

EGON SCHIELE

DOKUMENTATION CENTRE



Starting
7 APRIL
Every Thursday
1–6 p.m.

Egon Schiele, Still Life with Books (Schiele's Desk), 1914
Leopold Museum, Vienna, Inv. No. 458

PRESS INFORMATION

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

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NEW AT THE LEOPOLD MUSEUM: THE EGON SCHIELE DOCUMENTATION CENTRE

The new Egon Schiele Documentation Centre of the Leopold Museum, initiated by Leopold Museum Managing Director Mag. Peter Weinhäupl and Dr. Elisabeth Leopold in memory of museum founder, donor and Schiele collector Prof. Dr. Rudolf Leopold (1925–2010), opens its doors to the public on 7 April 2011.

The Centre's three closely networked departments—Egon Schiele Documentation, the Library and Provenience Research—give rise to new, research-relevant synergies.

Since it opened in 2001, the Leopold Museum's has focused its research efforts on the theme of "Vienna around 1900" (Gustav Klimt, Kolo Moser, Wiener Werkstätte), and—even more so—on its own "star," Egon Schiele (1890–1918).

Professor Leopold's archive:

Based on Rudolf Leopold's extensive archive, which arose primarily in connection with the creation of his 1972 Egon Schiele catalogue (Rudolf Leopold: Egon Schiele: Paintings – Watercolours – Drawings), the material which was transferred step-by-step to the museum's holdings will be successively archived, documented and made accessible for research purposes over the next few years. This basic material, which represents the foundation of the new Egon Schiele Documentation Centre, encompasses in particular written matter in Schiele's hand (compiled in the "Egon Schiele Database of Autographs"), as well as a comprehensive collection of historic and recent Schiele literature plus extensive documentation of Schiele's works, life and social environment.

Facilities of the Egon Schiele Documentation Centre:

The Egon Schiele Documentation Centre has been set up in immediate physical proximity to the Library of the Leopold Museum. Effective immediately, six workspaces (study and audio areas) equipped with the most modern infrastructure are available once a week to researchers and university students. All interested visitors can deepen their knowledge of Egon Schiele every Thursday from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Due to logistical concerns, it is necessary for researchers to register in advance at: schiele-dokumentation@leopoldmuseum.org.

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EGON SCHIELE: WORKS

These days, works by Egon Schiele can be viewed in the most important museums and private collections of Europe and America. Schiele's oeuvre—documented by the catalogues of Rudolf Leopold (1972) and Jane Kallir (1998)—encompasses around 350 paintings, as well as 2,500 watercolours and drawings.

Of the paintings known today, minus lost works, privately owned works and works of uncertain attribution, around 100—i.e., a good third—are on exhibit in public museums and collections. Around half of these belong to the collection of the Leopold Museum. In addition to a small number of sculptures and printed graphic works, there also exist a notable number of handwritten documents, poems and pieces of correspondence.

Rudolf Leopold:

A lifelong battle for recognition of the artist Egon Schiele

It was during the late 1950s that Prof. Dr. Rudolf Leopold began collecting, and within just 40 years he managed to compile one of the most comprehensive collections of Austrian art. The core of this collection is the world's largest and most important group of works by Egon Schiele, with an emphasis on Schiele's expressionist years of 1910–1912. Right up to the end of his life, Rudolf Leopold worked tirelessly for Schiele's artistic recognition. With exhibitions and publications, he succeeded in giving the expressionist Egon Schiele an uncontested place in the world's artistic canon. With his expertise, his sense of quality and his passion, Leopold left a lasting mark on both the art market and the art scene.

The Leopold Collection and the museum's establishment

In 1994, Rudolf Leopold transferred ownership of the over 5,400 works in his collection to the Leopold Museum Private Foundation. In 2001, the Leopold Museum opened at the MuseumsQuartier complex, which is likewise currently celebrating 10 years of existence. Beginning on 22 September, the jubilee exhibition Egon Schiele: Melancholy and Provocation—conceived thoroughly in the spirit of the museum's founder—will enrich the museum's own celebration with the commemoration of this most important Austrian expressionist painter.

