Press Release

LEOPOLD MUSEUM

Schiele and Klimt
Jugendstil and Expressionism
THE LEOPOLD COLLECTION

MASTERPIECES OF AUSTRIAN MODERNISM – VIENNA 1900 – JUGENDSTIL – EXPRESSIONISM

The Leopold Collection is among the most important collections of Austrian Modernism in the world. The more than 5,000 exhibits collected by Rudolf and Elisabeth Leopold over five decades were consolidated in 1994 with the assistance of the Republic of Austria and the National Bank of Austria into the Leopold Museum Private Foundation.

Largest Egon Schiele Collection
The Leopold Museum in Vienna’s MuseumsQuartier houses the largest and most eminent Egon Schiele collection in the world, together with major works by Gustav Klimt and Oskar Kokoschka. Austrian art from the interwar period is represented with works by Richard Gerstl, Herbert Boeckl, Hans Böhler, Albin Egger-Lienz, Anton Faistauer, Anton Kolig, Alfred Kubin and Wilhelm Thöny, among others.

The collection also features outstanding works from the 19th century by Ferdinand Georg Waldmüller, Friedrich Gauermann, August von Pettenkofen, Anton Romako, Emil Jakob Schindler and Carl Schuch, among others.

The Leopold Collection comprises paintings and graphic works from Austrian art around 1900 as well as important objects from the Austrian arts and crafts movement by Otto Wagner, Adolf Loos, Josef Hoffmann, Koloman Moser and Dagobert Peche, many of them produced by the Wiener Werkstätte. Genuine objects from Africa and Oceania as well as old Chinese and Japanese artworks complete the collection.
THE LEOPOLD MUSEUM

The Leopold Collection took five decades to compile and in 2001 it found a permanent home at the Leopold Museum. Until the end of his life, Prof. Dr. Rudolf Leopold (1925-2010) directed the museum, which he founded together with the Republic of Austria and the Austrian National Bank and which was built by the Austrian state. It is the largest and most popular museum in Vienna's MuseumsQuartier.

The core of the collection consists of Austrian art from the first half of the 20th century, including key paintings and drawings by Egon Schiele and Gustav Klimt, which illustrate the gradual transformation from Jugendstil [Art Nouveau movement in Austria] to Expressionism. The art historical context is provided by chief works of Austrian art from the 19th and 20th centuries, as well as by several eminent works of international art. The spacious, light-flooded rooms contain not only paintings and drawings but also valuable crafted objects and furniture from the time of the Wiener Werkstätte, including original pieces by Koloman Moser, Otto Wagner, Josef Hoffmann and Adolf Loos.

The collection also comprises sculptures from Africa and Oceania. These objects served as sources of inspiration to many artists of Classical Modernism.

The Leopold Museum is the only museum in Vienna to offer a comprehensive permanent exhibition of the period of »Vienna around 1900« that includes all genres of art, from paintings and graphic works to artisan craftwork.
Until the day of the move to the museum, the Leopold family lived with the paintings and used the furniture and objects on a daily basis. The purchase of a first painting by the medical student Rudolf Leopold marked the beginning of a true passion for art. In 1994, Rudolf Leopold donated more than 5,000 works with a total estimated value of 575 million Euros.

Since the 1950s, the value of the collection’s works, especially those by Schiele and Klimt, has increased dramatically. This is due largely to the fact that the collector was one of the first to recognize the value of a direction in art that was generally disapproved of by others. Until the 1960s, Klimt and Schiele were hardly appreciated in Austria, and Schiele’s art was even widely held in contempt. Rudolf Leopold always ignored the judgments of his contemporaries and was even mocked at auctions, for instance in 1954, when he bid for a Schiele nude that was considered “degenerate and pornographic” amidst the laughter of those in attendance.
He relied on his aesthetic judgment in the purchase and exchange of artworks – and time has proved him right. His subjective selection has developed into a generally acclaimed cultural institution, a collector’s museum whose content and substance have made it an integral component of the Viennese museum landscape. The massive cube made of light shell limestone dominates the entire MuseumsQuartier, while the interior affords insights into a central part of Austrian history and cultural identity.

