

KUNST
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MUSEUM
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KUNSTKAMMER WIEN
THE CRADLE OF THE MUSEUM



REOPENING
MARCH 1, 2013

The Kunstammer Wien is the greatest collection of its kind in the world, and from March 1, 2013 it will once again be open to the public in a spectacular new installation. The reopening of the Kunstammer Wien and the up-to-date presentation of this unique collection is one of Austria's foremost cultural projects and of outstanding historical importance.

From the Late Middle Ages to the Baroque, Habsburg emperors and archdukes collected all that was rare and strange, and commissioned virtuoso artists to produce outstanding artifacts made of precious materials such as ivory, bronze or gold.

Often called the „cradle of the Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien“, the Kunstammer Wien comprises magnificent highlights like the celebrated

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golden “Saliera” by Benvenuto Cellini, exceptional sculptures like the Krumau Madonna, magnificent bronze statuettes, delicate and bizarre ivories, vessels cut from semi-precious stones, complex automatons and much, much more.

The Kunstkammer Wien was closed in the spring of 2002 because its installation no longer conformed to international standards of conservation, security and presentation. In the summer of 2010, following the pledge of the Ministry of Education, Art and Culture to provide the necessary funds, the comprehensive refurbishment of the twenty galleries covering 2.700 m² and the new installation of 2.200 artifacts commenced. The total cost was 18,56 million Euro. It was financed by the Ministry of Education, Art and Culture with 15,06 million Euro. 3,5 million Euro were raised by the museum.

DIRECTOR GENERAL SABINE HAAG

“The time has come”, said a happy director-general Sabine Haag. “The reopening of the Kunstkammer Wien will finally close the gap in the presentation of our collections, and return this important collection to its rightful place. We are in a way opening a ‘museum within the museum’ on March 1 – a wonderful addition for the Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien and all our future visitors.

Curiosity, the joy of discovering and understanding the world by collecting its objects was a seminal impetus for assembling a Kunstkammer in the Early Modern Era. This sensual approach to learning will surely make the Kunstkammer Wien particularly attractive, especially for younger visitors. I am proud that we were able to complete this major cultural project without exceeding either the budget or the time-schedule.”

MINISTER FOR CULTURE CLAUDIA SCHMIED

“The long-awaited reopening of the Kunstkammer Wien documents once again the importance of Austria’s patrimony”, said Claudia Schmied, Minister of Culture on the occasion of the reopening of the Kunstkammer Wien. “Each individual artifact in this wonderful collection reminds us that history is alive, tangible and that we can experience it.

Following a decade in which it was closed and several years of planning, one of the foremost cultural projects has been completed. Now the Kunstkammer Wien shines like new once more and welcomes all visitors. Transmitting art and culture, whether in the form of tangible artifacts or in the form of

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knowledge about our history, is of seminal importance for our country's development. This is why since January 1, 2010 children under 19 do not need a ticket to visit a federal museum or the Austrian National Library – as well as the Kunstammer Wien.

I would like to congratulate director-general Sabine Haag and her team on their achievement. The responsible project management ensured that the work was carried out without exceeding either the budget or the schedule. The new Kunstammer Wien is the perfect example to show that art and culture can be presented in a way that is both up-to-date and scholarly.”

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