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THE THREE KEY COMPONENTS OF THE EGON SCHIELE DOCUMENTATION CENTRE

1. Egon Schiele Documentation

Egon Schiele Database of Autographs

Historical background:

In 1921, the art critic Arthur Roessler (1877–1955) released a posthumous publication containing selected pieces of correspondence between Egon Schiele and his family, colleagues and collectors. The publication *Briefe und Prosa von Egon Schiele* [Letters and Prose of Egon Schiele] contained over 210 letters written by Schiele; these were ordered chronologically, without provenience information and according to recipients, and Roessler had sometimes even reformulated their text.

In 1979, art dealer Christian M. Nebehay (1909–2003) published comprehensive documentation of Schiele's life, including over 1,800 objects, as part of the effort to order and study the Egon Schiele Archive at the Albertina. These items had been donated to the Albertina following the death (and according to the will) of Vienna city councilman and Schiele connoisseur Max Wagner (1882–1954); they consist largely of letters, notebooks and sketchbooks.

Additionally, a large number of thematic essays were published in various Austrian museums' own series of academic writings (*Albertina Studien*, *Mitteilungen der Österreichischen Galerie*, *Wiener Schriften*), particularly during the 1960s.

Objectives:

Today, all of the abovementioned publications are available only from antiquarian book-sellers. This fact, as well as new technological possibilities and the fact that the Leopold Collection is home to numerous previously unknown autographs by Egon Schiele, moved the Leopold Museum to plan the Egon Schiele Database of Autographs. The objective was to bring together and devote scholarly attention to all previously known and newly discovered writings by, to and about Egon Schiele. These are to be supplemented by various relevant materials from domestic and foreign collections, as well as ones purchased on the open market. The Database, run by Mag. Sandra Tretter, is funded by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture (bm:ukk), and is available effective immediately for use by interested individuals from the field at the Egon Schiele Documentation Centre. A publication on the Centre's holdings is currently in preparation; its release is planned for the autumn of 2012.

Material covered by the Database:

Currently, there are 2,450 entries online from over 30 domestic and foreign collections; foremost among these (in terms of the number of entries) are the Egon Schiele Archive at the Albertina, the Schiele archive of the Austrian National Library, the Vienna City Library at City Hall, the Tirolean State Museum Ferdinandeum and the Leopold Collection.

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Research:

The Database makes it possible to do research using two search modes: Quick Search and Expert Search. The Quick Search function is available online at www.egonschiele.at. Expert Search is available at the Leopold Museum Private Foundation's Egon Schiele Documentation Centre. Researchers external to the museum can apply for online access.

Please Note:

The Egon Schiele Database of Autographs' Expert Search mode is available to journalists from 7 to 10 April:

Press images of the Egon Schiele Documentation Centre facility and from the Centre's opening event can be found at:
http://pressefotos.at/m.php?g=1&dir=201104&u=84&a=event&e=20110407_m

In Planning: Database of Schiele Paintings and Photographs

The existing structures of the Schiele Database of Autographs are being continually expanded and supplemented by further Schiele-relevant modules; the next step will be documentation of all Schiele-related photographs and paintings.

2. Provenience Research

Database of Schiele Collectors

Of central concern in the Leopold Museum's research activities is the provenience of all artworks in the Leopold Collection. This provenience research seeks to reconstruct the succession of owners of each artwork owned by the museum in a manner that is complete and based on solid scholarship. This is for the most part done using tools of historical scholarship such as archival research and the critical evaluation of sources.

The large store of data collected for the purpose of provenience research forms the cornerstone of the project to create a database of Schiele collectors, Schiele patrons and Schiele dealers active between 1910 and 1960, a project initiated by Leopold Museum provenience researcher Dr. Robert Holzbauer. The Database is networked closely with the existing Database of Autographs and linked to the republication of the catalogue of Egon Schiele's paintings (currently in preparation).

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Public presentation of provenience research findings:

Dr. Robert Holzbauer communicates the results of provenience research efforts by the Leopold Museum to the museum's visitors—presenting such information didactically in regularly held themed tours on such topics as “How does art arrive at the museum?” or Schiele's Portrait of Wally (“Wally – Odyssey of a Painting”).

Leopold Museum and bm:ukk – cooperation in provenience research

To compliment the provenience research conducted by the Leopold Museum Private Foundation, 2008 saw the launch of a cooperative provenience research effort by the Leopold Museum and the bm:ukk conducted by Dr. Sonja Niederacher and Dr. Michael Wladika; the findings of this work are subsequently evaluated by an independent committee.