The collector’s guiding principle was to uncover items that had been overlooked – a philosophy that continues to shape the museum’s special exhibitions. The scientific exploration of Austria’s art history as well as comparisons of artistic positions often bring to light new aspects of the collection.

In conversations, Professor Leopold liked to attribute his success to his talent for being able to comprehend the creation of an artwork thanks to his »artistic vision«. His particular ability stemmed from his precise perception, from skillful comparisons and his intuitive feeling for the essence of a work. He always relied on his subjective feelings and sentiments and came up with very personal choices, rankings and presentations. Much in keeping with the Viennese Secessionist Movement, the museum’s founder thus became the creator of a total work of art born out of a single-minded avant-garde position. Through its name, the Leopold Museum is forever linked to the collector, while the collection itself represents an appraisal of Austrian art and pays homage to Viennese Modernism.
Press Release

From Schiele to Munch – special exhibitions at the Leopold Museum

Throughout its first ten years, the museum’s permanent collections have been supplemented by more than 60 high-quality special presentations, including »Egon Schiele. Landscapes«, »The Naked Truth«, »Edvard Munch and the Uncanny«, exhibitions of the works of Kolo Moser, Joseph Maria Olbrich, Josef Maria Auchentaller and Albin Egger-Lienz, as well as showings of eminent international collections. Particular highlights among these include the presentations of Impressionist masterpieces from the Musée d’Orsay (Manet, Monet, Degas etc.) and of chief works from Classical Modernism from the Swiss Fondation Beyeler (Cézanne, Picasso, Giacometti, and many others). The Leopold Museum celebrated its 10-year anniversary by dedicating a special exhibition entitled »Melancholy and Provocation. The Egon Schiele Project« to the important artist Egon Schiele. In 2012 the museum showed the successful presentation »Klimt – Up Close and Personal« marking Klimt’s 150th birthday as well as the exhibition »naked men. from 1800 to the present« which attracted considerable international attention and turned out to be one of the museum’s most popular presentations to date.

The Leopold Museum regularly presents special exhibitions in collaboration with leading museums from all over the world and is frequently represented abroad, for instance in Athens, Basel, Milan, Oslo and Paris.
RUDOLF LEOPOLD
COLLECTOR, FOUNDER AND MUSEOLOGICAL DIRECTOR OF THE LEOPOLD MUSEUM

Professor Rudolf Leopold was born on the 1st of March 1925 in Vienna and obtained his doctoral degree in medicine in 1953. During his medical studies, he began to attend art history lectures and to collect paintings and objects of art, above all works of the then little-respected Egon Schiele.

With an exhibition of modern Austrian art put together by Leopold in 1955 in Amsterdam and Eindhoven, the hitherto unknown Schiele suddenly moved to the front rank of European artists. Schiele exhibitions followed in Innsbruck (1963), London (1964), and, together with works by Gustav Klimt, in New York’s Guggenheim Museum (1965). In 1968, marking the 50th anniversary of Schiele’s death, three exhibitions of his works opened in Vienna, followed by a major exhibition in Munich in 1975.

In 1972, Rudolf Leopold published a critical catalogue raisonné of Schiele’s works with a detailed list of motifs. From 1989 to 1991, the exhibition »Egon Schiele and His Time« was shown with great success in Zurich, Vienna, Munich, Wuppertal and London. In 1995/96, Rudolf Leopold successfully exhibited 152 personally selected works by Schiele in Tübingen, Düsseldorf and Hamburg. Further presentations followed in 1997 in Graz, New York and Barcelona. In the summer of 1998, the exhibition »Egon Schiele – The Leopold Collection« was presented in Schiele’s hometown of Tulln. In the autumn of the same year, a selection was shown in Innsbruck. For the World Expo 2000 in Hannover, more than 230 artworks were displayed at the Kestnergesellschaft institute.

