



300 YEARS OF BELVEDERE

PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE 2023 ANNIVERSARY YEAR

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GOLDEN SPRING

In 2023, the Belvedere will celebrate the 300th anniversary of its construction. It took over a decade to build the summer residence of Vienna's most famous general, Prince Eugene of Savoy. At last, in 1723, construction of the upper palace drew to a close, and the Belvedere estate was finally completed. The Belvedere was envisioned from the start as a place of art – a role it has held for 300 years. Initially serving as a showcase for Prince Eugene's art collection and later as a venue for exhibiting the imperial art collections, it opened its doors to the public in 1777 with free admission as one of the world's first public museums. Another milestone was the founding of the "Moderne Galerie" in 1903 in the Lower Belvedere.

General Director Stella Rollig: *"From the very beginning, the Belvedere has been a nexus of art. As a power place, it lets visitors connect with memory, reflect on the present, and see the future. On the 300th anniversary of the Belvedere, we celebrate the developments not only of the past but especially of those that lie ahead."*

"Golden Spring" draws inspiration from two key themes in the Belvedere's history: gold denotes tradition, while the notion of a sacred spring (*ver sacrum*) signifies new beginnings. What was the museum of the past, and what might it look like in the future? "Sacred spring," a motif coined by the Secessionists to represent the dawn of a new era, serves as a metaphor for the Belvedere's vision of the future: the next generation of artists, the public of the future, and a concept of the museum as it ought to be. The use of gold as a symbol presupposes an awareness of the tradition to which it refers. With a keen awareness of heritage preservation, the Belvedere is developing its vision of the future: What can art be today? What should a museum aim for? In what way does it reflect and drive social processes? The museum of tomorrow, progressive and diverse, fosters learning through the arts. It offers a contemporary perspective on art from the past and measures the new through the lens of history in the here and now.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS 2023

The exhibition program establishes the ties between tradition and new beginnings implied by the motif “Golden Spring.” In keeping with its founding mission as a modern museum, in 2023 the Belvedere will continue to showcase regional and international art – side by side and in contrast. Thus, the exhibition *Klimt. Inspired by Van Gogh, Rodin, Matisse ...*, starting February 3 at the Lower Belvedere, challenges the prevailing image in art history of Klimt as an original. The exhibition follows the trail of those avant-garde artists who demonstrably influenced Gustav Klimt. A significant discovery at the Lower Belvedere, *Louise Bourgeois’s* early painterly works, will be on view beginning September 22; paintings from the 1930s and 1940s shown for the first time in Europe will be placed in dialogue with a selection of sculptural and graphic works from her later periods.

Beginning on April 6, the Belvedere 21 will focus on the local art scene with *On the New*. A diverse range of fifty artists and twenty project spaces will illustrate the current state of art production and presentation. Rather than presenting one comprehensive overview of the artistic scene in and around Vienna, the show will evolve and change several times during the year. An extensive contemporary sculpture project with works by renowned artists such as Dan Graham, Kara Walker, Franz West, Thomas Houseago, and shooting star Kapwani Kiwanga will complement the Baroque sculptures around the various locations of the Belvedere starting on May 15. *Public Matters* centers on aspects of the public and the public sphere that arise through and with art.

Artistic perspectives and previous focal points of the collection will be examined from a new perspective in 2023. The new collection presentation at the Upper Belvedere will open on March 22 with the title *Picture This! The Belvedere Collection from Cranach to EXPORT* and will venture beyond a purely art-historical chronology of styles to focus on the reciprocal relationship between art and society. The show will highlight 800 years of art history as viewed from artists’ perspectives, demonstrating how artists have positioned themselves over time. The exhibition *The Belvedere. 300 Years a Venue for Art*, which will be on view at the Orangery throughout the year, will examine the building’s history as a museum and its changing use over time.

The annual roster of shows also features solo exhibitions by Alois Mosbacher and Renate Bertlmann (see attachment). In addition, numerous events, workshops, and participatory projects will accompany the exhibition program, including an anniversary publication that

explores the museum's history expected to be launched in May. A major highlight of the anniversary year will be the Spring Festival on May 13 and 14, which will feature a concert and an extensive schedule of activities for all age groups in the garden in front of the Upper Belvedere as well as free admission to all three Belvedere museums.

EDUCATION

AUDIO TOURS

In 2023, a particular focus will be placed on the auditory mediation program. Featuring multilingual audio tours as part of the new collection presentation *Klimt. Inspired by Van Gogh, Rodin, Matisse ...*, and *Louise Bourgeois*, as well as a podcast collaboration related to the exhibition *Colossal. Large-Format Paintings*, the audio guide, the museum app Smartify, and streaming services enable the museum to reach a broad audience both as part of the museum experience and outside the museum setting.

