

Press Release

FOCUS ON COLLECTING 7 **Objects from the André Marcus Collection**

Opening	Tuesday, 7 September 2021, 6 p.m., free admission
Presentation Dates	8 September – 10 October 2021
Presentation Venue	MAK FORUM MAK, Stubenring 5, 1010 Vienna
Opening Hours	Tue 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Wed–Sun 10 a.m.–6 p.m. Every Tuesday 6–9 p.m.: admission € 6

With *FOCUS ON COLLECTING 7: Objects from the André Marcus Collection*, the MAK will present a selection of exceptional objects bequeathed to the MAK in two generous donations by André Marcus, a cosmopolitan currently living in Prague. From the mid-1980s on, Marcus purchased the 14 exhibits from turn-of-the-century Vienna in New York and Monaco. In the context of the series FOCUS ON COLLECTING, the MAK will present a recent and significant new acquisition or donation to the public for the seventh time.

André Marcus was born in Milan in 1950 into a Jewish family from Romania. He grew up in Paris and received his university education in Geneva. In 1974, he relocated to New York where he founded several companies. In the mid-1980s, he there also began collecting art with a thematic focus on turn-of-the-century Vienna. He purchased the objects at auction houses or renowned galleries—above all at the branch of the Viennese gallery Metropol on Madison Avenue. In 1992, he was drawn back to Europe where he lived in Monaco for 15 years. In 2007, Marcus relocated to Prague where he still lives today. In order to return the art with Viennese provenance to its original location and honor it in its historical context, André Marcus donated important objects from his collection to the MAK in 2019 and 2020.

The presentation will show a selection from these donations and will comprise furniture as well as other arts and crafts objects by Otto Wagner, Josef Hoffmann, Jutta Sika, and the Wiener Werkstätte. One of the highlights of the show will be a desk designed by Otto Wagner in 1905 for the Austrian Postal Savings Bank and produced by Thonet. Nowadays, Wagner's building for the Viennese offices of the Postal Savings Bank counts as a symbol of radical innovation of Viennese end-of-the-century architecture. Following the idea of a Gesamtkunstwerk—a total work of art—, Wagner considered the furniture to be an integral part of the facilities of the building. Until today, the pieces of furniture designed for the Postal Savings Bank are influential models and, again and again, they serve as important points of reference for the design of furniture.

Another gem of the presentation is a side table designed by Wagner which he had in his own bedroom in his flat at Köstlergasse 3 in Vienna's 6th district for a long time. The table designed in 1898 had already been loaned to the MAK in 2018 for the exhibition *POST-*

OTTO WAGNER: From the Postal Savings Bank to Post-Modernism before it became a permanent part of the MAK Collection in 2019.

Also an important valuable addition to the MAK Collection is a writing set designed by Josef Hoffmann and executed by the Wiener Werkstätte in 1909, which was owned by US artist Andy Warhol for a while. As a relentless universal designer, Josef Hoffmann was a teacher for many years, an influential designer of arts and crafts, and cofounder of the Viennese Secession, the Wiener Werkstätte, as well as the Werkbund. His profound belief in the power of beauty and individual artistic expression formed his distinctive creative fingerprint. After Andy Warhol's death in 1987, André Marcus purchased Hoffmann's writing set at an auction.

Press photos are available for download at MAK.at/en/press.

Press Data

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Curator	Sebastian Hackenschmidt, Curator, MAK Furniture and Woodwork Collection
MAK Admission	€ 14 / Reduced € 11 / Family Ticket € 15 Every Tuesday 6–9 p.m.: admission € 6 Free admission for children and teens under 19
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