

Press Release

**MAK ART SALON #01**  
**Clegg & Guttmann: Biedermeier reanimated**

Press Preview	Tuesday, 20 September 2016, 6 p.m.
Opening	Tuesday, 20 September 2016, 7 p.m.
Exhibition Venue	MAK Branch Geymüllerschloss Pötzleinsdorferstraße 102, 1180 Vienna
Exhibition Dates	25 September – 4 December 2016
Opening Hours	Sunday, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Opening Hours during VIENNA ART WEEK	Friday, 18 Nov 2016, 4–8 p.m., and Sunday, 20 Nov 2016, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Clegg & Guttmann designed the project *Biedermeier reanimated* especially for the MAK Branch Geymüllerschloss. With the exhibition, the artistic duo invites visitors to explore the multifaceted age of Biedermeier in the context of architecture and home decor. Their intervention, which gives rise to an interplay of diverse artistic disciplines, kicks off the new exhibition series MAK ART SALON. In keeping with the MAK's programmatic approach, which encourages interaction between applied art, fine art, and architecture, contemporary artists will launch a compelling discourse at the Geymüllerschloss to locate space, time, and history.

Located on the outskirts of the city, the Geymüllerschloss's architecture and interior design authentically reconstruct the everyday life of a wealthy family during the Biedermeier period. Michael Clegg and Martin Guttmann—whose artistic practice focuses on specific spatial and social structures strongly influenced by the public sphere, communication, and representation—expand the perception and function of applied art in *Biedermeier reanimated*, with the aim of generating new social spaces.

In the course of a theatrical tour, they bring back to life the atmosphere and the vibrancy of a summer residence from yesteryear. Clegg & Guttmann concentrate on the façade, entrance, staircase, and cupola as representative elements of the building's architecture, lead visitors through the various salons, and recontextualize select objects, constellations of everyday life, as well as details of the interior.

Inspired by the ornament as well as the wealth of forms and colors in the Biedermeier interior, they introduce a distinct, artistic level to the setting that reacts to existing site-specific structures. The Geymüllerschloß as an ensemble serves as the backdrop for numerous trenchant and staged tableaux—expressly lit and accompanied by music as well as the spoken word—of furniture, objects, instruments, and materials from the Biedermeier period.

The exhibition is accompanied by a publication of the same name—*MAK ART SALON #01: Clegg & Guttmann: Biedermeier reanimated*—which provides an explanation of the cultural codes of Biedermeier applied art and contemporary sentiments between the past and the present. Select interviews with experts—the art historians Christian Witt-Döring and Markus Neuwirth, the artist Christian Mayer, as well as the MAK Curators Sebastian Hackenschmidt, Rainald Franz, Barbara Karl, and Elisabeth Schmuttermeier—add to the discourse initiated by Clegg & Guttmann at the Geymüllerschloß.

The art of the Biedermeier period, which emerged in an era of stability between the end of the Napoleonic Wars in 1815 and the Revolutions of 1848, is closely connected to the restructuring of Europe and points to modern design concepts that are defined by a search for conceptual, simple, and clear forms. In geographical terms, this new style is associated with Austria, Germany, and Denmark in particular.

### **Clegg & Guttmann**

Since they started working together over 30 years ago, Michael Clegg (\* 1957 in Dublin) and Martin Guttmann (\* 1957 in Jerusalem) have understood their creative work as a “socio-communicative process.” The duo’s oeuvre comprises photographic and film-based productions as well as object installations in public spaces. Clegg & Guttmann’s works have been displayed in a large number of solo and group exhibitions in international museums and galleries, including the Kunstmuseum Bonn and the Photographische Sammlung/SK Stiftung Kultur, Cologne (2016); the mumok, Vienna (2015); Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2015); Brandenburgischer Kunstverein, Potsdam (2015); The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (2014); and the National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design, Oslo (2012).

### **MAK Branch Geymüllerschloß**

Built after 1808 as a summer villa for the merchant and banker Johann Jakob Geymüller (1760–1834), the Geymüllerschloß offers a faithful insight into the variety of Biedermeier architectural language and interior decoration, while also reflecting the specific lifestyle and mindset of the Age of Metternich or *Vormärz*. Alongside the per-

manent exhibition of 160 exquisite Old-Viennese clocks from Franz Sobek's collection, the Empire and Biedermeier furniture from the MAK Collection are among the most important exhibits in the building. Together with its scenic park, the Geymüllerschloßel comprises an extraordinary spectrum in which architecture, nature, interior, and handicraft, as well as historical and contemporary artistic approaches—such as James Turrell's Skyspace *The other Horizon* (1998/2004)—form a synergy. The MAK has been hosting a programmatic exhibition series at the Geymüllerschloßel branch since 2013. The MAK ART SALON builds on the MAK DESIGN SALON, in the context of which contemporary designers were invited to explore this era of change in the early 19th century and produce stylistic as well as social connections with the present day.

Press photos on the exhibition are available for download at [MAK.at/en/press](http://MAK.at/en/press).

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Press Data

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Curator	Bärbel Vischer, Curator, MAK Contemporary Art Collection
Publication	<i>Clegg &amp; Guttman: Biedermeier reanimated</i> , edited by Christoph Thun-Hohenstein and Bärbel Vischer, MAK, Vienna 2016.
Curator-guided Tour	with Bärbel Vischer, Curator, MAK Contemporary Art Collection Sunday, 2 Oct 2016, 4 p.m. Sunday, 27 Nov 2016, 4 p.m.
Artist's Talk	with Martin Guttman on the occasion of VIENNA ART WEEK Friday, 18 Nov 2016, 5 p.m.
MAK Admission	€ 9.90 / Reduced € 7.50 / Family Ticket € 13 Free admission for children and teens under 19 The admission ticket is also valid for a visit to the MAK on Stubenring on the same day.
MAK Press and PR	Judith Anna Schwarz-Jungmann (Head) Sandra Hell-Ghignone Veronika Träger Lara Steinhäuser T +43 1 711 36-233, -229, -212 presse@MAK.at, www.MAK.at

Vienna, 26 July 2016