**Ernst Logar**

***Reflecting Oil***

**Book presentation and artist talk**

03 June 2025, 17:00

Angewandte Interdisciplinary Lab (AIL)/ Otto Wagner-Postsparkasse

In our global society, oil is one of the most important resources of the modern age.

In the face of rapidly advancing global warming, we are facing a radical **transformation into a post-fossil fuel era**. Understanding our current culture, which is shaped through and through by oil, is an important foundation for a successful transition to a sustainable future.

The publication Reflecting Oil, which is based on the **artistic research project** of the same name at the **University of Applied Arts Vienna** (Angewandte) under the lead of the artist Ernst Logar, deals with the substance crude oil in connection with various concepts and phenomena of our petromodern era.

The starting point and basis of the research project are interdisciplinary workshops and crude oil experiments in cooperation between the Angewandte and the **Montanuniversität Leoben** (Department of Geoscience, formerly Department of Petroleum Engineering), the Petrocultures Research Group (**University of Alberta (CA)**), and international experts from a wide range of fields.

Reflections on **crude oil** in petroleum sciences and the humanities usually take place without direct physical experience of the substance. The project is a collection of art-based research that includes practical action and **holistic observation** of the raw material in the context of **petroculture**. This research approach focuses on sensory perceptions, aesthetic and symbolic interpretations, and provides insights at the levels of multisensory and practical knowledge.

The present publication, Reflecting Oil, summarizes the research project in all its facets over four chapters following the project structure and the formats used to examine the research process. In the form of over 20 contributions by artists, artistic researchers, and experts from the fields of environmental and geosciences, the **book provides a broad spectrum of perspectives on petroleum** that relate to each other and reflect aspects of petroculture.

Reflecting Oil is based on interdisciplinary crude oil investigations and reflections from the collaboration between **art and science**, and provides new knowledge for the necessary social, cultural, and technological **change toward sustainable energy sources**.

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**Ernst Logar (ed.)**

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Artist talk

**Alexander Damianisch** (Head of Support Art and Research, University of Applied Arts Vienna) in conversation with **Ernst Logar** (editor, research project manager and artist, University of Applied Arts Vienna)

<https://ail.angewandte.at/program/reflecting-oil-book-presentation>

The publication was produced as part of the artistic research project Reflecting Oil: Arts-Based Research on Oil Transitionings (**FWF-PEEK Project AR547**, 2019-2024)

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Further Information

[www.reflectingoil.info](http://www.reflectingoil.info)

[ail.angewandte.at](https://ail.angewandte.at/program/reflecting-oil-book-presentation)

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Biography

**Ernst Logar** (\*1965 in Klagenfurt, Austria) is an artist and cultural worker, active in the fields of photography, film, video, sound, sculpture, and installation. In addition to international exhibition activities and interdisciplinary collaborations with various experts and institutions, Logar realizes projects in public space and site-specific works that tackle prevailing power relations as well as contemporary historical, sociocultural, ecological, and socio-political phenomena.

His works have been presented in the Austrian Parliament, at the scenes of Nazi crimes, and other locations relevant to his artistic engagement. Logar is active in local cultural politics and is currently a research assistant and lecturer at the University of Applied Arts Vienna.