COLLECTION ONLINE

Currently, more than 5,300 works are available on the website as part of the Open Content program, all of which are free of charge for download in print quality. More than 10,900 works in the collection are available for online viewing in total. These resources are being expanded on an ongoing basis. Through the Smartify app, which has been linked to the online collection via an interface for automated data updates since 2021, information from the online collection can be distributed to specific target groups. A continuously expanded *Curator's Choice* format incorporates essays with comparative media, exhibitions, and literature lists to enable deeper scholarly exploration of the collection.

<https://sammlung.belvedere.at/collections/437017/curators-choice/objects>

MY BELVEDERE. PARTICIPATORY ONLINE EXHIBITIONS

In the past, the transference of analog educational tools into the digital realm has been a focus. Starting in 2023, however, the focus will shift to generic content that does not depend on location. A digital exhibition that encourages visitors to the Belvedere to share personal

Belvedere moments, stories, memories, and experiences with others in sound or photo format will kick off the project as an inclusive, participatory effort during the anniversary year.

MEDIATION PROGRAM IN THE GARDENS

From May to September 2023, there will be a focus on providing educational opportunities in the Belvedere gardens. A number of guided tours for the *Public Matters* sculpture project and the history of the palace are part of the program, as are garden tours, workshops, and outdoor summer activities for kids and families.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND PUBLIC PROGRAM

As part of the Community Outreach Program, the Belvedere 21 connects and actively involves diverse groups and communities throughout Vienna and its immediate vicinity. Projects developed by the program are implemented outside the museum in public spaces and have a thematic focus. The Public Program of the Belvedere 21, titled *Joint Ventures*, is an event series first launched in 2018. It focuses on contemporary issues and challenges and artistic and activist strategies for addressing them. All talks, film screenings, lectures, plays, readings, concerts, and walks are free. In celebration of the anniversary year, all our museum venues will offer a wide range of events on feminism, ecology, democracy, and freedom. Among the many productions of the Blickle Kino are small festivals like *El Cine!* and a formats like the *Blickle Archive Series*. This series provides young filmmakers with the opportunity to present their work and gain exposure.

INCLUSIVE OFFERINGS

As part of the rearrangement of the collection at the Upper Belvedere in spring 2023, displays of existing tactile reliefs will be revised and incorporated into the overall presentation more comprehensively. This experience will be enhanced by a 1:1 tactile model of a “Character Head” by Franz Xaver Messerschmidt. In addition, we will update the Austrian Sign Language tour, translate it into International Sign Language, and make it available through multimedia guides on-site and online through the Smartify museum app.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR UKRAINIAN CITIZENS

The Belvedere stands for peace and condemns the war against Ukraine. The museum offers a wide range of services for the Ukrainian community in Vienna that have been well-received. For example, since March 2022, some 5,600 audio guides in Ukrainian have been distributed free of charge at the Belvedere. In addition, a cup of tea and the joint activities that accompany the ongoing series *Tea Talks* create a platform for Viennese and Ukrainians to meet one another and socialize.

<https://www.belvedere.at/ukraine>

RESEARCH

THE ART MUSEUM IN THE DIGITAL AGE

International Online Conference from 11 to 15 January 2023

The Belvedere Research Center is continuing its successful conference series on the digital transformation of art museums. The focus of the fifth international online conference will be the Metaverse – an immersive virtual reality experience – and its connection to cultural institutions. Johanna Drucker (University of California, Los Angeles) will hopefully be on board as this year's keynote speaker.

<https://www.belvedere.at/en/digitalmuseum2023>

THE *BELVEDERE RESEARCH JOURNAL*

The *Belvedere Research Journal* is an English-language open-access e-journal focused on Central European art history. It is based thematically on the Belvedere collection and is dedicated to art movements in the former Habsburg Empire and Central Europe more broadly, from the medieval period to the present. The e-journal is published in cooperation with the Heidelberg University Library as a continuous issue with up to ten scholarly articles per year. The aim of the *BRJ* is to overcome regional barriers in terms of language and culture and to promote the transnational exchange of new and innovative research findings.

<https://journals.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/index.php/brj/index>

PUBLICATION: *THE BELVEDERE. 300 YEARS A VENUE FOR ART*

To mark the anniversary year, in May 2023 a publication will be released that will present research on the history of the museum to a wider audience. Which organizing principles have characterized exhibitions and publications? Were these presentations considered topical when evaluated on an international scale? What narratives were constructed, and how did they affect the development of identity? What audience or public should be addressed? These and similar questions will be tackled by twenty experts in long-form essays.

