
KUNST HISTORISCHES MUSEUM WIEN



Anna Heindl. Mystical Marriage *A special *Kunstammer* presentation*

14 November 2024 until 16 February 2025

The Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna is presenting a new series of works by the renowned Austrian jewellery artist Anna Heindl (born 1950) in the *Kunstammer*. The diptych *The Marriage of St Catherine* (around 1400) by the so-called Master of Heiligenkreuz served as a central source of inspiration for Heindl's latest creations. In an intensive artistic and researching process, Heindl explored the important work from the painting gallery, and puts 30 sculptural decorative objects into a delightful dialogue with the panel painting. The exciting interplay between contemporary jewellery design and the Gothic sacred painting is a first for the Kunsthistorisches Museum in this form.

The diptych by the anonymous painter, who was one of Austria's most unconventional and mysterious personalities around 1400, originally came from the Cistercian monastery Stift Heiligenkreuz near Vienna. It was purchased by the Kunsthistorisches Museum in 1926. On the one hand, it depicts the annunciation to Mary, on the other hand the marriage of St Catherine, which gives the intervention its name. The scenes, which are summarised in a stage-like manner, present Mary and Catherine as virgins who are about to marry Christ.

The Master of Heiligenkreuz, who originally came from France and must have travelled through Central Europe as an itinerant artist, probably designed the depiction for a convent. What is remarkable about this panel painting, which belongs to the 'international Gothic' style, is the almost eccentric style of the figures: with their bulging foreheads and extremely elongated limbs, they reflect the period's refined ideals of beauty and elegance that were widespread throughout Europe.

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The unique formal language of this artist, who was given his name after the diptych's place of origin, in particular the strikingly long fingers and the posture of the hands, seemed to the jewellery artist Anna Heindl to be predestined to wear rings. In her further exploration of the painting's content, she developed a deep affection for St Catherine in particular. Catherine is holding a piece of jewellery that symbolises the wheel of her torture. Anna Heindl understands this as a testimony to her standing up for her convictions. The artist has incorporated this interpretation into the 'Katharina' necklace created especially for the special presentation.

The Master of Heiligenkreuz showed a particular attention to fashionable detail: while saints of the time were typically depicted in wide, dark cloaks, Catherine is wearing a red penitential dress in this painting. A strikingly large sleeve cut-out reveals a tight-fitting dress underneath. This unusual design inspired Anna Heindl to create the 'Opening' necklace. St Barbara in the upper right part of the picture is traditionally depicted with a tower in which she devoted herself to the Christian faith and prayer against her father's wishes. As she fled, a rock miraculously opened up, allowing her to hide from persecution for a short time. Motivated by this story, Anna Heindl created the rings 'Orange Moon in Leaves High' and 'Split Rock'. On the left-hand side of the diptych, the Archangel Gabriel delivers a letter to the Virgin Mary telling her that she will conceive and give birth to the Son of God from the Holy Spirit. In this context the 'Pink Treasure' ring, the 'Angel' necklace and the 'Amethyst Wings' bracelet were created.

Anna Heindl's jewellery objects are presented in three display cases in Room XXXVI of the Kunstkammer. Their positioning enables a direct dialogue with the painting *The Marriage of St. Catherine*. Sculptor Manfred Wakolbinger's exhibition design creates a sculptural 'stage' for Heindl's artworks. The special presentation is complemented by works from Heindl's earlier thematic areas such as *Horizon*, *Garden of Earthly Delights* and *Ears and Tears*. Another display case features an installation with specially developed works for an artist who commissioned Heindl to process stones acquired on his travels into jewellery.

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Biography

Anna Heindl, born in 1950, spent her childhood and youth in Upper Austria. She was already interested in theatre productions in her youth. After graduating from high school in Linz and initially studying theatre studies, she changed to the University of Applied Arts in Vienna in 1970, where she graduated from Franz Hagenauer's master class in metal design in 1976. While still a student, she did an internship with one of the most renowned jewellery artists (Elisabeth Defner/Helfried Kodre) and was a guest student of Hermann Jünger at the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich.

Anna Heindl's broad thematic palette is the result of an intensive dialogue in terms of content and aesthetics, which dissolves the boundaries between the arts and media. This is reflected in the titles of her series: *Landscape and Garden* deals with designed nature and personal landscapes, *Horizon* translates celestial moods into jewellery, and *Frame and Ornament* places the support in an ornamental frame. In *Paradise*, she was inspired by Hieronymus Bosch's painting *Garden of Earthly Delights*. *Flowers of the Night* developed from her work with delicate stainless steel chains, whose softness and suppleness are reminiscent of hair.

