

ENGLISH



## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**The Leopold Collection** *General*

**The Leopold Museum**

**Rudolf Leopold** *Biography*

**General Informations** *Dates and Facts*

Information:

Leopold Museum - Private Foundation  
Museumsplatz 1, A-1070 Vienna  
T +43 1 52570 - 0  
F +43 1 52570 - 1500  
[presse@leopoldmuseum.org](mailto:presse@leopoldmuseum.org)  
[www.leopoldmuseum.org](http://www.leopoldmuseum.org)

## THE LEOPOLD COLLECTION

### **Masterpieces of the Viennese Secessionist Movement, the Viennese Modernist Movement and the Austrian Expressionist Movement**

The **Leopold Collection** is among the most important collections of modern Austrian art 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 Worldwide***

The **Leopold Museum** in Vienna's Museum Quarter contains the largest Egon Schiele collection in the world, together with major works by Gustav Klimt, Oskar Kokoschka, Richard Gerstl, Albin Egger-Lienz, and paintings and prints by Herbert Boeckl, Hans Böhler, Anton Faistauer, Anton Kolig, Alfred Kubin, and Wilhelm Thöny. In addition, it 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** also includes significant artistic works from the turn of the century by Otto Wagner, Adolf Loos, Josef Hoffmann, Koloman Moser and Dagobert Peche. Original objects from Africa and Oceania as well as ancient Chinese and Japanese works of art round out the exhibition.

## THE LEOPOLD MUSEUM

It took five decades to compile the collection, and since 2001 it has found a permanent home at the Leopold Museum. Prof. Dr. Rudolf Leopold (1925-2010) together with his wife Dr. Elisabeth Leopold, has directed the museum, which they founded together with the Republic of Austria and the Austrian National Bank and which was built by the Republic of Austria. It is the largest and most popular museum in Vienna's new Museum Quarter.

The core of the collection consists of Austrian art of the first half of the 20th century, including key paintings and drawings by Egon Schiele and Gustav Klimt, showing the gradual transformation from Jugendstil [Art Nouveau movement in Austria] to Expressionism. The historical context is illustrated by major Austrian works of art from the 19th and 20th centuries.

The large, light-flooded rooms contain valuable crafted objects and furniture from the time of the *Wiener Werkstätten*, including original pieces by Adolf Loos, Otto Wagner and Josef Hoffmann. Another focus of the collection is sculptures from Africa and Oceania. These objects served as sources of inspiration to many artists of the Classical Modern period.

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 an initial painting by the medical student Leopold developed into a true addiction to art. In 1994, Rudolf Leopold donated more than 5,000 works with a total estimated value of 575 million euros.

The enormous increase in value is due 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 not appreciated in Austria and were even held in contempt. Rudolf Leopold ignored the judgments of his contemporaries and was even mocked at auctions, as in 1954, when amidst the laughter of those in attendance, he bid for a "degenerate and pornographic" Schiele nude.

He relied on his aesthetic judgment in the purchase and exchange of artworks — and time has proved him right. His subjective selection has become a generally acclaimed cultural institution, a *collector's museum* whose content and substance make it an integral component of the Viennese museum landscape. The massive cube made of light-colored stone dominates the entire Museum Quarter, while the interior forms a centerpiece of Austrian history and cultural identity.

The collector's guiding principle has always been to uncover items that have been overlooked. This philosophy also characterizes the special exhibition program. In addition to exhibitions dealing with particular features of Austrian art history, comparisons of artistic positions often shed light upon new aspects of the collection.

In conversations, Professor Leopold liked to attribute his success to his talent for using his "artistic vision" to understand the background to a piece of work. His particular ability lied in his precise perception, the practiced comparisons and his intuitive feeling for the essence of the work. He used his subjective feelings and sentiments to make choices, rankings and presentations, and in this way becomes — fully in keeping with the Viennese Secessionist Movement — a creator of a total work of art born of a single-minded avant-garde position. The museum now bears his name and stands as a whole for the Viennese Modernist Movement.

## **RUDOLF LEOPOLD**

### ***Collector, Founder and Museological Director of the Leopold Museum***

Professor Rudolf Leopold was born on March 1, 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 at the same time, 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 of Gustav Klimt, in New York's Guggenheim Museum (1965). In 1968, to mark the 50th anniversary of Schiele's death, three exhibitions were held in Vienna. In 1975, a major exhibition was organized in Munich.

In 1972, Rudolf Leopold published a critical catalogue of Schiele's works with a detailed list of the 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 1995/1996, Rudolf Leopold exhibited 152 personally selected works by Schiele in Tübingen, Dusseldorf and Hamburg. Additional stops in 1997 included 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 fall of the same year, a selection was shown in Innsbruck. For the World Expo 2000 in Hanover, more than 230 artworks were displayed at the Kestnergesellschaft institute.

In 1994, 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. The first task of the foundation was to grant access to the public to the comprehensive collection 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.

Rudolf Leopold died on 29 June 2010. He was buried at the Cemetery of Grinzing, Vienna.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### ***Dates and Facts***

#### **1. 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. In addition, Austria's Classical Modernism movement is represented by 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 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 catalog 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.

## **2. Leopold Museum**

Open since September 21, 2001

The Leopold Museum presents a Permanent Collection of Austrian 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Art as well as Special Exhibitions.

### **Architecture:**

Ortner & Ortner (Laurids and Manfred Ortner)

Total surface area: 12,600 sq.m.  
Exhibition area: 5,400 sq.m.  
Construction: April 1998 to January 2001  
Cost: 29 Mio Euro

Other projects realized by Ortner & Ortner:  
"Schiffbau", Courtyard Building, Theatre and Cultural Center, Zurich (1996-2001), S.L.U.B., Saxon Federal and State Library and Dresden University Library, Dresden (1996-2001), New Music Theatre, Linz (2007)

### **Visitor Numbers**

2002: 300,000 visitors	2007: 302.000 visitors
2003: 350,000 visitors	2008: 291.000 visitors
2004: 350,000 visitors	2009: 310.000 visitors
2005: 348.000 visitors	2010: 360.000 visitors
2006: 312.000 visitors	2011: 311.000 visitors

### **Opening Hours:**

Daily (except Tue.) 10 am – 6 pm, Thursday: 10 am – 9 pm,  
Tuesday: closed

### **Admission:**

12 euros (regular), various discounts

### **Audio Guides**

In German, English, French and Italian

### **Educational program**

For information on guided tours, educational programs and children's programs, call **+43 1 525 70 - 1525** or see **[www.leopoldmuseum.org](http://www.leopoldmuseum.org)**