With support from the National Bank of Austria, the Leopold Museum Private Foundation, which contains over 5,000 artworks from the collection, was founded by Leopold and the Republic of Austria in 1994. The first task of the foundation was to make the comprehensive collection accessible to the public through the construction of a new museum. In 1997, Rudolf Leopold was awarded the Cross of Honor for Art and Science, First Class. In 2001, the Leopold Museum opened its doors to the public. Throughout the following years, the museum showed more than 60 high-quality special exhibitions and presented its collection abroad numerous times, for instance in Milan, Athens, Hamburg and Oslo.

Rudolf Leopold, Museological Director for life of the Leopold Museum, worked tirelessly for the benefit of art. He passed away on the 29th of June 2010 and was buried at Grinzing Cemetery in Vienna.
GENERAL INFORMATION

DATES AND FACTS

Leopold Museum Private Foundation
In 1994, the Leopold Collection was consolidated into a foundation by Rudolf Leopold with support from the Republic of Austria and the National Bank of Austria. The core of the collection consists of the most important compilation of works by Egon Schiele in the world. Austria’s Classical Modernism movement is represented with major works by Gustav Klimt, Albin Egger-Lienz, Oskar Kokoschka, Richard Gerstl and Alfred Kubin, among others.

- 5,266 inventoried works of art at the time of the foundation’s founding
- Total estimated value of 575 million Euros (1994)

Purpose of the Foundation
Quote pursuant to Art. 2 of the founding document:

(1) The foundation’s purpose shall be to preserve the collection established by the founder on a permanent basis, to open it to the public by means of a museum, and to catalogue and study it in order to document the importance for Austria’s cultural development, in particular of the Modernist movement, which began in Vienna at the beginning of the 20th century.

(2) The foundation shall exclusively and directly pursue a non-profit-making objective within the meaning of the Federal Tax Code. It shall have no profit motive.
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Visitor Numbers
2002: approx. 300,000 visitors
2003: approx. 350,000 visitors
2004: approx. 350,000 visitors
2005: approx. 348,000 visitors
2006: approx. 312,000 visitors
2007: approx. 302,000 visitors
2008: approx. 291,000 visitors
2009: approx. 311,000 visitors
2010: approx. 360,000 visitors
2011: approx. 311,000 visitors
2012: approx. 365,000 visitors
2013: approx. 325,000 visitors
2014: approx. 350,000 visitors

Leopold Museum
Open since the 21st of September 2001
The Leopold Museum presents a permanent exhibition of 19th and 20th century Austrian painting as well as special presentations.

Admission
12 Euros (regular ticket) as well as numerous discounts

Audio guides
Available in German, English, French and Italian

Architecture
Ortner & Ortner (Laurids and Manfred Ortner)
Total surface area: 12,600 m²
Exhibition area: 5,400 m²
Construction: April 1998 to January 2001
Cost: 29 million Euros

Other projects and buildings realized by Ortner & Ortner:

Opening times
Open daily (except Tuesdays): 10 am – 6 pm, Thursdays: 10 am – 9 pm
Tuesdays: closed
June, July, August: open daily!

Art Education
For information on guided tours, educational programs and children’s programs, call +43 1 525 70 - 1525 or visit www.leopoldmuseum.org

ESDZ (Egon Schiele Documentation Centre)
The research facility »Egon Schiele Documentation Centre« (ESDZ) administrates a database of Schiele autographs and promotes research on Egon Schiele.
Details and registration: schiele-dokumentation@leopoldmuseum.org
Press Release

QUESTIONS / CONTACT:

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1070 Wien

OPENING HOURS
Täglich außer Dienstag 10–18 Uhr
Donnerstag 10–21 Uhr
Dienstag geschlossen
Juni, Juli, August: Täglich geöffnet

PARTNER of the Leopold Museum

WIENER STÄDTISCHE VERSICHERUNGSVEREIN

ORF
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Goldeck
DER VELTLINER SEKT