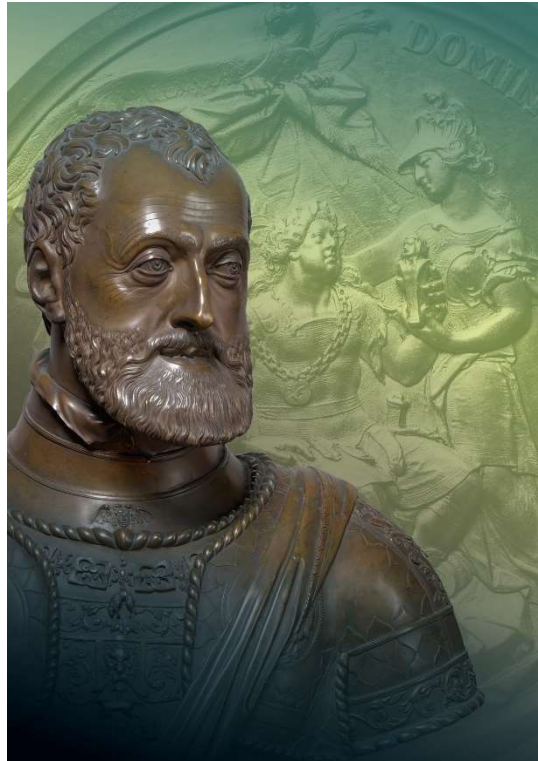

KUNST HISTORISCHES MUSEUM WIEN



Imperial Impressions

The Emperors and their Court Artists

13 February 2024 – 13 October 2024 (Kunstkammer)

13 February 2024 – 23 March 2025 (Coin Cabinet)

The Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna is dedicating the exhibition *Imperial Impressions. The Emperors and their Court Artists* to the medal as an artform. The artists represented in the show, such as Leone Leoni and Antonio Abondio, were active at the Habsburg courts and residences and at ease in many disciplines of the arts. They would, for example, have worked as architects, but also created paintings, sculptures, goldsmithery and more. It is the fact that they also made medals that warranted their inclusion in this exhibition, however. Medals offered emperors the opportunity to communicate political messages and special events or ceremonies, such as accession to the throne or weddings, relatively cost-effectively and instantaneously. This characteristic made the medium highly significant until World War I.

The show covers the imperial courts in Madrid, Prague, and Vienna as well as the residences of the sovereigns in Innsbruck and Graz. As the objects on display were mostly produced for members of the imperial family, they were of the highest quality.

The emperor's medalists

The characteristics that define a court artist cannot be precisely identified. They lived at court and worked in the fields of painting, music, literature, or architecture. Their work was not regarded as a pure craft, but was treated on a par with the *artes liberales*, the liberal arts.

KUNST HISTORISCHES MUSEUM WIEN

In addition to medallists who worked as ‘court artists’, the exhibition also includes those who were merely working in the court environment. The series of artists presented begins around 1500 and extends to the end of the monarchy in 1918, such as Leone Leoni, Antonio Abondio, Matthäus Donner, Anton Domanöck and Johann Bernhard Fischer von Erlach.

Great art in a small format

The aim of the exhibition is to emphasize the role of the medal as an object of art. The idea is to focus on medals for their artistic quality rather than their historical message. *Imperial Impressions* aims to show that medals do not have to shy away from comparison with other genres of art. Moreover, it will illuminate how the role of artists developed from the universal genius of the Renaissance and early Baroque to specialists for separate genres of the arts during the later years of the monarchy.

Imperial Impressions is spread across two sites. The *Kunstkammer* will show significant medals, each in conjunction with well-known artworks by the same artist. One of the main works of the exhibition, a bust of Emperor Charles V from the *Kunstkammer*, created by Leone Leoni around 1555, is on display here. Leone Leoni was one of the most celebrated and influential Italian sculptors of the sixteenth century. His sculptures for Charles V brought him great fame and he was knighted by the emperor for his artistic achievements and appointed court sculptor.

