

ART and CONSTRUCTION

Billboard 2024 - 2026

Lerchenfelder Gürtel 55 / Gaullachergasse 1, 1160 Vienna

MARIANNE GREBER

DIE KORYPHÄE

Vienna, 2024



“Having a job and giving others a job are the pillars of a healthy society and human welfare.”

Marianne Greber

DIE KORYPHÄE by Marianne Greber is the sixth instalment of a canon on the topic of current socially relevant topics. Like the previous five billboards, the prominent location on the façade of the “Weltspiegel building” on busy Gürtelstraße is once again dedicated to working people.

The German word *Koryphäe*, which translates as “eminent authority” or “expert”, is someone with exceptional skills who accumulates and preserves knowledge and shares it for the benefit of everyone, a shining example.

Lucy McEvil, who portrays the expert, a motor vehicle technician, shows how naturally women and non-binary people can take up what is still a traditionally male profession that is physically challenging and requires technical know-how. A person’s skills and interests do not depend on gender or origin.

The technical attributes, the combination spanner, hammer, nut and bolt, tyre and brake disc lend expression to the dynamism and efficiency of her physical work.

Allegorical elements, the broad-winged damselfly and the dark green fritillary stand for technological development, changing demands in technical professions and for disseminating ideas in an age of ecological upheaval. In Greek mythology, they embody splendour, grace and beauty.

This installation also illustrates the enjoyment of work, that comes about not least as the result of a diverse and prejudice-free work environment.

The form of the representation, with the figure’s powerful expression, harks back to traditional themes in the expressive style, as captured, for example, by Eugène Delacroix in his revolutionary painting *Liberty Leading the People* (1830) and Tina Modotti with her impressive photographs of workers and Mexican insurgencies (1920 to 1940). Both are examples of artists whose symbolism impacted the development of society and politics.

Peter Bogner, curator

Performer: Lucy McEvil
Translation to English: Richard Watts
Billboard: Photomontage, print on vinyl, 945 cm × 377 cm
Billboards 2012 - 2026 www.mariannegreber.at/pro_billboards.htm

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