

4 October 2013–27 January 2014

KOKOSCHKA THE SELF IN FOCUS

An exhibition in cooperation with the Oskar Kokoschka-Zentrum of the
University of Applied Arts Vienna



HUGO ERFURTH (1874–1948)
Portrait of Oskar Kokoschka, Dresden, 1920
University of Applied Arts Vienna
Oskar Kokoschka Centre
© Fondation Oskar Kokoschka/VBK, Vienna 2013

OSKAR KOKOSCHKA (1886–1980)
Self-portrait, One Hand Touching the Face, 1918/19
Leopold Museum, Vienna
© Fondation Oskar Kokoschka/VBK, Vienna 2013



1 TRUDE FLEISCHMANN (1895–1990)
Oskar Kokoschka and Olda Palkovska,
London, 1939



2 ERICH AUERBACH (1911–1977)
Oskar Kokoschka in front of the painting
Anschluß - Alice in Wonderland, 1942/43



3 SVEN SIMON (1941–1980)
Oskar Kokoschka and Konrad Adenauer
drinking a schnapps in front of Kokoschka's
Adenauer portrait, Cadenabbia, 1966



4 ANONYMOUS
Oskar Kokoschka looking out over the
Vltava from the balcony of his studio in
Prague, in the background St. Charles
Bridge, 1936

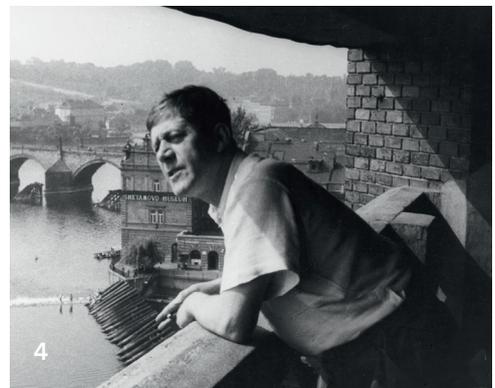


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With OSKAR KOKOSCHKA. THE SELF IN FOCUS the Leopold Museum dedicates to one of the most significant 20th-century Austrian artists an exhibition that will for the first time give a prominent place to photographs from Kokoschka's life.

Oskar Kokoschka (1886–1980) is doubtless one of the most important protagonists of modernism. His oeuvre as a painter and graphic artist, as well as dramatist, essayist and stage designer, is enormous and has an established place in the histories of both art and literature.

Up to this point, there has existed very little awareness of the fact that Kokoschka's life and works were also documented by a multitude of photographs. Around 5,000 photos have been preserved even just in the artist's estate, which is now held by the University of Applied Arts Vienna. These photos will now be published for the first time, in a selection featuring scholarly commentary. Photos from Kokoschka's occupational and private circles communicate a rich and intense artistic life, while at the same time they represent a piece of 20th-century history both in terms of cultural developments and in general.

Scholarly work on these holdings gave rise to the idea of a joint exhibition project of the Leopold Museum and the Oskar Kokoschka Centre of the University of Applied Arts.



OSKAR KOKOSCHKA (1886–1980)
Anschluß - Alice in Wonderland, 1942
Vienna Insurance Group
© Fondation Oskar Kokoschka/
VBK, Vienna 2013

Kokoschka was versatile, frequently provocative and controversial – not only as an artist, but also as a person. While he was viewed as an enfant terrible in his youth, he was defamed as “degenerate” during the National Socialist era not only due to his art, but also due to his open opposition to the regime. His omnipresent passion for all areas of art and life fascinated a great many of his contemporaries, including many authors, composers, entertainers, scientists, politicians and general bon vivants.

In this exhibition, organized by the Leopold Museum together with the Art Collection and Archive of the University of Applied Arts Vienna, one-of-a-kind photos and entire photographic series will be juxtaposed directly with the artist’s works.

The showing will thus include several of the famous portraits by Kokoschka, the genesis of which will be made clear by the photographic documentation of the portrait sittings. These pictures, some of them taken by well-known photographers and some of them anonymous snapshots, will be combined with Kokoschka’s paintings and graphic works in a complimentary manner.



OSKAR KOKOSCHKA (1886–1980)
Salzburg, View from the Kapuzinerberg, 1950
Bayerische Staatsgemäldesammlungen -
Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich
© Fondation Oskar Kokoschka/VBK, Vienna 2013

The life's work of one of the greatest 20th-century painters worldwide thus enters into an exciting dialogue with photography, the medium that has characterised the visual memory of this century like no other. This exhibition will see the publication of an extensive catalogue.

WERNER WELZ (1931–1995)
Oskar Kokoschka with umbrella entering Hohensalzburg Castle at
the opening of the International Summer Academy, with Friedrich
Welz in the background, 1960-63
University of Applied Arts Vienna,
Oskar Kokoschka Centre
© Fondation Oskar Kokoschka / VBK, Vienna 2013



An exhibition in cooperation with

di:angewandte

Universität für angewandte Kunst Wien
University of Applied Arts Vienna

Curators:

Tobias G. Natter, Franz Smola, Patrick Werkner, Bernadette Reinhold

PLEASE ADDRESS QUESTIONS TO
Leopold Museum-Private Foundation
MuseumsQuartier Wien
1070 Vienna, Museumsplatz 1
www.leopoldmuseum.org

Mag. Klaus Pokorny
Press / Public Relations
Tel +43.1.525 70-1507
Fax +43.1.525 70-1500
presse@leopoldmuseum.org