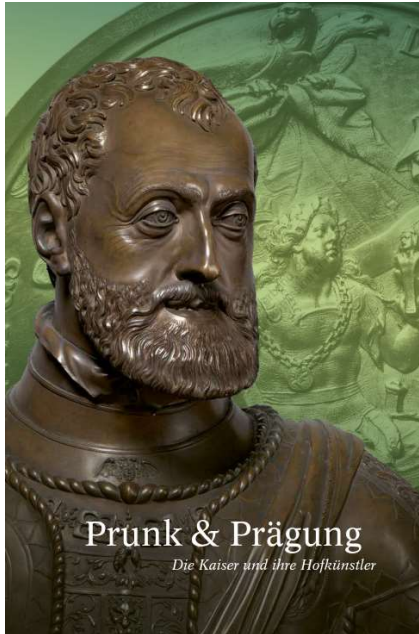
The Coin Cabinet will introduce the court artists in greater detail and display medals that are typical for each artist’s oeuvre. A synopsis of this kind that covers over half a millennium has never been shown before; it introduces visitors to a new, unusual perspective on familiar works.

The exhibition comprises about eighty works: medals, coins, paintings, gemstones, ivory and goldsmithery. Most objects stem from the museum’s Habsburg collections, with no other museum being able to illuminate this topic in such a high-quality selection. They are complemented by loans from the Coin Collection at the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin and from the Tiroler Landesmuseen-Betriebsgesellschaft.

Heinz Winter curated the exhibition and wrote the accompanying publication. The exhibition design, inspired by the imperial staterooms of the Vienna Hofburg, is by Michael Embacher.

KUNST HISTORISCHES MUSEUM WIEN

EXHIBITION PUBLICATION



Heinz Winter

Prunk & Prägung. Die Kaiser und ihre Hofkünstler

(in German)

French binding, 20,5 x 26 cm, 136 Pages, 155 Illustrations

Price € 19,95

Available at the museum shop and [online](#).

ACCOMPANYING PROGRAMME

The exhibition is accompanied by a comprehensive programme including guided tours and lectures. Visit khm.at/en/visit/exhibitions/imperial-impressions/ for information, events as well as advance ticket sales online.

General Guided Tours in German with Andrea Spinka

Thursdays at 5 p.m.

14 March / 28 March / 4 April / 25 April

Evening Gallery Talks in German

Thursday, 7 March, 6.30 p.m.
with Andrea Spinka & Daniel Uchtmann

Thursday, 18 April, 5 p.m.
Künstlerkarrieren am Wiener Hof
Vom Stempelschneider zum Kammermedailleur
With Andrea Mayr

KUNST HISTORISCHES MUSEUM WIEN

Thursday Night at the Museum

Thursday, 7 March, 7 p.m.

Die Kunst des Scheiterns. Leone Leoni idealisiert Karl V.

Lecture by Ulrich Pfisterer, Director of the Zentralinstitut für Kunstgeschichte München

Thursday, 19 September, 7 p.m.

Lecture by Dr. Martin Hirsch, Director of the Staatliche Münzsammlung München

Find information about each event at: www.khm.at/en/learn/art-education/donnerstagabend-im-museum

You require a valid museum admission ticket in order to participate in these events.

PRESS PHOTOS

Press photographs are available in the press section of our website free of charge, for your topical reporting: press.khm.at/en



Leone Leoni (1509–1590)

Emperor Ferdinand I.

c.1551

Silver

76,2 diameter

Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna, Coin Cabinet

© KHM-Museumsverband



**KUNST
HISTORISCHES
MUSEUM
WIEN**



Leone Leoni (1509–1590)

Bust Kaiser Karl V.

c. 1555

Bronze

H. 113 cm, W. 59 cm, D. 36 cm; 75 kg

Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna, Kunstammer

© KHM-Museumsverband



Antonio Abondio (1538–1591)

Emperor Maximilian II.

c.1570/75

Coloured wax, pearls, obsidian?, silver
diameter 115 mm

Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna, Kunstammer

© KHM-Museumsverband

**KUNST
HISTORISCHES
MUSEUM
WIEN**



Antonio Abondio (1538–1591)
Motto Medal of Emperor Maximilian II.
undated (awarded from 1568)
Silver (Cast)
diameter 53,5 mm



Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna, Coin Cabinet
© KHM-Museumsverband

