

ANNUAL PRESS CONFERENCE PROGRAMS AND OUTLOOK 2025

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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS 2025

General Director Stella Rollig: *Our program invites visitors to engage with a rich array of artistic experiences. The multifaceted exhibition program makes art tangible as a bridge between cultures and a mirror of our times. In 2025, visitors can look forward to exhibitions that showcase historical, modern, and contemporary perspectives, complemented by a vibrant program that meets the interests of various audiences and communities to encourage active participation and inclusion.*

In 2025, visitors can look forward to a diverse lineup of twenty-one exhibitions across our three venues. One of the highlights will be *The World in Colors: Slovenian Painting 1848-1918*, which will explore the dynamic artistic exchange between Vienna and Ljubljana. Joining forces with the National Gallery of Slovenia, the Belvedere will present highlights of Slovenian painting from the era of national emancipation, spanning from the revolution year of 1848 to the fall of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy in 1918. *Radical! Women Artists and Modernism 1910-1950* will create a dialogue among more than sixty women artists from over twenty countries, offering fresh perspectives on the diversity and boundary-pushing dimensions of Modernism. *Cézanne, Monet, and Renoir. French Impressionism from Museum Langmatt* will feature one of the earliest and most extensive private collections of French Impressionism in Switzerland. The exhibition *More than Character Heads* will investigate Franz Xaver Messerschmidt's role as an artist at a cultural and political turning point, highlighting his contributions as a pioneer of the so-called "long nineteenth century."

With the *Pigment & Pixel* exhibition, the Belvedere will present new perspectives on Gustav Klimt's working methods and artistic practice based on the latest technological analysis. In the *IN-SIGHT* exhibition, *Gustav Klimt. The Bride*, the focus will shift to one of his most monumental paintings.

Solo presentations at Belvedere 21 will feature a range of prominent contemporary artists, including the legendary political conceptual artist Hans Haacke, Austrian feminist and media-critical artist Maria Hahnenkamp, queer-feminist and transgender counterculture pioneer Ashley Hans Scheirl, and British artist Jonathan Monk. *Wotruba International* will honor the iconic Austrian sculptor by highlighting his international exhibition history, presenting his sculptures alongside key works by contemporaries such as Henry Moore, Alberto Giacometti, Louise Nevelson, and Isamu Noguchi. The exhibition will also delve into

key questions surrounding sculpture after 1945. Additionally, the media art festival *Civa – Contemporary Immersive Virtual Art* will return for its fifth edition, featuring a dynamic mix of discursive formats, film screenings, live performances, and an exhibition.

The exhibition program will be complemented by a wide range of publications, events, workshops, and participatory projects.

FACTS & FIGURES

We are thrilled to have welcomed more visitors than ever before in 2024, says Wolfgang Bergmann, Chief Financial Officer of the Belvedere. This increase in visitor numbers and the resulting revenue will enable us to enhance the quality of the visitor experience and provide a solid foundation for the Belvedere's expansion projects in the years ahead.

By the end of the year, around 1.5 million visitors are expected at the Upper Belvedere alone, thus surpassing the record set during the anniversary year 2023. In total, all three museums – the Upper and Lower Belvedere and Belvedere 21 – are expecting around 1.9 million visitors by the end of the year.

Italy is currently the top foreign visitor market, followed by Germany and the United States. Visitor numbers from Eastern Europe are on the rise. However, a large proportion of visitors from Asia are still absent. South Korea, for example, which was the top source market before the pandemic, is currently only in seventh place. As in Asia as a whole, there is still room for growth here.

GREEN MUSEUM

The Belvedere has been investing in its ecological transformation since 2017. As a result of these efforts, the museum was awarded the Austrian Ecolabel in 2021, while the Lower Belvedere received the Austrian Museum Seal of Quality in 2022. Current measures are focused on the Belvedere 21, where the conversion to LED lighting has been completed, and the installation of a photovoltaic system on the roof of the building is expected to be finalized by the end of 2024. Additionally, preparations are underway to connect the building to the district cooling system.

VISITOR CENTER

In October 2023, the Belvedere launched an international architectural competition to design a new visitor center that would accommodate the growing number of visitors to the historic Baroque palace. In March 2024, Graz-based architects epps Ploder Simon ZT GmbH won the competition surpassing 81 other entrants. Their design for the new visitor center seeks to be "invisible," blending seamlessly into the landscape as a critical milestone in the sustainable development of the Baroque landmark and the museum's future. The winning proposal envisions a pathway starting at the entrance at the Kavalierstrakt on Prinz-Eugen-Straße, extending over three levels to the visitor center located beneath the park, with a direct connection to the palace. After the detailed planning phase, construction is set to begin in the spring of 2027, with completion expected 18 months later.