TEN-DAY GETTY DIGITAL SUMMER INSTITUTE

In cooperation with the University for Continuing Education Krems / Center for Image Science, funding of €99,000 was obtained through the Getty Foundation for the implementation of a ten-day "Introductory Institute in Digital Art History" entitled "The Museum in a Digital World: Strategies – Methods – Tools." The summer institute will be held from 4 to 15 September 2023 and will take place at the Danube University Krems and the Belvedere Research Center.

LIVIAAI (LINKING VIENNESE ART THROUGH AI)

The Belvedere is a cooperation partner in the third-party-funded project LiviaAI (Linking Viennese Art through AI), sponsored by the Jubilee Fund of the City of Vienna for the Austrian Academy of Sciences. LiviaAI investigates the potential of artificial intelligence (AI) to identify patterns, connections, and associations between digitized objects in three Viennese collections: the Belvedere, the Wien Museum, and the Museum of Applied Arts (MAK).

<https://livia-ai.github.io/>

FACTS & FIGURES

"Our hope is for a 'winter just like the ones we used to know' – and we've been seeing good signs of this," says CFO Wolfgang Bergmann in describing the current situation. October and November pulled in 90 percent of 2019 attendance figures. The number of visitors from Austria (29% instead of 17%) and the EU (49% instead of 23%) is significantly higher than before the

pandemic, while the number of visitors from the USA is slightly below. The majority of visitors from Asia, however, are still missing. This is evidenced most by South Korea, which had previously led the visitor ranking and now stands at a deficit of 80%.

As the first half of the year was still influenced by the last lockdown, around 70 percent of 2019 visitor figures are expected for the full year, i.e., about 1.2 million.

The Belvedere used the 2020 crisis period to make counter-cyclical investments. The technical infrastructure of the Lower Belvedere has been thoroughly upgraded, its internal layout revamped, and a café has been added to the site. The crisis also brought up the question of how culture can be conveyed beyond on-site means, which drove digitization initiatives within the Belvedere.

GREEN MUSEUM

The Belvedere has been investing in its ecological refurbishment since 2017. Air-conditioning systems in the Upper and Lower Belvedere, for instance, were redesigned with more modern, efficient technology. Both museums have converted to LED lighting. Ongoing window renovations (together with the Burghauptmannschaft) have achieved significant energy savings. In 2021, the Belvedere was awarded the Austrian Eco label, which obliges us to act sustainably in all spheres of activity. Our events have also been certified with the Austrian Eco-label Guideline 62, “Green Meetings and Green Events.” In 2022, the Lower Belvedere received the Austrian Museum Seal of Approval.

The Belvedere 21 is the focus of upcoming measures to be implemented. The switchover to LEDs will be continued there and hopes are high regarding the possibility of installing a photovoltaic system on the roof. A pilot study came back with positive results. Therefore, work is currently underway to realize this project with the Federal Monuments Office and the Burghauptmannschaft. Large savings and increased efficiency are also expected from the establishment of a connection from the Belvedere 21 to Vienna’s district cooling system, which is projected to be done in 2024.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Contact	Belvedere, Prinz Eugen-Straße 27, 1030 Vienna T +43 1 795 57-0 www.belvedere.at
Art Mediation	Belvedere Art Mediation T + 43 1 795 57-134 M public@belvedere.at
Press Contact	Press Belvedere, Prinz Eugen-Straße 27, 1030 Vienna Irene Jäger T +43 (01) 795 57-185 Mag. Sonja Kosiba +43 (01) 795 57-177 M press@belvedere.at

Current opening hours and ticket prices can be found on our website: www.belvedere.at

*Images for press purposes are available for download free of charge:
<http://www.belvedere.at/en/press>*

APPENDIX 1

EXHIBITION PROGRAM 2023

GROW. The Tree in Art
Lower Belvedere
until 8 January 2023

Mysterious, bearer of knowledge, silent observer: The tree is deeply rooted in culture – as a mediator between the divine and the human, as an object of science, and as a warning sign for ecological (mis)developments. Appearing in art as a symbol over many centuries, *GROW* is dedicated to exploring this subject and its complex relationship with humankind. An accompanying soundtrack to the exhibition seeks to enhance this experience of nature.