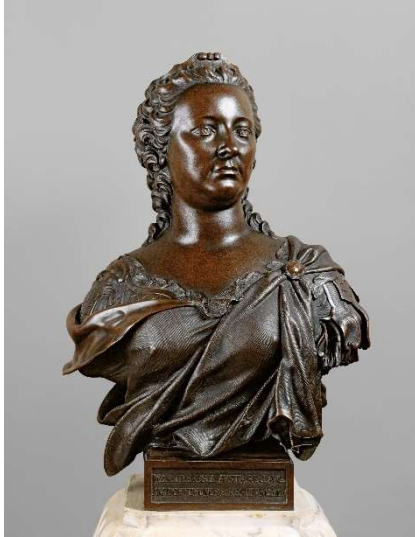


Matthäus Donner (1704–1756)
Medal of Merit of Maria Theresa
Mint of Vienna, undated (awarded from 1743)
Gold (struck)



H. 68,3 mm, W. 60,3 mm
Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna, Coin Cabinet
© KHM-Museumsverband

KUNST HISTORISCHES MUSEUM WIEN



Matthäus Donner (1704–1756)

Empress Maria Theresa as Juno Moneta

1750

Non-ferrous metal (cast)

Height 68 cm

Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna, Kunstammer

© KHM-Museumsverband



Anton Matthias Domanöck (1713–1779)

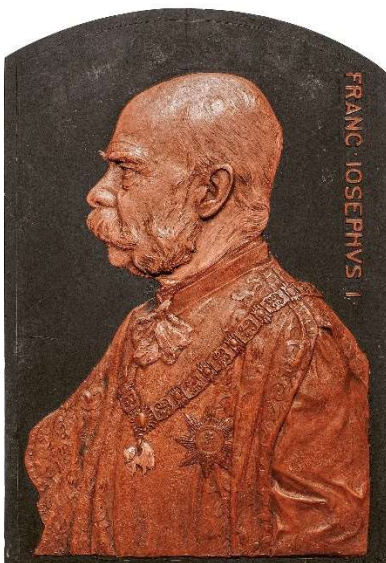
Breakfast Serveware for Maria Theresa (portion)

Vienna, c.1750

Gold, ebony, porcelain

Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna, Kunstammer

© KHM-Museumsverband



Anton Scharff (1845–1903)

**Emperor Franz Josef I, model (part) for a plaque of the 400th
year of the Lower Austria governorate**

Vienna, 1901

H. c. 212 mm, W. c. 145 mm

Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna, Coin Cabinet

© KHM-Museumsverband

KUNST HISTORISCHES MUSEUM WIEN



Obverse Anton Scharff (1845–1903) / reverse Josef Tautenhayn the Elder (1837–1911); chiselled by Stefan Schwartz (1851–1924)

Emperor Franz Joseph and Empress Elisabeth, dedicated by the City of Vienna on the Occasion of Their Silver Wedding Anniversary

Vienna, dated 24 April 1879

Silver (probably cast)

diameter 170 mm

Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna, Coin Cabinet

© KHM-Museumsverband



Bernhard Strigel (1460–1528)

Maximilian I.

c.1507/08

H. 75,5 cm, W. 49 cm

Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna, Picture Gallery

© KHM-Museumsverband

KUNST HISTORISCHES MUSEUM WIEN



Arnold Hartig (1878–1972)

**Karl I as Emperor of Austria and King of Hungary
and Zita as Empress and Queen, dedicated by the City of
Vienna on the Occasion of the Celebration of the Accession
to the Throne**

Vienna, main mint, dated 21 November 1916

(produced and struck
1917/18)

Lead, two one-sided off-metal strikes

diameter 91 mm

Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna, Coin Cabinet

© KHM-Museumsverband



KUNST HISTORISCHES MUSEUM WIEN

OPENING HOURS AND ENTRANCE FEES

Daily (except Monday) from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Thursdays until 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

SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow us on Instagram, Facebook and TikTok or register for our Newsletter. Hence you stay informed about the preparations leading up to the opening, glimpses of the exhibition and the supporting programme.

Instagram: @kunsthistorischesmuseumvienna

Facebook: @KHMWien

TikTok: @kunsthistorischesmuseum

Newsletter (in German): khm.at/besuchen/besucherinformation/newsletter/

MEDIA ACCREDITATION

Journalists visiting the KHM-Museumsverband for professional purposes are entitled to free admission to its exhibitions and locations. For this purpose, you need to register via presse@khm.at at least two working days in advance. We request that, in addition to mentioning your medium, you also specify the date of your visit and attach a scan of your valid press pass. Many thanks for your understanding!

PRESS 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