

Press Release

## **Geymüllerschloßel with New Documentation Room**

The start of the MAK Branch's season in May 2021 sees the opening of a permanent exhibition on the history of this Biedermeier jewel

At the start of this year's season at the MAK Branch Geymüllerschloßel, a new permanent documentation room on the history of this Biedermeier jewel is opening. Through a comprehensive collection of texts and images, the permanent exhibition commemorates the history of the building, commissioned in 1808 by the Viennese banker Johann Jakob Geymüller (1760–1834) as a summer residence, up into the present. The MAK Branch in Pötzleinsdorf, that had to remain closed last year on account of the corona pandemic, is this year open to visitors from 8 May to 5 December, every Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

As the only summer residence of the Empire and Biedermeier eras in Austria open to the public, the Geymüllerschloßel invites visitors to submerge themselves in the distinctive lifestyle of the period leading up to the 1848 Revolution. For the new documentation room on the Geymüllerschloßel ground floor, curated by Kathrin Pokorny-Nagel, head of the MAK Library and Works on Paper Collection, research was conducted in an intensive year-long project into primary sources in the MAK archives. In addition, relevant archives in Vienna and Lower Austria, as well as the family archives of the former owners, were combed for information.

With its unique interior decoration and generously proportioned gardens, the Geymüllerschloßel is today one of the few places in Austria offering an authentic insight into the full range of Biedermeier domestic art. After the death of Johann Jakob Geymüller, under the industrial magnate Isidor Mautner and his wife Jenny the Schloßel experienced a societal golden age of magnificent festivals and outstanding music and theatre performances.

Thereafter, when almost threatened by demolition, the Schloßel was rescued by Franz Sobek, a passionate collector of clocks and Biedermeier furniture, before being taken over by the Austrian Republic and placed under the MAK's administration. 160 exquisite old Viennese clocks from Franz Sobek's collection on permanent exhibition, together with Empire and Biedermeier furniture from the MAK's own collection, complete the Geymüllerschloßel's magnificent overall appearance. In the park, the sculptural ensemble *Der Vater weist dem Kind den Weg* [The father shows his child the way] by Hubert Schmalix

(1996/97) and James Turrell's Skyspace *The Other Horizon* (1998/2004) represent contemporary art in dialog with the past.

As part of this year's Geymüllerschloßel season, Erwin Wurm, one of Austria's most renowned artists, is presenting the exhibition *Dissolution* (8 May – 5 December 2021, for details see [MAK.at/en/press](https://mak.at/en/press)).

On Tuesday, 4 May 2021 at 6:30 p.m., curator Kathrin Pokorny-Nagel will be talking with historian Marie-Theres Arnbom and art historian Christian Witt-Döring about the history of the Geymüllerschloßel, as part of the online talk series *MAK Dialogues*. For details of participating via Zoom, see [MAK.at](https://mak.at).

Photo material available for download at [MAK.at/en/press](https://mak.at/en/press).

Press Data

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Location	MAK Branch Geymüllerschlüssel Pötzleinsdorfer Straße 102, 1180 Vienna
Opening Hours	8 May – 5 December 2021 Sat, Sun, 11 a.m.–6 p.m.
Admission	€ 6 Admission free for children and young people under 19 Admission free with MAK annual ticket Admission free to the park and to James Turrell's Sky-space Until further notice, visitors to the Geymüllerschlüssel must book a time slot at MAK.at.
Guided Tours	Guided tours every Sunday at 3 p.m. No registration necessary Tour contribution: € 3,50 Special guided tours for individuals and groups, to include outside opening hours, also available. Inquiries to T +43 1 711 36-298 or <a href="mailto:education@MAK.at">education@MAK.at</a> .
Public Transport	Streetcar 41 Schottentor to Pötzleinsdorf, then bus 41A to Khevenhüllerstraße (one stop)
MAK Press and PR	Judith Anna Schwarz-Jungmann (Head) Cäcilia Barani Sandra Hell-Ghignone T +43 1 711 36-233, -229, -212 <a href="mailto:presse@MAK.at">presse@MAK.at</a> <a href="http://www.MAK.at">www.MAK.at</a>

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