3. Library

7,000 publications on the collection's holdings

Since the Leopold Foundation's establishment, the museum's collection of books has grown parallel to its scholarly work; this eventually led to a library being set up. Up to now, the collection of books has served mainly to support the scholarly work of the museum's own museologists by making available print and electronic media needed for research on the collection's various areas (with an emphasis on Austrian art of the 19th and 20th centuries). The library's informational offerings are being continually expanded in accordance with the holdings of the collection; it currently encompasses around 7,000 publications (excluding auction and gallery catalogues).

Focus on Schiele

The library's Schiele-related holdings, which are looked after by librarian Mag. Marion Geier, have been systematically expanded over the past few months; in the future, this material will be available once a week for use by students and researchers concerned with the life and works of Egon Schiele as part of the Egon Schiele Documentation Centre.

In preparation: complete documentation of all Schiele exhibitions

A long-term objective is to make the entire bibliographic holdings on the works and life of Egon Schiele accessible on location. This project encompasses the complete documentation of Egon Schiele's works' appearance in exhibitions, beginning with Schiele's first presentation of works at Klosterneuburg Monastery in 1908 and continuing up to currently running presentations of his oeuvre. The early publications, some of them with handwritten notes by Egon Schiele himself and/or Prof. Rudolf Leopold, are a special point of interest at the Schiele Library. Because of extensive changes currently being made to the database, however, the electronic availability of the bibliographic holdings will be delayed until the autumn of 2011.

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SOCIETY OF FRIENDS: »EGON SCHIELE GRANT«

The new “Egon Schiele Grant,” to be awarded by the Society of Friends of the Leopold Museum, is intended to support scholarly research on art history at the Egon Schiele Documentation Centre. This grant will make it possible for Austrian and foreign scholars to do work regarding the life and oeuvre of Egon Schiele. Special consideration will be given to research activities involving works by Schiele held by the Leopold Museum.

15,000 Euros per year – call for applications in autumn 2011:

The scholarship program will be distributing EUR 15,000 during its first year. Individual projects will be supported with a maximum amount of EUR 7,500 each. The first call for project submissions will take place in autumn of this year to mark the Leopold Museum’s first ten years of existence. The selection from the group of submitted projects will be made by a jury consisting of Schiele experts, representatives from the business world and the media, Leopold Museum staff, and Univ.-Prof. Dr. Fritz Koreny, who will represent the Society of Friends.

Support of scholarly work on Egon Schiele:

With this new research grant, the Society of Friends of the Leopold Museum continues its tradition of supporting the Leopold Museum’s scholarly work. In the past, the Society has purchased for the museum photographic glass negatives with motifs of Egon and Edith Schiele. The Society also succeeded in procuring for the Documentation Centre important early letters written by Schiele in 1906. The brief guide to the Leopold Museum published in German and English by Prestel was also financed with funds provided by the Society of Friends.

COLLECTION AND SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS: ALWAYS WITH AN EYE TO SCHIELE

The Leopold Museum has a constant eye to Egon Schiele both in the presentation of its permanent collections (“Egon Schiele,” “Vienna 1900”) as well as in numerous temporary exhibitions such as Egon Schiele: Landscapes (2004/2005), The Naked Truth (2005) and Egon Schiele – 90th Anniversary of his Death (2008). In the many exhibitions by the Leopold Museum abroad, as well, Egon Schiele has often been the focal point—recently in Oslo (Egon Schiele / Munch-Museet 2007), Athens (Klimt, Schiele, Kokoschka and their Time / Megaron 2007), Milan (Egon Schiele e il suo tempo / Palazzo Reale 2010) and Basel (Wien 1900. Klimt, Schiele und ihre Zeit / Fondation Beyeler, 2010/2011).

Schiele-related art education:

A broad spectrum of art education offerings—ranging from an audio guide to special tours and artistic studio work for both adults and children at the “LEO Kid’s Studio”—helps visitors discover the world of Egon Schiele as presented at the Leopold Collection. Schiele is also given frequent attention in the (German-language) lecture series “Blickwinkel” [Perspectives], which features a presentation every Saturday (except during summer) to celebrate the Leopold Museum’s ten years of existence.

