

Press Release

MAK: A Place of Art

The MAK – Austrian Museum of Applied Arts / Contemporary Art is one of the most important museums of its kind in the world. The institution, which is headquartered on Stubenring in Vienna’s first district, was established there in 1864 as the “Imperial and Royal Austrian Museum of Art and Industry;” today’s museum, positioned between tradition and experiment, is home to a unique collection of applied art and design that interfaces with progressive stances in contemporary art and architecture.

Tradition meets experiment

At the MAK, applied and contemporary arts engage in a mutual dialog between tradition and experiment in a way that is unique and unmistakable. This singular museological stance becomes clear right from one’s first walk through the institution’s Permanent Collection. During the building’s overall renovation between 1989 and 1993, well-known contemporary artists such as Barbara Bloom, Franz Graf, Jenny Holzer, Donald Judd, and Heimo Zobernig were charged with putting the Permanent Collection of the MAK in a new context via artistic interventions, which they proceeded to do in close collaboration with the curators.

It is in this context, then, that visitors experience the most important exhibits from the museum’s holdings, organized according to cultural eras ranging from the Romanesque period up to the present: these include one of the world’s most outstanding collections of oriental carpets and liturgical textiles, Art Nouveau objects including Gustav Klimt’s sketches for the Stoclet Frieze, Wiener Werkstätte output, and furniture spanning eight centuries—from a medieval folding chair to Biedermeier canapés, to Thonet chairs and on to contemporary designer pieces such as an ensemble designed specifically for the MAK *Design* NITE “First Supper”—as well as important works of contemporary art and architecture. The Collection of Contemporary Art encompasses works by figures including Vito Acconci, Atelier Van Lieshout / Joop van Lieshout, Günter Brus, Chris Burden, Peter Eisenman, Liam Gillick, Zaha Hadid, Ilya & Emilia Kabakov, Frederick Kiesler, Martin Kippenberger, Oswald Oberhuber, Walter Pichler, James Turrell, and Franz West.

While the Permanent Collection serves to showcase the highlights of the museum’s holdings, the MAK Study Collection presents its wide-ranging holdings organized according to the materials from which the individual objects are made. The museum’s underground level contains open depots which afford visitors insights into European seating design, Asian ceramics, Oriental textiles, Italian glass, and Austrian porcelain.



M A K

Applied Arts | Contemporary Art

A lively exhibition calendar

In addition to its presentation of the Permanent Collection's various sections, each year also sees the MAK present a wide range of exhibitions that open up ever-new perspectives on the fields of art, architecture, and design. Both the large exhibition halls on Weiskirchnerstraße and the MAK Gallery in the Stubenring building are reserved for temporary exhibitions. The spaces of the Study Collection, the Works on Paper Room, and the MAK DESIGN SPACE are likewise constantly occupied by temporary exhibitions.

Young artists receive their own forum at the MAK NITE[®] events. Numerous Tuesday evenings see the MAK open up its spaces for presentations and performances from the fields of architecture/design, music, and fashion. And on every Tuesday, the entire museum remains open till midnight.

The MAK's network of art

Beyond its headquarters on Stubenring, the MAK is present in the form of the MAK Center for Art and Architecture, Los Angeles, and the museum also pursues the transformation of the flak tower in Vienna's Arenbergpark into an international center for contemporary art with the project CAT – Contemporary Art Tower. Since 1995 the MAK has been using the Gefechtsturm Arenbergpark as a contemporary art depot; it also uses the tower's over 4,000 square meters of floor space to exhibit important parts of its Contemporary Art Collection. The MAK annex at the Geymüllerschloß in Pötzleinsdorf provides a look into the wide range of Biedermeier decorative arts as well as a distinctive collection of around 160 fine old Viennese clocks. And since 2006, the MAK has been working together with the Moravian Gallery in Brno to run the Josef Hoffmann Museum—situated in the birth-house of Josef Hoffmann in Brno, Czech Republic—as a joint branch.

In Vienna's public space, the MAK is present in many forms via works of contemporary art and architecture: these include *Stage Set* by Donald Judd, *Wiener Trio* (Viennese Trio) by Philip Johnson, the *Vier Lemurenköpfe* (Four Lemurs' Heads) by Franz West, the Skyspace *The Other Horizon* by James Turrell, and *Stylit* by Michael Kienzer.

MAK Stubenring 5, 1010 Vienna

Tel. (+43-1) 711 36-248 (cash desk).

Hotline (+43-1) 712 80 00, office@MAK.at, MAK.at

Tue MAK NITE[®] 10 a.m.–12 midnight, Wed–Sun, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

Admission: € 9.90 with MAK guide / € 7.90 / reduced: € 5.50,
free admission for children and young people up to 19

MAK Depot of Contemporary Art Gefechtsturm Arenbergpark

Dannebergplatz/Barmherzigengasse, 1030 Vienna

Tel. (+43-1) 711 36-231, MAK.at

May – November, Sun 2 p.m.–6 p.m.



M A K

Applied Arts | Contemporary Art

MAK Branch Geymüllerschloßel, Sobek Collection

Khevenhüllerstraße 2, 1180 Vienna

Tel. (+43-1) 479 31 39, MAK.at

May – November, Sun 11 a.m.–6 p.m.

Josef Hoffmann Museum, Brtnice (CZ)

A Joint Branch of the Moravian Gallery in Brno and the MAK Vienna.

Tel. (+43-1) 711 36-250, MAK.at

**MAK Center for Art and Architecture, Los Angeles at Schindler House,
Mackey Apartments, Fitzpatrick-Leland House**

MAKcenter.org

**MAK Press
Office**

Judith Anna Schwarz-Jungmann (head of press office)

Olivia Harrer

Sandra Hell-Ghignone

Christiane Vogl

Tel. (+43-1) 711 36-233, 229, 212

Fax (+43-1) 711 36-227

presse@MAK.at

MAK.AT