



MAK

Press Release

ELIGIUS AWARD 2016: Jewelry in Austria

A cooperation between Kunst im Traklhaus and the MAK

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| Guided Press Tour | Tuesday, 6 September 2016, 6 p.m. |
| Opening | Tuesday, 6 September 2016, 7 p.m. |
| Exhibition Venue | MAK FORUM MAK, Stubenring 5, 1010 Vienna |
| Exhibition Dates | 7 – 25 September 2016 |
| Opening Hours | Tue 10 a.m.–10 p.m., Wed–Sun 10 a.m.–6 p.m. Free admission on Tuesdays, 6–10 p.m. |

The exhibition *ELIGIUS AWARD 2016. Jewelry in Austria* at the MAK provides a renewed insight into Austria's contemporary jewelry scene. This is the MAK's third presentation of entries for the Federal State of Salzburg's Eligius Jewelry Award for body jewelry and jewelry objects. The exhibition, which will be presented by the MAK after an initial showing at Salzburg's Traklhaus, features works by this year's award winner Lena Grabher and by Anna Heindl, nominated for the "retrospective" category, as well as collections by Sonja Bischur, Susanne Blin, Petr Dvorak, Ursula Guttmann, Andrea Maxa Halmschlager, Paul Iby, Beatrix Kaufmann, Viktoria Münzker, Eva Petrič, Konstanze Prechtl, Ulrich Reithofer, and Bernhard Stimpfl-Abele.

Established by the Federal State of Salzburg in 2005 and named for the patron saint of goldsmiths, the Eligius Award is Austria's only award for contemporary jewelry. Applying the criteria of topicality and originality, the jury selected 13 artists, nine women and four men, from a total of 45 entrants. Lena Grabher (* 1988 in Lustenau, Vorarlberg; lives and works in Vienna), won the coveted € 7,000 award. According to the independent jury's assessment, "The members of the jury were impressed by the youthful, innovative, resolute manner in which the artist analyzes and develops fundamental questions regarding the status of jewelry art in volatile interaction between object, body, spatial context and observer. In her *DIPLOPIA* project, she develops the concept of a double vision through the calculated deployment of optical lenses, sets of mirrors, and light, synthesizing jewelry, body and spatial context in a manner that rewards the observer with an astonishing range of visual experiences."

This year, for the second time, a renowned jewelry artist has been honored under the category “retrospective.” Complementing contemporary trends in Austrian jewelry art, the category honors work that has long enjoyed a reputation for success. The jury unanimously selected Anna Heindl (* in Perg, Upper Austria; lives and works in Vienna) for this honor, noting that “in her works, Anna Heindl brilliantly reconciles the demands imposed by the jeweler’s trade with the artist’s vision. Her work always bears her personal signature without ever falling into a routine. Her collections and thematic emphases are unfailingly innovative, and in each case one can feel both the delight and the sagacity with which she approaches and realizes her chosen themes.” The MAK shows works by Anna Heindl dating from the late 1970s to 2016.

The Eligius Award was conferred this year for the fifth time. The jury consisted of Heidmarie Caltik, curator, MAK Design Info Pool Collection; Cornelia Holzach, director of the renowned Pforzheim Jewelry Museum, Germany; and Ina Stegen, founder of Salzburg College and jewelry collector. Previous awardees were Susanne Hammer (2005), Helfried Kodré (2007), Petra Zimmermann (2010), and Benedikt Fischer (2013). All Eligius Award winners as well as participating artists in this year’s competition Sonja Bischur and Andrea-Maxa Halmschlager are already represented by selected works in the jewelry section of the MAK Metal Collection.

The exhibition catalog, entitled *5. Eligius-Schmuck-Preis des Landes Salzburg 2016* and published by Traklhaus, is available for € 4 at the MAK Design Shop.

Press photos on the exhibition are available for download at MAK.at/press.

Press Data Sheet

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| Curator | Heidemarie Caltik, curator, MAK Design Info Pool Collection |
| MAK Admission | € 9.90 / Reduced € 7.50 / Family Ticket € 13 Free admission for children and teens under 19 |
| 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