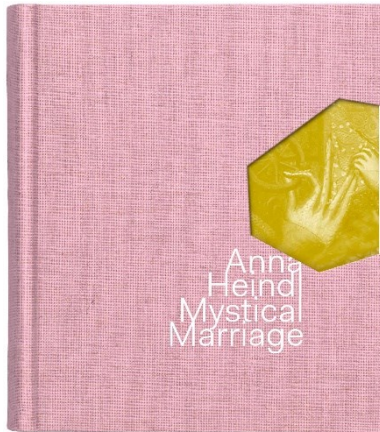
Anna Heindl's works have attracted national and international attention and have been shown regularly in galleries and museums since 1977, including the Neue Galerie at the Landesmuseum Joanneum, MAK – Museum of Applied Arts, Vienna; Wako Hall, Tokyo; Saatchi Gallery, London; Museum Perth, Australia; Museum Hertogenbosch, Holland; Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Louvre Paris; Swiss National Museum, Zurich; Dallas Museum of Art, USA; as well as in renowned galleries. The artist regularly collaborates with her husband, the metal sculptor Manfred Wakolbinger, on these productions as well as on the current intervention at the Kunsthistorisches Museum. His works transform spaces, places and scenery. Anna Heindl lends further meaning to this by adding the human body as the centre.

Anna Heindl worked for several years in a joint studio with Erwin Wurm, Verena Formanek and Manfred Wakolbinger. Today she runs her own studio in Vienna.

annaheindl.at

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PUBLICATION OF THE PRESENTATION



Anna Heindl. Mystical Marriage

Anna Heindl (Ed.)

German/English

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SCHLEBRÜGGE.EDITOR

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PRESS PHOTOGRAPHS

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Anna Heindl
© Manfred Wakolbinger



Master of Heiligenkreuz
The Annunciation
c. 1415/20
Painting and poliment gilding on oak wood
71.8 × 43.8 cm
Vienna, Kunsthistorisches Museum
Provenance: Heiligenkreuz Abbey, Lower Austria,
acquired from there in 1926
© KHM-Museumsverband

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Master of Heiligenkreuz
The Mystical Marriage of Saint Catherine
c. 1415/20
Painting and poliment gilding on oak wood
71,8 × 43,8 cm
Vienna, Kunsthistorisches Museum
Provenance: Heiligenkreuz Abbey, Lower
Austria, acquired from there in 1926
© KHM-Museumsverband



Anna Heindl
Pink Treasure
2024
Ring
Presented in front of 'The Annunciation',
1415-1420
Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna, Paintings
Gallery
© Anna Heindl, Photo: Manfred Wakolbinger



Anna Heindl
Hidden
2024
Ring
Presented in front of the diptych 'Mystical
Marriage', 1415-1420
Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien, Paintings
Gallery
© Anna Heindl, Photo: Manfred Wakolbinger

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Anna Heindl
Katharina
2024
Collier
14k redgold, crystals, stainless steel
© Anna Heindl, Photo: Manfred Wakolbinger



Anna Heindl
Opening
2024
Collier
14k redgold, green turmalins, stainless steel
© Anna Heindl, Photo: Manfred Wakolbinger

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Anna Heindl
Orange Moon in Leaves
2015
Ring
19k gold, orange moonstone, stainless steel
© Anna Heindl, Photo: Manfred Wakolbinger



Anna Heindl
Split Rocks
2024
Ring
Rubin Ziosit, stainless steel
© Anna Heindl, Photo: Manfred Wakolbinger



Anna Heindl
Pink Treasure
2024
Ring
14k redgold, cobalt calcites, stainless steel
© Anna Heindl, Photo: Manfred Wakolbinger

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Anna Heindl

Angel

2024

Collier

18k gold, green tourmalines, stainless steel

© Anna Heindl, Photo: Manfred Wakolbinger



Anna Heindl

Amethyst Wings

2021

Bracelet

14k redgold, amethysts, stainless steel

© Anna Heindl, Photo: Manfred Wakolbinger

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EVENTS

The special presentation will be accompanied by events. All information and dates can be found at:

anna-heindl.at/en

Anna Heindl. Mystical Marriage

Guided tour (in German) with the artist through the special Kunstkammer presentation (as part of the Vienna Art Week)

Thu, 14 Nov. 2024, 6.30 P.M.

Donnerstagabend im Museum

Presentation of the accompanying publication ‘Anna Heindl. Mystical Marriage’ on occasion of the artist’s 75th birthday.

Thu, 13 Feb. 2025, 7 P.M.

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OPENING HOURS AND ENTRANCE FEES

14 November 2024 to 12 January 2025:

Daily, 10 A.M. to 6 P.M.

Thu & Sat, 10 A.M. to 9 P.M.

14 January to 16 February 2025:

Tue to Sun, 10 A.M. to 6 P.M.

Thu, 10 A.M. to 9 P.M.

The current admission prices can be found on our website at:

www.khm.at/en/visit/besucherinformation/hours-admission/

All tickets and offers are available in the online ticket shop:

shop.khm.at/en/tickets

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CONTACT

Nina Auinger-Sutterlüty, MAS
Head of Communications
KHM-Museumsverband
1010 Vienna, Burgring 5
T +43 1 525 24 – 4021
presse@khm.at
www.khm.at