

## THE AGE OF DÜRER AUSTRIA AT THE GATE OF THE RENAISSANCE

Upper Belvedere

21 October 2021 to 30 January 2022



Marx Reichlich, Heimsuchung, 1502

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**By the year 1500, the Renaissance had gradually supplanted the Late Gothic tradition. In the territory of present-day Austria, too, important transitional works were being created around that time and the decades to follow by Albrecht Dürer and other artists such as Lucas Cranach the Elder and Albrecht Altdorfer – the so-called Dürer period. They attest to the emergence of a new artistic self-image and illustrate how astonishingly international the Austrian art scene was at that time. In honor of Albrecht Dürer's 550th birthday, the Belvedere is presenting a comprehensive exhibition of this little-known chapter in Austrian art history.**

*CEO Stella Rollig states: „This exhibition reveals the innovative spirit of the Dürer era: new genres in art, from colorful landscapes to self-confident portraits, attest to radical change that paved the way for modernism and our present-day understanding of art.“*

Albrecht Dürer was born in Nuremberg 550 years ago, on 21 May 1471. Today, art history still considers him synonymous with the dawn of a new artistic movement as well as a new understanding of art's purpose and modes of representation. Artists across Europe adopted Dürer's printmaking style for their work. In response to the social and cultural upheavals of the sixteenth century, art in Europe underwent a fundamental transformation during this period. This dawn extended to the territory of present-day Austria, with the artwork created here during that period bridging the gap between memories of a fading Gothic period and the achievements of Italian Renaissance art.

Björn Blauensteiner, curator of the exhibition, notes: *„During the first decades of the sixteenth century, the arts, including those in Austria, gradually broke free from functions they had been assigned in the Middle Ages. Role models such as Albrecht Dürer had a significant impact on artists' perceptions of themselves, as they increasingly signed their works and as the genre of cabinet painting, with its emphasis on aesthetic qualities, emerged – radical developments!“*

Gradually, the role of the artist evolved from that of a master artisan to one of a modern artist. Artists applied the mathematics of perspective, rendered nature in minute detail, and created portraits and self-portraits that revitalized that genre. The fundamental changes in social structures gradually offered commoners and merchants and their wives the opportunity to commission portraits, and they preferred realistic reproductions over glorified images.

This is the first exhibit that attempts to survey the period's art in its entirety without focusing on isolated aspects such as the so-called Danube School or the art created at the court of Maximilian.

The exhibition also reveals that art "made in Austria" was remarkably global: renowned masters from various parts of Europe worked in Austria during the Dürer period; for example, Jan van Scorel and Jan Vermeyen from Holland; Albrecht Dürer, Lucas Cranach, Albrecht Altdorfer, and Jörg Breu from southern Germany; and Ambrogio de Predis from Italy. The artists brought new ideas to the country, which in turn inspired local workshops; artistic production sites gradually shifted from medieval workshops to modern studios.

The exhibition presents paintings, sculptures, drawings, prints, and medals created in Austria during the Dürer period, grouped according to distinctive aspects. Following an introductory overview, the next galleries explore nature, landscape, and expressivity, topics traditionally

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associated with the so-called Danube School, although the exhibits make clear that these phenomena were not unique to the Danube region. A separate section examines Dürer's reception in Austria, including a projection of the recently discovered murals in St. Stephen's Cathedral, as well as the epitaph they once adorned. Next are two rooms devoted to portraiture and the reception of antiquity. Finally, an examination of pictorial space and perspective concludes the exhibition.

Collection holdings from the early sixteenth century form the core of the exhibition. Several significant works by Lucas Cranach the Elder, Michael Pacher, Marx Reichlich, Urban Görttschacher, and the IP Master have undergone scientific and restorative treatments. As a result, these works are now presented in a new light. An altarpiece with vaulted wing panels is among them, which can now be admired in its original configuration after being meticulously restored. Numerous loans from national and international institutions and private collections, including masterpieces by Albrecht Dürer, Albrecht Altdorfer, Jörg Breu, Ambrogio de Predis, and Wolfgang Huber, round out the exhibition.

## ARTISTS

Albrecht Altdorfer (around 1480/85 – 1538)

Christoph Amberger (around 1505 – 1561/62)

Jörg Breu (around 1475/80 – 1537)

Lucas Cranach the Elder (1472 – 1553)

Paul Dax (1503 – 61)

Albrecht Dürer (1471 – 1528)

Rueland Frueauf the Younger (around 1470 – after 1545)

Stephan Godl (around 1480 – 1534)

Urban Görttschacher (around 1495 – 1530)

Wolfgang Huber (around 1480/90 – 1553)

Jörg Kölderer (1465/70 – before 1540)

Andreas Lackner (around 1490 – 1545)

Leonhard Magt (before 1508 – 1532)

Hans Maler (1480/88 – 1526/29)

Konrad Osterer (worked around 1532/43)

Ludwig Neufahrer (around 1500/05 – 1563)

Michael Pacher (around 1435 – 1498)

Ambrogio de Predis (around 1455 – after 1508)

Marx Reichlich (around 1460 – 1520)

Hans Schüpfelin (around 1480/85 – 1539/40)

Jakob Seisenegger (around 1505 – 1567)

Nikolaus (died in 1517) and Gregor Tübing (around 1475 – 1543)

Ulrich Ursentaler the Elder (around 1482 – before 28 February 1562)

## EXHIBITION PROGRAM

Please find updated information about our on-site program on our website:  
<https://www.belvedere.at/en/on-request-groups>

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

Exhibition Title	The Age of Dürer. Austria at the Gate of the Renaissance
Exhibition Duration	21 October 2021 – 30 January 2022
Exhibition Location	Upper Belvedere
Works	120 Objects
Curator	Björn Blauensteiner
Curatorial Assistant	Stephanie Auer
Exhibition Management	Kristof Viola
Exhibition Architecture	Margula Architects
Contact	Belvedere, Prinz Eugen-Straße 27, 1030 Vienna T +43 1 795 57-0   <a href="http://www.belvedere.at">www.belvedere.at</a>
Art Education	Belvedere Art Education T + 43 1 795 57-134   M <a href="mailto:public@belvedere.at">public@belvedere.at</a>
Opening Hours	Daily 10am to 6pm
Regular Admission	€ 18 (Upper Belvedere)
Press Contact	Press Belvedere Prinz Eugen-Straße 27, 1030 Vienna T +43 1 795 57-177   M <a href="mailto:press@belvedere.at">press@belvedere.at</a>

*Further information and exhibition press photos are available to download at [belvedere.at/en/press](http://belvedere.at/en/press).*

*#TheAgeofDürer*