CARLONE CONTEMPORARY: Rona Pondick. Monkeys, 1998–2001
Upper Belvedere
until 8 January 2023

Monkeys in the Upper Belvedere? For *Monkeys*, Rona Pondick cast her own body parts, then varied their proportions using 3D technology and fused the resulting elements with hand-molded animal bodies. Her sculptures are hybrid creatures. In the Baroque Carlone Hall, they play with distance and proximity of the viewer and make reference to Ovid's *Metamorphoses* via the Baroque grisailles.

Stanislava Kovalcikova. Grotto
Belvedere 21
until 5 February 2023

For the first time in Austria, Stanislava Kovalcikova gives insight into her alluring and enigmatic work. Her paintings revolve around the question of personal identity and the ways in which it is constructed. Her works often capture intimate, fleeting moments that also possess dreamlike, surrealistic aspects. Kovalcikova's solo exhibition at the Belvedere 21 contemplates the theme of the grotesque.

Avant-Garde and the Contemporary. The Belvedere Collection from Lassnig to Knebl
Belvedere 21
until 19 February 2023

From Greta Freist to Maria Lassnig, Günter Brus and VALIE EXPORT to Heimo Zobernig, Ashley Hans Scheirl and Jakob Lena Knebl: The exhibition *Avant-Garde and the Contemporary* brings a distinguished selection of contemporary and historical artistic approaches from the collection as well as from the Artothek des Bundes, administered by the Belvedere, into productive correspondence.

Gerwald Rockenschaub. circuit cruise / feasible memory/regulator
Belvedere 21
25 November 2022 – 12 March 2023

Colorful surfaces, figures, and shapes flicker, jerk, and twitch in a dynamic but silent manner on the walls: at the Belvedere 21, Gerwald Rockenschaub has created a sensory overload that is both minimalist and complex and extremely precisely staged, requiring close observation. A cryptic interplay of pop and high culture, the commonplace and art history.

The Belvedere. 300 Years a Venue for Art
Orangerie
2 Dezember 2022 – 7 January 2024

On the occasion of its 300th anniversary, the Belvedere is taking a look back at its own history. Originally planned as the summer residence of Prince Eugene of Savoy, it began its function as a museum with the establishment of the Imperial Picture Gallery, which, with time, proved itself to be a central venue for art. This extensive exhibition traces the evolving uses of the two palaces and the development of the Belvedere as a museum.

Klimt. Inspired by Van Gogh, Rodin, Matisse ...
Lower Belvedere
3 February – 29 May 2023

Who inspired Gustav Klimt, the great master of Viennese Modernism? How familiar was he with Vincent van Gogh? Had he ever seen a work by Henri Matisse? The collaborative exhibition

between the Belvedere in Vienna and the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam follows a trail that starts with Klimt's artistic forerunners and leads to his contemporaries.

CIVA – Contemporary Immersive Virtual Art
Intangible Care
Belvedere 21 / Aux Gazelles / online
17 – 26 February 2023

CIVA 2023 expands on the themes of the two previous editions to include aspects of the intangible of our phygital world. The festival offers a hybrid program of exhibitions, talks, film screenings, and performances that discuss our society's complex and ambivalent relationship to caring. Sponsored by the Cultural Department of the City of Vienna.

Alois Mosbacher. *Palinops*
Belvedere 21
10 March – 10 September 2023

Ropes, balls, cacti, backpacks, or a ladder – in Alois Mosbacher's work, they become snapshots of profoundly personal and perceptive experiences of nature. Discover enigmatic images filled with chance encounters and paradoxical interactions between objects that, at first glance, seem out of place in the landscape.

Constanze Ruhm. *Come una pupilla al variare della luce*
Belvedere 21
16 March – 27 August 2023

At the Belvedere 21, Constanze Ruhm searches for a feminist way of seeing in an effort to shatter the male gaze and patriarchal image regime. She examines which historical moments and figures from the feminist movements can be revisited and projected into the future. The broken mirror serves as a visual metaphor.

Picture this! The Belvedere Collection from Cranach to EXPORT
Upper Belvedere
Starting 23 March 2023

How does an era shape its artists? How do they respond to change and crises, and are they themselves catalysts for social transformation?

The new presentation of the collection at the Upper Belvedere goes beyond a pure art historical chronology of styles. Instead, the show takes the artist's point of view and focuses on the reciprocal relationship between art and society. Influenced by the sociopolitical environment, migration, international networking, and economic conditions, artistic production reflects the complexity of its respective time. Selected self-portraits serve as leitmotifs that collectively tell the story of how the image of artists and their understanding of themselves have transformed over the centuries. A chronological tour takes visitors through the Belvedere's world-famous collection that spans 800 years of artistic production from the Middle Ages to the 1970s.

