Dresden & Ambras

Kunstkammer Treasures of the Renaissance

An exhibit from the Green Vault and the Collections of Ambras Castle
Ambras Castle, Innsbruck, 14.06 - 23.09.2012, daily 10.00 - 17.00

The Grünes Gewölbe, or Green Vault, in Dresden is world famous for its rich art collection and treasury filled with Renaissance pieces. Elector August of Saxony (1526-1586) started his collection in his castle in Dresden in 1560. His son and successor Christian I (1560-1591) expanded the collection to include naturalia and arteficialia - Curiosities which combined nature with human craftsmanship, transforming the collection into a typical 16th Chamber of Arts (Kunstkammer). August's collection placed special emphasis on the creative intertwining of art and nature. August himself was trained in ivory turning, wire drawing, cartography and design - he used his Kunstkammer as a place to actively carry out and experiment with these skills. The elector owned an incomparable collection of decorative tools and mechanisms, as well as artistically turned ivory objects.

Approximately 65 works from the reigns of Electors August and Christian I on loan from the Grünes Gewölbe (Green Vault), Armoury and other collections of the Dresden State Art Collections will be displayed for the first time along side works from the Kunsthistorische Museum collection in Ambras Castle. A - on an international scale - unique and once in a lifetime occasion to admire these Kunstkammer treasures outside of Dresden. These treasures include costly goldsmith works from the personal possessions of the electoral couple August and his wife, the Danish Royal Princess Anna. For example, a decorative belt with 35 lapis lazuli spheres and the initials “A” or the artistically most ingeniously crafted double-walled glasses with reverse glass painting and the original wedding suit, which Elector August wore at his wedding to Anna of Denmark in 1548. Stately vessels made of extremely rare and costly Saxon “noble serpentine”, coral bowls and flatware, rock crystal and objects created from nautilus shells and ostrich eggs can be marvelled at.

One of the main artistic works of the exhibit is the bronze statuette of Nessus and Deianira from the sculptor Giambologna. Christian I received this piece in 1587 as a diplomatic gift from Grand Duke Francesco I de’ Medici of Florence.

The Kunstkammer at Ambras Castle is one of only a few places in which the objects displayed were also created on site and where the Chamber of Art and Curiosities from the Renaissance
still exists as a museum today. This collection was established by the Habsburg Archduke Ferdinand II (1529-1595) in the 1570s. The Kunstkammer at Ambras Castle represents an encyclopaedic collection with objects from nature and art. The special interests of Archduke Ferdinand formed his collections and give them a unique flavour. This can be seen clearly in the number of coral pieces, “handstone” creations and intricately worked turned-wood and turned-ivory objects. These rank among the largest collections of their kind. Archduke Ferdinand himself was also a trained glass blower and founded the Innsbruck Court Glassworks, in which he produced works which he designed himself, based on the works of Venetian glassworkers.

The particular appeal of this exhibit is that it gives the visitor the opportunity to compare the Saxon collection of Electors August and Christian I with that of the Habsburg Archduke Ferdinand II. Carefully chosen pieces from the Kunstkammer at Ambras are shown alongside those from Dresden. In this way you get to know the personality of the collector and sovereign of Ambras. Similarities and differences in the respective royal collections are made clear. The personal relationship between August and Ferdinand is documented through the presence of correspondence and gifts which they made to one another which still can be found today in the collections in Dresden and Ambras. The classification and evaluation of the extensive archive material in the Hauptstaatsarchiv (State Archives) in Dresden is part of the academic outcome of this exhibit.

In addition to the Dresden State Art Collections, the Saxon State Library, the State and University Library, the Senckenberg Museum of Mineralogy and Geology, the State Natural History Collections of Dresden, the State Archive of Saxony and the State Archives of Dresden provided objects on loan. The Kunsthistorische Museum in Vienna contributed to the exhibit with objects from the Picture Gallery, the Collection of Arms and Armoury and the Kunstkammer (Collection of Sculpture and Decorative Arts).

