symposium**
- 12 am: Lunch
- 6.30 pm: Dinner
- 8.30 pm: **Visit to the Mining Museum** in the Kornkasten, which houses a permanent exhibition on the stories of people working in the mining industry.

### Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> July 2026

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

### Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> July 2026

- 9 am: **Continuation of the symposium**
- 12 am: Lunch
- 7 pm: Visit to the "Ahnga Festival" in St. Johann with **dinner and a concert**

### Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> July 2026

- 9 am: **Continuation of the symposium until 12 am**
- 12 am: Lunch
- 3 pm: Opportunity to visit the Mining Museum in Prettau (including a ride on the mine railway into the visitor tunnel).
- 7.30 pm: **Common dinner and presentation** of the sculptures framed with music at the Klausberg

### Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> July 2026

- Breakfast at the hotel and **departure**

subject to modifications!

## Some impressions from the last Symposiums