On the New. Viennese Scenes and Beyond
Belvedere 21
7 April 2023 – 14 January 2024

What is the latest on the local art scene in studios and alternative exhibition spaces? And how can one exhibition reflect the diversity of the production and presentation of art? Some fifty artistic viewpoints – in nearly twenty exhibitions within the show, curated by the project spaces themselves – provide a polyphonic view of the “new.”

Public Matters. Contemporary Art in the Belvedere Gardens
Belvedere Palace Gardens and Belvedere 21 Sculpture Garden
13 May – 1 October 2023

Is art a public matter? From May through September, a modern sculpture project featuring works by prominent artists such as Louise Bourgeois, Kara Walker, and Lawrence Weiner will

complement the Baroque sculptures of the three Belvedere locations. The emphasis is on aspects of the public and public sphere developed with and through art.

Colossal. Large-Format Paintings
Lower Belvedere
22 June – 27 August 2023

It takes courage, imagination, and self-confidence for artists to tackle a larger-than-life canvas. The results are impressive, often spectacular, but are rarely seen due to lack of space. This exhibition displays large-format paintings from the museum's collection, ranging from the Baroque to the present day, and invites visitors to immerse themselves in fascinating visual worlds.

Louise Bourgeois
Lower Belvedere
22 September 2023 – 28 January 2024

Discover Louise Bourgeois's early paintings as part of the Belvedere's 300-year jubilee. For the first time in Europe, a large solo exhibition will present the early paintings of one of the most influential artists of our time. On view in the Baroque galleries of the Lower Belvedere, Bourgeois' paintings from the 1930s and 1940s will be placed in dialogue with a selection of sculptural and graphic works from her later periods.

Renate Bertlmann
Belvedere 21
29 September 2023 – 3 March 2024

Renate Bertlmann is one of the main protagonists of the Austrian feminist avant-garde. The retrospective at Belvedere 21 includes some two hundred works ranging from the late 1960s to her recent artistic production, including iconic works from the 1970s, pivotal sculptures and installations, performative photographs and drawings, as well as numerous works that will be on view for the first time.

APPENDIX 2
ILLUSTRATIONS



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- 1: Exterior view Upper Belvedere
Photo: Lukas Schaller / Belvedere, Vienna
- 2: Exterior view Upper Belvedere
Photo: Lukas Schaller / Belvedere, Vienna
- 3: View from the Upper Belvedere across the palace garden toward Vienna
Photo: Lukas Schaller / Belvedere, Vienna
- 4: Interior view Upper Belvedere: Marble Hall
Photo: Lukas Schaller / Belvedere, Vienna
- 5: Interior view Belvedere 21
Photo: Lukas Schaller / Belvedere, Vienna
- 6: Stella Rollig and Wolfgang Bergmann, Belvedere Executive Board
Photo: Gianmaria Gava / Belvedere, Vienna

belvedere 300



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7: Wolfgang Bergmann and Stella Rollig,
Belvedere Executive Board
Photo: Gianmaria Gava / Belvedere,
Vienna

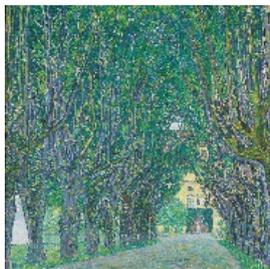
8: Oswald Oberhuber, Prince Eugene,
2009
© Belvedere, Vienna

9: Salomon Kleiner, Panoramic view of
Prince Eugene's gardens and the adjacent
gardens of the Salesian Convent and
Prince Schwarzenberg estate. , 1731
Photo: Belvedere Library, Vienna
© Belvedere, Vienna

10: Johann Gottfried Auerbach, Prince
Eugene of Savoy as a Field Commander,
c. 1725/1730
Photo: Johannes Stoll / Belvedere, Vienna

11: Moderne Galerie 1903
© Belvedere, Vienna

12: Vincent van Gogh, The Plain of
Auvers, 1890
Photo: Johannes Stoll / Belvedere, Vienna



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13: Gustav Klimt, Avenue in the Park of Schloss Kammer, 1912
Photo: Johannes Stoll / Belvedere, Vienna

14: Alois Mosbacher, Night, 2017
From a private collection, © Alois Mosbacher

15: Renate Bertlmann, Sling Shot Action, 1980
© Reinhold Bertlmann, courtesy: Renate Bertlmann

16: Louise Bourgeois, FALLEN WOMAN (FEMME MAISON), 1946-47
Photo: Christopher Burke, © The Easton Foundation / Bildrecht, Vienna