The exhibit catalogue is published by the Kunsthistorische Museum and contains both an academic essay and catalogue section.

www.khm.at/ambras
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Curators of the Green Vault Dresden State Art Collections Dresden:
Jutta Kappel, Martina Minning
Press photographs

Nessus und Deianira

Giambologna, um 1586
Bronze, H. 42,2 cm, B. 29,2 cm

© Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden

August of Saxony

German, Lucas Cranach the Elder, ca. 1564
Oil on canvas, H. 214,5 cm, B. 103 cm

© Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien

Decorative Belt with 35 Lapis lazuli Spheres

German, between 1548 and 1585, Lapis lazuli, gold, L. 189 cm

© Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden
**Distance Meter**

Christoph Trechsler the Elder  
Dresden, 1584  
Signed: “C. T. 1584”  
Brass, gold-plated, engraved, embossed, etched, iron

© Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden

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**Duke August of Saxony's Wedding Suit**

German (Saxon ?), 1548  
Lampas, silk

© Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden  
(Foto: Elke Estel)

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**Welcoming Cup “Die Alte mit den 14 Jungen”**

Dresden, Valentin Geitner, 1590,  
Silver, gold-plated, enamel, reverse glass painting  
H. 54,1 cm

© Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden
Double-walled glasses with reverse glass painting
Nuremberg ? Augsburg, ca. 1550/60
Glass, reverse glass painting, silver, gold-plated
H. 14,8 cm
© Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden

Open-worked Ivory Sphere
Milan, Giovanni Ambrogio Maggiore, ca. 1580
Ivory, Dm. 5 cm
© Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien

Small Ivory Art Pieces
Dresden, Elector August of Saxony and Court Turner, between 1576 and 1586
Ivory, wood, H. 13,4 cm, Dm. 5,3 cm, H. 86 cm, Dm. 3,1 cm, H. 11,6 cm, Dm. 3,4 cm
© Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden
**Lidded Bowl**

Zöblitz near Marienberg in Saxony  
Fitting: Urban Schneeweiß  
Dresden, dated 1572  
“Noble serpentine”, gold  
H. 8.5 cm, Dm. 10.5 cm

© Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden

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**Nautilus shell chalice on eagle talons**

Nuremberg (?), before 1587  
Nautilus shell, silver, gold-plated  
H. 29.9 cm, B. 18 cm

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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Two Salt Cellars</strong></th>
<th><img src="image" alt="Two Salt Cellars" /></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>German (?), ca. 1580/85</td>
<td>Silver, gold-plated, coral, turquoise (almost all missing, H. 12,8 cm, Dm. 11 cm, H. 12,8 cm, Dm. 13 cm)</td>
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<td>© Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden</td>
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</tbody>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Ostrich egg chalice in form of ostrich</strong></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leipzig, Elias Geyer, ca. 1589/95</td>
<td>Ostrich egg, gilt silver, H. 46,2 cm</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Rapier-Dagger-Set</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vienna (?), Pere Juan Poch, Blade: Alonso de Sahagun (?), Toledo, before 1556</td>
<td>Steel, gold, cast, engraved, multi-coloured enamel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rapier: L. 122cm, Dagger: L. 37cm</td>
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<td>© Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden</td>
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<td>(Foto: Jürgen Karpinski)</td>
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**Vase with oval-shaped insert**

Court Glassworks Innsbruck, ca. 1580  
Decoloured greyish glass, coloured enamel painting, gold plating, H. 19 cm

© Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien

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**Jousting Armour**

Sigmund Rockenberger (Hans Rosenberger?) Wittenberg, before 1558  
Iron etched, gold-plated  
H. 150 cm, B. 80 cm, T. 90 cm

© Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien
MUSEUMSPÄDAGOGIK

Führungen
Täglich 15.30 Uhr
Teilnahme € 3,–

Spezialführungen

Kuratorenführungen: Jeden Freitag, 15.30 Uhr

Familienführungen: „Schätze sammeln. Wunder entdecken“: Jeden Sonntag, 10.30 Uhr

Jeweils Samstag, 14.30 Uhr, am 30. 6., 14. 7., 28. 7., 11. 8., 25. 8. und 1. 9.

Führungen im Rahmen des „Innsbrucker Ferienzuges“: Jeweils Mittwoch, 14.30 Uhr,
am 11. 7., 1. 8. und 5. 9.
ÖFFNUNGSZEITEN UND EINTRITTSPREISE

Kunsthistorisches Museum
Sammlungen Schloss Ambras
Täglich 10.00 – 17.00 Uhr

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kategorie</th>
<th>Preis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Erwachsene</td>
<td>€ 10,-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ermäßigt</td>
<td>€ 7,-</td>
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<td>Gruppen ab 10 Personen</td>
<td>€ 7,-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jugendliche unter 19</td>
<td>frei</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jahreskarte</td>
<td>€ 29,-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Audio Guide (Deutsch, Englisch, Französisch)</td>
<td>€ 3,-</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

KATALOG

Zur Ausstellung erscheint ein KATALOG. 240 Seiten. € 19,90-

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