
KUNST HISTORISCHES MUSEUM WIEN



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The Habsburgs commissioned the Kunsthistorisches Museum from the renowned architects Gottfried Semper and Carl von Hasenauer for their worldwide singular art collections, as a palace of fine arts built in the Italian Renaissance style and ceremonially opened in 1891. Eminent painters such as Gustav Klimt created sections of the ceiling frescoes. The true treasures, however, are the works of art, for which we thank the collecting passions of the Habsburg emperors. Objects from ancient Egypt, the Antique, the Middle Ages, and the Modern Era. Magnificent sculptures, priceless works by the great artists of the Renaissance and Baroque. The largest and most comprehensive Brueghel collection worldwide. Masterpieces from the Habsburg sovereignty and much more can be found in the Kunsthistorisches Museum and its associated museums and castles.

EGYPTIAN AND NEAR EASTERN COLLECTION

The Egyptian and Near Eastern Collection of the Kunsthistorisches Museum is among the world's most important collections of Egyptian antiquities. The more than 17,000 objects date from a period of almost four thousand years, from the Egyptian Predynastic and Early Dynastic periods (ca. 3500 BC) to the early Christian era. Geographically their origins range from Egypt, Nubia, the eastern Mediterranean and Mesopotamia to the Arabian Peninsula.

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The collection is structured in four large areas: funerary cult, cultural history, sculpture and relief and the development of writing. Among the highlights are the richly decorated Offering Chapel of Ka-ni-nisut from the Old Kingdom, numerous sarcophagi and coffins, animal mummies, examples of the Book of the Dead, grave stelae, divine figures, objects of daily life such as clothing and cosmetic articles, masterpieces of sculpture such as the Reserve Head from Giza, facial stelae from southern Arabia as well as a depiction of a lion from the Ishtar Gate in Babylon.

COLLECTION OF GREEK AND ROMAN ANTIQUES

The objects in the Collection of Greek and Roman Antiquities span a period of more than three millennia and range from Bronze Age ceramics of Cyprus dating from the 3rd millennium BC to early Medieval finds. Some 2500 objects are on permanent display. Three main areas in particular make this collection one of the best of its kind: the unique and spectacular antique cameos, including the famous Gemma Augustea, the treasure troves dating from the period of the great migrations and the early Middle Ages, such as the golden treasure of Nagyszentmiklós, and the collection of vases with such masterpieces as the Brygos Cup.

Among the other highlights of the collection are the larger-than life Votive Statue of a Man from Cyprus, the Amazonian Sarcophagus, the bronze tablet with the famous *Senatus consultum de Bacchanalibus*, the Theseus Mosaic from Salzburg and, not least, the Youth from the Magdalensberg, to name only a few.

PICTURE GALLERY

The Picture Gallery of the Kunsthistorisches Museum developed from the art collections of the House of Habsburg. Today it is one of the largest and most important of its kind in the world.

The foundations of the collection were laid and its main emphases set in the 17th century: 16th-century Venetian painting (Titian, Veronese, Tintoretto), 17th-century Flemish painting (Peter Paul Rubens, Sir Anthony Van Dyck), Early Netherlandish painting (Jan van Eyck, Rogier van der Weyden) and German Renaissance painting (Albrecht Dürer, Lucas Cranach).

Among the other highlights in the Picture Gallery are its holdings of pictures by Pieter Bruegel the Elder, which are unique worldwide, as well as masterpieces by Vermeer, Rembrandt, Raphael, Caravaggio, Velázquez and Italian Baroque painters.

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KUNSTKAMMER WIEN

*THE CRADLE OF THE
MUSEUM*

The Kunstammer Wien is the most important collection of its kind in the world. Since March 1, 2013 this unique collection is now again open to the public. Come and see a »museum within the museum«: twenty newly-installed galleries invite you to experience a world of beauty and wit, curiosities and wonder.

The Kunst- und Wunderkammern (arts and natural wonders rooms) of the Renaissance and Baroque periods were encyclopaedic, universal collections that attempted to reflect the entire knowledge of the day. Particularly desirable were rare, curious and unusual objects.

From the late Middle Ages to the Baroque, Habsburg emperors and archdukes collected exotic and uncommon materials, to which they often ascribed magical powers, such as precious stones, ostrich eggs, coral and shark's teeth, which were considered to be dragon's tongues. From these natural products, artists created virtuoso works of art.

Over 2200 fabulous artworks await you in the Kunstammer Wien. Among its highlights are examples of fabulous goldsmith work such as the celebrated Saliera by Benvenuto Cellini, outstanding sculptures such as the Krumau Madonna, magnificent bronze statuettes, delicate and bizarre ivories and precious stone vessels as well as valuable clocks, elaborate automatons, strange scientific instruments, sumptuous game boards and much, much more.

COIN COLLECTION

The Coin Collection is one of the five largest and most important coin collections in the world. With some 700,000 objects from three millennia, it contains not only coins, but also paper money, medallions, orders, etc. Some 2,000 objects can be seen in the three halls housing the permanent display, which represents only a small part of the holdings.

The first hall offers an overview of the history and development of the medal from its origins in Italy around 1400 up to the 20th century. Austrian and European orders and medals of honour are likewise presented here. The second hall focuses on the history of coin and paper money, from pre-monetary forms of payment and natural monies to the invention of the coin in the 7th century B.C. in the region of the Lydian coast and on up to the 20th century. The third hall is reserved for special exhibitions.

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OPENING HOURS AND ENTRANCE FEES

Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien

Maria Theresien-Platz
1010 Vienna

Information on opening hours and admission fees:
visitorinformation.khm.at

All tickets are also available in our online-shop:
shop.khm.at

PRESS PHOTOGRAPHS

For press photographs and information on special exhibitions, please visit our website: <http://press.khm.at/en/>

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