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Exhibition Program

EXHIBITIONS AT THE JEWISH MUSEUM VIENNA

PALAIS ESKELES/ DOROTHEERGASSE 11

Everyman's Jews: 100 Years Salzburg Festival

July 14, 2021 to November 21, 2021

After the pogrom in the Middle Ages and surge in anti-Semitism, a new Jewish community in Salzburg was established with the arrival of Jews at the end of the 19th century. During the interwar period, this state was torn between Catholicism and German nationalism, which demonstrates how the phenomenon of anti-Semitism without Jews was particularly unique. Under these conditions, the Salzburg Festival was founded in 1920 as a Catholic-Neo-Baroque spectacle. Many Viennese Jews promoted the revival of the idea of Austria on the stage. In addition to the expected tradition, there were also surprisingly many avant-garde artists on the program, including the dance productions of the stage architect Oscar Strnad. Even a work by Arnold Schönberg was performed in 1928. During Austrofascism, a politicization was carried out, as Austria wanted to present itself as a better German state. Arturo Toscanini, who came from Bayreuth, conducted Wagner operas, which were staged by the Jewish director Lothar Wallerstein. The "1000 mark barrier" enacted by the German Reich government was directed as an economic sanction, especially against Salzburg. The festival now increasingly attracted an international audience. In 1938, the festival was ideologically reinterpreted according to the "racial theory" of the Nazis, which meant that Jews were no longer wanted and consequently expelled. In the postwar period, only a few Jewish protagonists were working as directors and performers. Many protagonists who excelled during the Nazi period, however, were able to continue their careers. These topics are the subject of the exhibition, "Everyman's Jews: 100 Years Salzburg Festival". Max Reinhardt, Bruno Walter, and Berta Zuckerkandl are among the most famous protagonists of Jewish origin.

At the center of the exhibition are some never-before-seen objects from the estate of Max Reinhardt and various artworks that trace the rise of the festival to the present day, as well as the lives of the various individuals, their careers, and escape routes.

Curators: Sabine Fellner / Marcus G. Patka

The Viennese Rothschild. A Thriller

December 8, 2021 to June 5, 2022

The history of the Rothschilds in Vienna goes back to the arrival of Salomon von Rothschild in the capital of the Habsburg Empire in 1816. He became a close collaborator and financier of the Austrian State Chancellor Prince Klemens von Metternich. Salomon Rothschild quickly rose to be one of Austria's leading entrepreneurs. Over the years, the Rothschild name has become synonymous with unimaginable wealth. This image served both as a positive symbol for a Jewish success story and philanthropic commitment, and as a negative cliché in anti-Semitic propaganda. This depicted the Rothschilds as representatives of an international plutocracy and as the hub of a "Jewish world conspiracy."

From the beginning, the Viennese Rothschilds were ensnarled in major political, economic, and social conflicts, had to assert themselves against competitors, and were confronted with anti-Semitic stereotypes. But they repeatedly stood up for their oppressed and persecuted fellow believers as well. The Rothschilds also established numerous educational and charitable foundations for both Jewish and non-denominational institutions.

In 1938, the Gestapo arrested Louis Rothschild and held him hostage to extort the Rothschild's entire fortune. Released from custody more than a year later, he was finally able to emigrate to the USA. After the end of the Second World War, the Viennese Rothschilds had a large part of their stolen property restituted, but in order to obtain an export license for several of their artworks, they had to forcibly donate essential pieces to Austrian museums. They were basically robbed a second time. It was not until 1999 that these coerced donations were restituted. Yet the story of the Rothschilds in Austria continues: To this day, a Rothschild grandson is fighting in court for the future of his ancestors' endowment, the Nathaniel Freiherr von Rothschild Endowment for the Mentally Ill, today's Neurological Rehabilitation Center Rosenhügel.

The exhibition aims to dispel myths and prejudices, to underscore the family's achievements for the city of Vienna and the country, and to examine traces of the material and immaterial legacy of the Rothschilds in Austria.

Curators: Gabriele Kohlbauer-Fritz, Tom Juncker

EXHIBITIONS IN THE ANNEX AT DOROTHEERGASSE 11

Ouriel Morgensztern. Rendezvous in Vienna

October 20, 2021 to March 27, 2022

The photographer Ouriel Morgensztern is a citoyen du monde, a citizen of the world, who lets us travel through the gaze of his camera. Born in Paris, he grew up in a village in the south of France, before eventually finding the center of his life in Vienna almost twenty years ago after stays in New York and a kibbutz in Israel. Since then, he has accompanied the Jewish community with his camera. Twenty-five years after the exhibition by Harry Weber and nearly ten years after the one by Josef Polleross, Morgensztern's photographs in the Jewish Museum Vienna offer a current insight into the diverse Jewish community in this city. Ouriel Morgensztern also leads the viewer to other places in his life, whose shapes and colors he captures precisely and emphatically: from the rural tranquility of his southern French homeland to the splendor of the Ringstrasse in Vienna, from Tel Aviv's architectural geometry in concrete to the unpaved paths of a village in Rwanda.

