

MESSERSCHMIDT AND MODERNITY

THE GETTY PRESENTS EXHIBITIONS, LECTURES, AND PERFORMANCES CELEBRATING VIENNESE MODERNISM

The extraordinary confluence of advances in art, science, medicine and philosophy that led Vienna to briefly hold court as the cultural capital of Europe at the turn of the last century launched a unique brand of Modernism that still resonates today. This summer, the Getty Museum offers several exhibitions, lectures and performances centering on the themes that characterize fin-de-siècle Vienna. The events kick off in July, just in time for the 150th anniversary of Gustav Klimt's birthday, which is July 14, 2012.

EXHIBITIONS

Gustav Klimt: The Magic of Line

July 3–September 23, 2012

This retrospective is the first fully dedicated to the drawings of Gustav Klimt (1862–1918), one of the seminal figures in modern art and arguably Vienna's most celebrated artist. It explores the stylistic evolution of his drawings as well as their centrality to his artistic enterprise. Based upon assiduous study of the human figure, Klimt's drawings are characterized by an unsurpassed mastery of line. This major loan exhibition was organized by the Albertina Museum, Vienna, in association with the J. Paul Getty Museum, to mark the 150th anniversary of Klimt's birth.

Messerschmidt and Modernity

July 24–October 14, 2012

The Vexed Man, acquired by the J. Paul Getty Museum in 2008, is one of a group of astonishing "Character Heads" produced by Franz Xaver Messerschmidt (1736–1783), a renowned German sculptor at the Habsburg court in Vienna. *Messerschmidt and Modernity* examines not only the study of expression and physiognomy during the eighteenth-century European Enlightenment, but also the impact the heads have had on the work of modern and contemporary artists, especially in turn-of-the-century Vienna.

-more-



Selected Works by Contemporaries of Gustav Klimt

June 19–September 23, 2012

The Getty Museum will also present the related installation which will showcase paintings and drawings produced by four of Klimt's northern and central European contemporaries: Franz Matsch (Austrian, 1861–1942); Fernand Khnopff (Belgian, 1858–1921); Alphonse Mucha (Czech, 1860–1939); and František Kupka (Czech, 1871–1957). These works show the diversity of early Modernist styles that flourished in Klimt's immediate artistic environment.

RELATED EVENTS

All events listed below are free, unless otherwise noted. Seating reservations are required. For reservations and information, please call (310) 440-7300 or visit www.getty.edu.

Lectures

Gustav Klimt: Drawing as a Guiding Principle

Sunday, July 8, 3:00 p.m.

Harold M. Williams Auditorium, Getty Center

To the public, Klimt is known primarily as a painter, in particular as the creator of his renowned "golden paintings." In truth, however, the practice of drawing formed the core of his unique genius, and line was the fundamental basis of his art. **Dr. Marian Bisanz-Prakken**, curator of drawings at the Albertina Museum, shows how Klimt, through his obsessive, daily study of the human figure based on observations, developed the defining themes of his art, including love and eros, and life and death.

From Mozart's Vienna to Freud's Vienna: The Human Emotions in Messerschmidt and Klimt

Thursday, August 30, 7:30 p.m.

Harold M. Williams Auditorium, Getty Center

Two spectacular cultural moments in the history of one city shaped the artistic agendas of Messerschmidt and Klimt as they explored the representation of human emotions. Messerschmidt worked in Mozart's Vienna, and Klimt in Freud's. **Larry Wolff**, professor of history at NYU, discusses how the cultural values of Vienna during two different eras illuminate each artist's work.

Arthur Schnitzler: Being Jewish

Sunday, September 9, 4:00 p.m. (reading); 6:00 p.m. (panel discussion)
Harold M. Williams Auditorium, Getty Center

This staged reading, based on the journals and correspondence of the renowned and controversial Austrian writer, focuses on Schnitzler's conflicted feelings about being a Jew. A panel discussion situates Schnitzler and his contemporaries, including Klimt, in the cultural and political context of 19th-century Vienna.

