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RINGTURM.KUNST

Vienna Insurance Group Collection



Martin Schnur, At the Curtain, 2010
Vienna Insurance Group (photo: Daniela Beranek)

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Vienna Insurance Group Collection
Leopold Museum, Vienna

With a selection of over 100 works, the Leopold Museum presents the first comprehensive cross-section of the over 5,000-work art collection of Vienna Insurance Group (VIG), which was created from the combined art holdings of subsidiaries Wiener Städtische Versicherung, Donau Versicherung and the Group's newest member s-Versicherung. Since the 1920s, Wiener Städtische Versicherung has been involved in art and in art patronage. These activities eventually developed into active collecting, which has by now given rise to a notable art collection with an emphasis on painting and graphics created between 1945 and the present.

The lion's share of the collection is housed at the insurance group's headquarters in the Ringturm building, a tower-like structure erected in 1955 according to plans by Erich Boltenstern.

The collection's major works include Oskar Kokoschka's painting *Anschluss – Alice in Wonderland* of 1942, which deals with wartime politics and war's horrors. The early years of the post-1945 Austrian Republic are represented in Vienna Insurance Group's collection via major works by Herbert Boeckl, Arnulf Rainer, Giselbert Hoke and Max Weiler. Important examples of painting during the 1960s and 1970s are works by Hans Staudacher, Oswald Oberhuber, Robert Hammerstiel and Franz Grabmayr.



Otto Zitko, Untitled, 2008
Vienna Insurance Group

Since the 1970s, representatives of fantastic realism – including Rudolf Hausner, Arik Brauer and Helmut Leherb – have likewise seen their works acquired by the collection of Vienna Insurance Group. The 1980s bore witness to the sometimes-figurative and always dynamic and surprising works of young upstarts such as Hubert Schmalix, Alois Mosbacher, Erwin Bohatsch, Alfred Klinkan, Hubert Scheibl and Herbert Brandl. Vienna Insurance Group has also placed a clear emphasis on nonrepresentational painting from 1990 to the present, as seen impressively in the works of artists including Josef Mikl, Markus Prachensky, Hermann Nitsch, Otto Zitko, Drago J. Prelog and Martha Jungwirth.

At the same time, the 1990s were also characterised by minimalist stances such as those of Sabina Hörtnner, Florentina Pakosta, Gerold Tagwerker, Marko Lulic and Jakob Gasteiger.

The emancipation of conceptual art as its own genre revolutionised the art of more recent times in a deep-reaching way, as this exhibition shows with works by artists including Meina Schellander, Peter Weibel, Julius Deutschbauer, Peter Kogler and Werner Reiterer.

In concert with and due to the triumph of film and computers, the 1990s also saw a renewed interest in figurative portrayal, with artists making use of new media as a matter of course and generally adopting a rather ironic and critical approach. Important representatives of this trend include Deborah Sengl, Gerda Leopold, Ulrike Lienbacher, Peter Sengl and Robert Zeppel-Sperl.

Contemporary artists' deep involvement with photography is also reflected in the collection, examples being the photographic works of Irene Andessner, Maria Theresia Litschauer and Gerhard Trumler, as well as photography-related works by Eva Schlegel, Ilse Haider and Lorenz Estermann.

In recent years, the Ringturm building itself has repeatedly become the object of artistic doings. In 2001, Johannes Deutsch accented the entrance area with an impressive façade installation. Christian Ludwig Attersee covered the Ringturm temporarily with an oversized motif in 2006, and the year 2007 saw the building covered over by Robert Hammerstiel. 2008 witnessed the Ringturm's transformation into a temporary artwork according to a design by Hubert Schmalix.



Covering of the Ringturm building after a design by Hubert Schmalix, 2008
Photo: Vienna Insurance Group / Thomas Pitterle

ANDESSNER Irene
ANZINGER Siegfried
ATTERSEE Christian Ludwig
BLANZ Hubert
BLEYER Viktor
BOECKL Herbert
BOHATSCH Erwin
BRANDL Herbert
BRAUER Arik
BRAUSEWETTER Martin
DEUTSCH Johannes
DEUTSCHBAUER Julius
DUNST Heinrich
ERJAUTZ Manfred
ESTERMANN Lorenz
FAISTAUER Anton
FLOCH Josef
FODOR Gyula
FROHNER Adolf
FÜRTLER Clemens
FUSSY Hortensia
GANGL Max
GASTEIGER Jakob
GÖTL Michaela / ZAUNER Christa
GRABMAYR Franz
GUNSAM Karl
HAIDER Ilse
HAMMERSTIEL Robert
HAUSNER Rudolf
HEUERMANN Lore
HOFER Herbert
HOKE Giselbert
HÖLLER Barbara

HÖRTNER Sabina
JANSCHKA Fritz
JUNGWIRTH Martha
JURTITSCH Richard
KABAS Robert
KALTEIS Andrea
KAMPL Gudrun
KLINKAN Alfred
KLOPF Karl-Heinz
KODRITSCH Ronald
KOGLER Peter
KOKOSCHKA Oskar
KOLIG Cornelius
KORNBERGER Alfred
KOWANZ Brigitte
LEHERB Helmut
LEOPOLD Gerda
LIENBACHER Ulrike
LITSCHAUER Maria Theresia
LULIC Marko
MARSTEURER Joseph
MIKL Josef
MLENEK Hannes
MOSBACHER Alois
MOSER Maria
MUNTEAN Markus
NEUWIRTH Flora
NITSCH Hermann
OBERHUBER Oswald
OMAN Valentin
PAINITZ Hermann Josef
PAKOSTA Florentina
PICHLER Franz

POTUZNİK Heribert
PRACHENSKY Markus
PRELOG Drago Julius
RAINER Arnulf
REGSCHEK Kurt
REITERER Werner
ROMAKO Anton
SCHARF Andreas
SCHEIBL Hubert
SCHELLANDER Meina
SCHLEGEL Eva
SCHMALIX Hubert
SCHNUR Martin
SCHWARZWALD Christian
SENGL Deborah
SENGL Peter
STAUDACHER Hans
TAGWERKER Gerold
TANDON Rini
TRENKWALDER Elmar
TRUMLER Gerhard
TRUMMER Norbert
WALDE Martin
WEIBEL Peter
WEILER Max
WEISSENBACHER Sebastian
WOLF Clemens
ZADRAZIL Franz
ZEPPEL-SPERL Robert
ZIMMER Klaus Dieter
ZITKO Otto

EXHIBITION CATALOGUE

RINGTURM.KUNST

Sammlung Vienna Insurance Group • Vienna Insurance Group Collection

German/English, 296 pages

with texts by Carl Aigner, Marion Geier, Barbara Hagen-Grötschnig,

Nina Kirsch, Franz Smola and Sandra Tretter.

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OPENING

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