Curators: Danielle Spera, Astrid Peterle

EXHIBITIONS AT THE JEWISH MUSEUM VIENNA - MUSEUM JUDENPLATZ

Yevgeny Khaldei. Photographer of liberation

May 12, 2021 to November 1, 2021

The exhibition presents works by Yevgeny Khaldei, who accompanied the Red Army as an official war reporter during the liberation of Vienna. He was experienced enough to know what photos would be regarded in Moscow as ideologically acceptable and was thus able to take the official Soviet picture the liberation of Vienna: a group of soldiers carrying machine guns with the Austrian flag fluttering in the background. The exhibition shows potent images of a decisive moment in the history of Austria.

As it advanced westward, the Red Army reached Austrian territory on March 29, 1945. The battle for Vienna ended after fierce fighting on April 13, 1945. Both sides incurred heavy losses. Even in the last hours of the war, the SS murdered Jews in Vienna. The Soviet troops were accompanied by the Jewish photographer Yevgeny Khaldei. He took exceptional photos of the street fighting, bomb ruins and, soon afterwards, the hunger and homelessness, but also the hope for a new beginning that characterized civilian life in spring 1945. Khaldei's photos feature the sights of Vienna— St. Stephen's Cathedral, the parliament building, Heldenplatz, Belvedere Palace, or the grave of Johann Strauss at the Central Cemetery—but always with Soviet soldiers in front of them. Khaldei's colleague Olga

Lander (1909–1996) arrived a few weeks later in Vienna and photographed the official events.

After World War II, Khaldei discovered that his entire family had been killed by the Nazis. His mother had been murdered in a pogrom when Khaldei was just one year old. The pictures by the Jewish photographers Yevgeny Khaldei and Olga Lander provide vivid testimony to these days of such vital significance in Austria's history.

Curator: Marcus G. Patka

Without a Home: Kindertransports from Vienna

November 10, 2021 to May 15, 2022

The arrival of the Nazis in Austria in March 1938 marked the start of the brutal exclusion and persecution of Austrian Jews. The possibilities for escape were limited, as many countries imposed strict entry restrictions. Jewish organizations therefore attempted to arrange Kindertransports to bring children and juveniles to safety. Parents made the difficult decision for the benefit of their children with the idea of following them as soon as possible, a plan that did not always succeed. The outbreak of war in September 1939 put an abrupt end to the project. Many children remained behind, and most were unable to escape deportation and extermination.

The exhibition is devoted to Viennese children who were sent abroad without their parents from winter 1938 to the start of World War II in autumn 1939. The children who escaped to countries that were later invaded by the Nazis were once again caught up in the deadly persecution and in some cases failed to survive. Great Britain, which took in the largest number of children, appeared to be a safe haven. But the arrival there also marked the end of childhood. Alone in a foreign country with the constant worry about the family left behind, the children had to come to terms on their own with difficult and uncertain situations. Some were passed from one foster family to the next, others were accommodated in homes or boarding schools, and girls were often forced to do household chores. It was exceptional for children to be placed in families specially selected for that purpose or for them to be reunited with their parents. While younger children often forgot their former language, older boys were interned for several months when war broke out. Quite a number of them later fought in the British army to free Austria.

For a long time, little attention if any was paid to the "Kinder," as they still call themselves today. Their trauma seemed less important in comparison with concentration camp survivors. Using a heterogeneous narrative, the exhibition focuses on the different ways in which these children managed. The second generation has played an important role in the current increased interest in their fate. The president of the Kindertransport Association in New York

is also the daughter of a Viennese “Kind.” Apart from the later progress of the children themselves, the exhibition also devotes space to this second generation.

Curator: Sabine Bergler

Opening hours and tickets

The Jewish Museum Vienna, Dorotheergasse 11, 1010 Vienna, is open Sunday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The second location, the Museum Judenplatz, Judenplatz 8, 1010 Vienna, is open Sunday to Thursday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (wintertime), respectively 5 p.m. (summertime).

Further information at www.jmw.at or info@jmw.at.

Queries

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