

## **GLITZ AND GLAMOUR 200 Years of Lobmeyr**

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MAK – Press and PR

presse@MAK.at

### **Press Release**

Vienna, 6.6.2023

### **Press Conference**

Tuesday, 6.6.2023, 10 am

Please register via [presse@MAK.at](mailto:presse@MAK.at)

The MAK and J. & L. Lobmeyr have a shared history dating back to the 19th century. Indeed, ever since the museum was founded, it has had a close connection with the glassware manufacturer. This ties in with the museum's founding principle: to support collaboration between art and industry by gathering together a range of exemplars within one institution. This vibrant exchange contributed to the ingenuity of the glassmaking dynasty, which occupies a special position in the world of glassware and art glass with its expertly executed and timelessly elegant glasses, chandeliers, and decorative objects. By cooperating with renowned designers, Lobmeyr consistently manages to reinterpret glass in a way that is always in keeping with the times. Lobmeyr and the museum are also united by this proximity to the artistic design of practical objects. To mark the company's 200th anniversary, the MAK is looking back on the multifarious and trend-setting creations of the long-standing glassware manufacturer with the exhibition *GLITZ AND GLAMOUR: 200 Years of Lobmeyr*.

With over 300 objects, the exhibition runs the gamut from 19th-century Historicist and Orientalist forms to classics like the sets and objects after designs by Josef Hoffmann, Adolf Loos, Oswald Haerdtl, or Stefan Rath, which are still in production today.

The exhibition presents an impressive range of objects that are instrumental in aesthetically enriching key aspects of life—from interior design to eating and drinking. The exhibits selected by Guest Curator Alice Stori Liechtenstein do not follow any chronological order but are grouped and arranged “intuitively,” with an intentional mixture of styles, manufacturing techniques, material

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innovations, and designers. This layout reveals surprising links between objects and to historical details.

Part of the exhibition features the installations by Maxim Velčovský (*City Shades*, 2009) and Philippe Malouin (*Time Elapsed*, 2011), which were made in the workshops of J. & L. Lobmeyr in the context of a cooperation with the VIENNA DESIGN WEEK, as well as other objects created in the same context with contemporary designers and artists like Max Lamb and Martino Gamper. Also on display is a group of goblets with elaborate engravings designed by the artist Nives Widauer on the occasion of Lobmeyr's 200th anniversary (*Sieben Pokale der Menschlichkeit* [Seven Goblets of Humanity], 2023).

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### **Playing with light and shade**

A profound understanding of the interplay between light and shade has shaped the creations and products of the company J. & L. Lobmeyr for over two centuries. The studio MARCH GUT picks up on this aspect, which is often only noticed intuitively, in their design of the exhibition. The anniversary show at the MAK plays with the optical appeal of Lobmeyr glass when it is held up to the light and pays tribute to the glassmaking dynasty's exceptional continuity in its endeavor to combine innovation with handicraft and to ensure that glass remains on the cutting edge as a material for creations of decorative art and design.

### **200 years of masterly glass design**

The glassmaking journeyman Josef Lobmeyr Sr. (1792–1855) opened his first glass shop in Vienna in 1823. He later evolved his business to include independent production and was named a "k. u. k. Hoflieferant" (imperial royal purveyor to the court) in 1835. The first "Hofburg set," which was used at state banquets for many years, is now a museum piece after having been replaced by another J. & L. Lobmeyr creation after a design by POLKA. In the middle of the bourgeois revolution of 1848, the business expanded. Its range now comprised not only chandeliers and mirrors but also 52 different sets in Biedermeier shapes. The corresponding designs are preserved in the company's archive and still serve as templates for production purposes.

Josef Lobmeyr's son Ludwig (1829–1917) was a pioneer in the art glass industry of Historicism. He was in close contact with Rudolf von Eitelberger, the first director of the museum, which had been founded in 1863 as the Imperial Royal Austrian Museum of Art and Industry (today's MAK), and actively supported the museum's vision. When it founded the Viennese Arts-and-Crafts Association in 1884, J. & L. Lobmeyr was one of the first prestigious companies to support and join the association. A stone relief bearing the portrait of Ludwig Lobmeyr in the MAK's staircase is a reminder of this intensive relationship between the lodestar institution, its collection of exemplars, and the manufacturer.



Ludwig Lobmeyr's successors at the head of the family company also appreciated the importance of making glassware an interesting design object for the artists of the Secession and later the School of Arts and Crafts.

For over six generations, Lobmeyr has been helping to keep this fragile material modern and relevant for creations from the world of applied art and design. Alongside the company's own designs, Lobmeyr's hallmark are series developed in collaboration with artists. A host of creatives deserve mention here—including Theophil Hansen, Josef Hoffmann, Adolf Loos, Lotte Fink, Marianne Rath, Michael Anastassiades, Max Lamb, POLKA, Martino Gamper, and Sebastian Menschhorn. Nowhere else in the world is such an ongoing and intensive exchange between creatives and a glassware manufacturer to be found.

In every area of glass design—from container glass to mirrors and chandeliers—Lobmeyr has ensured high-quality workmanship by running its own workshops. Time and again the company has succeeded in producing “classics,” which are also a key feature of this anniversary exhibition at the MAK.

#### **Lobmeyr in the MAK Collection**

The MAK houses a comprehensive collection of Lobmeyr glasses. Many of them were donated to the MAK immediately after their production or were acquired at exhibitions. In 1883 Ludwig Lobmeyr gave eleven volumes of so-called working drawings of executed objects to the museum. They were followed in 1892 by a further seven volumes “as permanent property to be used in the museum's library for the advancement of the glass industry,” as he himself wrote. Containing approximately 1,000 sheets of watercolor drawings and photographs, the volumes provide an overview of the company's prolific output since its founding. They comprise pictures of drinking and dessert sets, series, crystal vessels, “Oriental” and “Arabian” vessels, as well as chandeliers and are now an invaluable source for documenting the history of the glassware manufactory as well as the aesthetics of 19th-century decorative art in Austria. A selection of the drawings will also be on display in the anniversary exhibition. All the sheets will be available online at [sammlung.mak.at/en](http://sammlung.mak.at/en) once the exhibition has opened.

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



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Please register via [presse@MAK.at](mailto:presse@MAK.at)

**Opening**

Tuesday, 6.6.2023, 7 pm

Free admission

**Exhibition Venue**

MAK Exhibition Hall

MAK, Stubenring 5, 1010 Vienna

**Exhibition Dates**

7.6.–24.9.2023

**Opening Hours**

Tue 10 am–9 pm, Wed to Sun 10 am–6 pm

**Guest Curator**

Alice Stori Liechtenstein

**MAK Curator**

Rainald Franz, Curator, MAK Glass and Ceramics Collection

**Exhibition Design**

MARCH GUT

**Supporting Program**

details at [MAK.at/200yearsoflobmeyr](https://www.mak.at/200yearsoflobmeyr)

**MAK Admission**

€ 15, reduced € 12, every Tuesday 6–9 pm: admission € 7

Free admission for children and teens under 19

**MAK Press and PR**

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