Getty Perspectives: The Age of Insight

Wednesday, September 19, 7:30 p.m.
Harold M. Williams Auditorium, Getty Center

Eric Kandel, Nobel Prize winner and professor of biochemistry and biophysics at Columbia University, outlines our understanding of the cognitive psychological and neurobiological basis of perception, memory, emotion, empathy, and creativity in his new book *The Age of Insight: The Quest to Understand the Unconscious in Art, Mind, and Brain: From Vienna 1900 to the Present*. He examines how cognitive psychology and brain biology have joined to explore how the viewer perceives and responds to art. In this discussion of his work at the Getty, Kandel illustrates these ideas with portraits by Gustav Klimt, Egon Schiele, and Oskar Kokoschka.

Performances

Beethoven's Ninth at the Hollywood Bowl

Tuesday, July 10, 8:00 p.m.
The Hollywood Bowl

The **Los Angeles Philharmonic**, accompanied by the **Los Angeles Master Chorale**, performs Beethoven's stirring Symphony no. 9. In homage to Klimt's famous *Beethoven Frieze* and in celebration of his 150th birthday, the LA Phil and the Getty Museum have come together to commission video imagery by artist Herman Kolgen inspired by Klimt's work to accompany the famous "Ode to Joy" finale. For ticket prices and information visit hollywoodbowl.com or call (323) 850-2000.

Gordon Getty Concert: Calder Quartet

Saturday, September 29, 7:00 p.m.
Harold M. Williams Auditorium, Getty Center

The Calder Quartet performs a special program inspired by the exhibition *Messerschmidt and Modernity*. The program features quartets from Messerschmidt's time by Mozart, Webern, and Mendelssohn as well as three commissioned pieces that explore Messerschmidt's work and modern legacy by Los Angeles-based film composers **Bear McCreary**, **Don Davis**, and **Mark Mothersbaugh**. Tickets \$20; \$15 students/seniors.

Studio Courses

Culinary Workshop: *Modern Vienna*

Thursday, July 19, 10:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Course repeats Friday, July 20.
Private Dining Room, The Restaurant, Getty Center

In exploration of the evolution of Klimt's art, participants will tour the exhibition then discover Austrian cuisine and prepare a traditional meal complete with Viennese pastries appropriate for a birthday celebration. Course fee \$75. Tickets available beginning Sun., July 1.

Extreme Portrait Sculpting

Wednesday, September 19 and 26, 10:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Course repeats October 3 and 10.
Museum Studios, Getty Center

Drawing inspiration from Messerschmidt's "Character Heads," this two-day sculpture workshop with artist **Jonathan Bickhart** provides hands-on sculpting instruction with a focus on expression. Course fee \$155 (includes materials and lunch).

Sketching Gallery: Artist in Residence

Thursdays, August 2–30, 1:00–3:00 p.m.
Sketching Gallery, Getty Center

Artist **Richard Houston** leads an exploration of figure drawing as inspired by Gustav Klimt. Participants investigate the figure through discussion and drawing exercises while working from a life model. This is a free, drop-in program.

Gallery Talks

Curator's Gallery Talk: *Gustav Klimt: The Magic of Line*

Thursday, July 19, 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, August 15, and September 12, 1:30 p.m.

Edouard Kopp, assistant curator of Drawings, the J. Paul Getty Museum, leads a gallery talk on the exhibition. Meet under the stairs in the Museum Entrance Hall.

Curator's Gallery Talk: *Messerschmidt and Modernity*

Tuesday, August 7, 2:30 p.m.

Elizabeth Osenbaugh of the Sculpture and Decorative Arts Department, the J. Paul Getty Museum, leads a gallery talk on the exhibition. Meet under the stairs in the Museum Entrance Hall.

Curator's Gallery Talk: *Messerschmidt and Modernity*

Tuesday, September 4 and October 2, 2:30 p.m.

Antonia Boström, senior curator of Sculpture and Decorative Arts, the J. Paul Getty Museum, leads a gallery talk on the exhibition. Meet under the stairs in the Museum Entrance Hall.