



Belvedere 21, Photo: Lukas Schaller

Belvedere 21
Museum of
Contemporary Art

Arsenalstraße 1
1030 Vienna

Opening Hours:
Tue to Sun 11 am to 6 pm
Late Nights:
Thu & Fri 11 am to 6 pm
Mon only open on public holidays

Press Downloads:
belvedere.at/en/press

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PRESS RELEASE

BELVEDERE 21 – MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

The Belvedere 21 is a place of artistic production, reception, and reflection. Open and generously laid out, the building is a key work of Austrian post-war modernity and serves today as a space for discourse and experimentation, where society is explored and discussed. Austrian art of the 20th and 21st centuries and its integration into the international context stands at the centre of the museum's exhibition activities. A comprehensive educational program, film screenings, lectures, performances, and artist talks seek to encourage a dialogue with the public. Along with its three exhibition floors, the overall concept for the Belvedere 21 also includes the Blickle Kino, a learning centre, and a sculpture garden. Additionally, the building also houses the Artothek des Bundes as well as the archives of the Austrian sculptor Fritz Wotruba.

BUILDING HISTORY

The Belvedere 21 is located in one of the most significant post-war era buildings. Awarded the Grand Prix d'Architecture, the museum was initially constructed by Viennese architect Karl Schwanzer for the 1958 Brussels World Expo. Its sleek formal structure, glass halls and use of fresh building materials class the pavilion as a prime example of modern architecture. After the Brussels World's Fair the building was reinstalled in the Viennese Schweizer Garten, adapted to the museum's purposes and opened as the Museum of the Twentieth Century in September 1962. Under the name 20er Haus, it quickly established itself as an important site for the exposition of modern and contemporary art in Vienna. Once the Mumok moved into the newly built MuseumsQuartier at the end of 2001, the building stood empty. In 2002 the

building was transferred to the Belvedere and in 2007 Adolf Krischanitz, a student of Karl Schwanzer, was awarded the contract to renovate this former architectural jewel. In November of 2011, the museum celebrated its reopening with its new name, 21er Haus – Museum of Contemporary Art. In January 2018, the museum was renamed from 21er Haus to Belvedere 21.

EDUCATION

The multifaceted art education team at the Belvedere 21 have set themselves the aim of demonstrating to visitors of all ages a variety of approaches to contemporary art and to the activities of the museum, thereby inviting visitors into a dialogue about contemporary art. They offer a range of options that spans from imaginative games, and activity- and dialogue-oriented tours to workshops, with a particular focus on photography, object art, and new media art. In addition to informative, synoptic guided tours, they also offer visitors the chance to enter into conversation with experts and artists, consequently transforming the Belvedere 21 into a site of exchange, reflection, and personal enrichment. Across some 80 m² the Studio 21 in the lower level of the Belvedere 21 provides space to discover one's own creative potential. Besides the studio, which meets all the requirements expected from a modern creativity workshop, a photographic laboratory and a darkroom ensure multifaceted workshops. The interior courtyard located in front of the space provides optimal light conditions and may be used to work outdoors during the spring and summer season.

SCULPTURE GARDEN

The Belvedere 21 courtyard showcases various pieces by internationally acclaimed artists. From the outset, the sculpture in the outside space was an integrated part of the building's overall architectural concept. On five concrete plinths, which Heimo Zobernig created in 2013 especially for the exterior architecture of the building, a changing selection of sculptures is installed. In addition to the Zobernig plinths, the displays include further works that can be also read within the context of the museum. Thus, Lois Weinberger's work *Wild Cube* consciously plays with the demand for a pure exhibition space, which must first be infused with meaning. All of the works pose the question whether a sculpture can be interpreted through its form alone and in this sense provoke a new view of art.

BLICKLE KINO

Blickle Kino at the Belvedere 21 is today Vienna's only intact cinema from the 1950s. The generous support of Ursula Blickle enabled the renovation of the cinema in 2012, which was also originally designed as part of the 1958 World Expo Pavilion in Brussels. The Blickle Kino now meets all of today's cinematic standards and is organized into diverse programming series, for instance the Blickle Archive Series. The pivotal role is to promote public discussion between film and cinema as well as art and science. The Ursula Blickle Foundation and the Blickle Kino pursue the goal of placing contemporary films and videos in the context of both the history of film and of art, demonstrating correlations and showing the latest trends. The programme initiates debates about the history and future of motion pictures in the context of image and media culture in the twenty-first century. Filmmakers and curators are invited to present their works and put them up for discussions.

ARTOTHEK DES BUNDES

The Artothek des Bundes collects, administers and cares for artworks acquired by the Austrian state since 1948 in order to promote art. It thus provides a thorough documentation of modern and contemporary Austrian art. There are currently (as of June 2019) over 37,000 works in the collection, including many early works by now-established artists, as well as very recent positions. The collection is being constantly expanded and updated with artworks acquired by the ministry. Objects of the Artothek are made available for the furnishing of federal offices at home and abroad. Selected works are presented to the public at exhibitions or are on permanent loan to Austrian museums. In 2012, the Artothek des Bundes' collective holdings were moved to newly constructed storage rooms at the Belvedere 21, and their administration was handed over to the Belvedere. The integration of the Artothek with the Belvedere 21 helps unlock scientific and organizational synergies and forces access and presentation of the artworks.

WOTRUBA AT THE BELVEDERE 21

The works of the Austrian sculptor Fritz Wotruba (1907–1975) rank among the classics of modern sculpture. As a successful artist and teacher of several generations of sculptors including Joannis Avramidis, Alfred Hrdlicka and Roland Goeschl, Wotruba had a profound influence on sculpture in the post-war decades. The Fritz Wotruba Privatstiftung in the Belvedere 21 is conceived as a competence and research centre of the artist as well as a platform for modern sculpture and further viewpoints from the area of the figure, body, and space. As part of the ongoing work of documenting and reappraising Fritz Wotruba's work, such results will be presented in thematic exhibitions at the Belvedere 21. The Depot houses the artistic legacy of Fritz Wotruba, which comprises some 500 sculptures in stone, bronze, plaster, and clay, over 2,500 drawings, some 1,500 prints, a few oil paintings and tapestries. In the study room a wideranging documentation – including archive, depot, photographic archive and library – is available to curators, students, and other interested parties for research purposes.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Venue	Belvedere 21 Museum of Contemporary Art Arsenalstraße 1, 1030 Vienna, Austria
Opening Hours	Tuesday to Sunday 11 am to 6 pm Late Nights: Thursday and Friday until 9 pm Mondays only open on public holidays
Public Transport	Station Quartier Belvedere S-Bahn Tram D, 18 & O Bus 69A & 13A
Tickets	General Admission 8 Euro Belvedere Annual Ticket 39 Euro Reduced 6 Euro Under 18 free
Web	belvedere.at facebook.com/belvedere21 twitter.com/ belvedere21wien instagram.com/belvedere21wien