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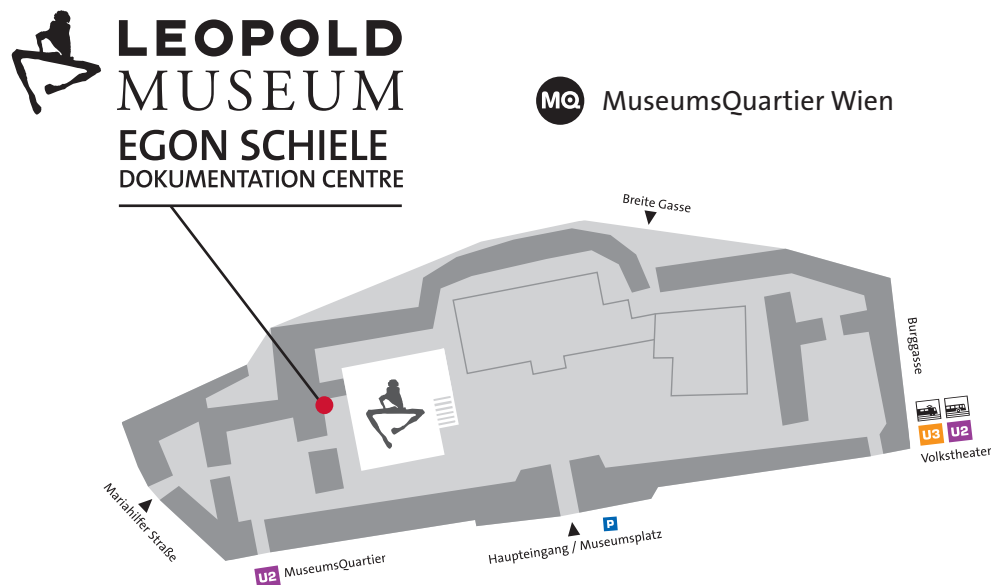
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EGON SCHIELE DOCUMENTATION CENTRE

Address/Location

Egon Schiele Documentation Centre
Leopold Museum Private Foundation
Museumsplatz 1
1070 Vienna

Entrance: rear side of the Leopold Museum (18th-century wing near Tanzquartier Wien),
check in at the office (1st floor up)



Opening hours

Every Thursday (except holidays) from 1 to 6 p.m.

Advance registration at: schiele-dokumentation@leopoldmuseum.org

Contacts

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Partner of the Leopold Museum:



VIENNA INSURANCE GROUP

In cooperation with:



Project partner:



With kind support from:



Cooperating partners of the Egon Schiele Database of Autographs

Museums / archives / libraries (with particularly large holdings of autographs): Albertina, Vienna; Sammlung Leopold, Vienna; Vienna City Library at City Hall, Vienna; Austrian National Library, Vienna; Tirolean State Museum Ferdinandeum, Innsbruck.

Further museums / archives / libraries: Bezirksmuseum Hietzing, Vienna; Egon Schiele Art Centrum, Český Krumlov; Egon Schiele Museum, Tulln; Evangelische Pfarrgemeinde A. B., Vienna; Gustinus Ambrosi-Gesellschaft, Vienna; Museum of Military History, Vienna; Krahuletz Museum, Eggenburg; Kunsthaus Zug, Zug; LENTOS Kunstmuseum, Linz; Museum Wiesbaden, Wiesbaden; Osthaus Museum Hagen, Hagen; Österreichische Galerie Belvedere, Vienna; Austrian State Archives, Vienna; Austrian Theatre Museum, Vienna; Sabarsky Collection, New York; State District Archive of Český Krumlov, Český Krumlov; Klosterneuburg City Archive, Klosterneuburg; Klosterneuburg City Museum, Klosterneuburg; Klosterneuburg Monastery, Klosterneuburg; Wien Museum, Vienna; Municipal and Provincial Archives of Vienna, Vienna.

Galleries / art dealers: Antiquariat & Kunsthandlung Christian M. Nebehay, Vienna; Galerie Kornfeld & Cie, Bern; Galerie St. Etienne, New York; Kunstverlag Alfons Walde, Kitzbühel; Neue Galerie New York, New York

Private Collections: Alessandra Comini, Dallas; Regina Heilmann-Thon, Baldham; Hannah Rieger, Vienna; the Kamm Collection, Zug; the E. W. Kornfeld Collection, Bern and numerous private collectors who wish to remain anonymous.

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