BELVEDERE SALZBURG

The groundbreaking ceremony on November 12, 2024, marked the beginning of the Belvedere branch in Salzburg. The Neue Residenz, already home to the Salzburg Museum, will be transformed into a vibrant cultural hub and the future site of the "Belvedere Salzburg." The Renaissance palace, renowned for its spacious courtyards, will be redesigned based on plans by Schenker Salvi Weber Architekten of Vienna and EIDOS Architektur. The Salzburg Museum and the Belvedere Salzburg will operate under one roof, each with its own collections, profile, and research focus.

Press materials and photos for download can be accessed in the online [press section of the Salzburg Museum](#).

EDUCATION, MEDIATION, INCLUSION

ACCESSIBLE PROGRAMS FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

In 2025, the Belvedere will continue its *Free Friday Nights* (held 10 times a year) at the Upper Belvedere, specifically tailored to the local Viennese community, along with Open House events and the Winter and Summer Festivals at Belvedere 21 (held 4 times a year). All these events offer free admission and will feature a diverse range of activities, including art mediation programs, concerts, performances, screenings, lectures, and family workshops.

AUDIOTOURS AVAILABLE ON SMARTPHONES

Audio tours of the Belvedere's collections and history are now available in twelve languages. Tours in Austrian Sign Language and International Sign are offered free of charge to visitors who are deaf or hard of hearing. The selection of themed audio tours continually expands to provide new perspectives on the Belvedere's collection. Notable examples include the tour *Turning the Page. Representations of Blackness* by historian Tayla Myree, which focuses on representations of Black people in art, and *Museum without Men*, which highlights women artists in the Belvedere's collection in collaboration with British art historian Katy Hessel.

<https://app.smartify.org/tours/ogs-tour>

<https://app.smartify.org/tours/turning-the-page-representations-of-blackness>

COMMUNITY OUTREACH, PUBLIC PROGRAM

The *Community Outreach Program* engages diverse groups and communities in the Belvedere 21 neighborhood and beyond, actively involving them in collaborative initiatives and projects centered around specific themes. These projects often extend beyond the museum's walls and take place in public spaces. Launched in 2018, the *Public Program* focuses on contemporary issues and challenges and explores artistic and activist strategies to address them. With free admission to the public, the program includes discussions, film screenings, lectures, performances, readings, concerts, and walks. In preparation for the exhibition *Feminist Futures Forever* (2026), the Blickle Kino and

the *Public Program* series will focus on feminist film and art history throughout the year. Highlights will include a film and video program curated by Heidi Grundmann, which will revisit the historical exhibition *Kunst mit Eigen-Sinn* (1985), as well as a collaboration with the Diagonale – Festival of Austrian Film. During Pride Month in June, the Belvedere will once again be explored through a "queer" lens.

BLICKLE KINO

The Blickle Kino maintains close partnerships with both local and international filmmakers, artists, curators, and film festivals. It places a special emphasis on artistic Austrian (experimental) cinema, viewing it within the broader context of international art history. The *Moving Collection* presents the latest additions to the Belvedere's moving image collection, while the popular film series *Film and _* (in collaboration with sixpackfilm) examines the connections between film, photography, and sculpture. In partnership with the School Friedl Kubelka for Independent Film, renowned filmmakers will be invited to discuss their work with cinema audiences. A series of collaborations, including the research project Early Video Art in Europe (in partnership with ZKM Karlsruhe), videoart.ch, the University of Applied Arts Vienna, and an artist-research project at the Ursula Blickle Video Archive, explore the evolution of video art since the late 1960s.

THE FANTASTIC PALASTICS AUGMENTED REALITY GAME

The Fantastic Palastics connects the rich history of the World Heritage Site with modern technology and plenty of fun. This smartphone adventure game takes children and their families on a full tour of the Upper Belvedere: where might the creatures that called this place home in Prince Eugene's time be hiding? In 2025, a sequel to the game will once again send families on a mission through the Upper Belvedere, enhancing their engagement with the original works of art through interactive digital experiences.

belvedere.at/game

ONLINE COLLECTION

Currently, over 5,600 works are available for download on the website as part of the Open Content program. This service is free, with downloads provided in print-quality resolution. The Online Collection comprises more than 13,200 works in total. Additionally, information

from the collection can be tailored for specific audiences through the Smartify app. The *Curator's Choice* format, which is continuously expanding, offers a comprehensive scholarly examination of the collection through comparative media essays, exhibition listings, and bibliographies. In a format similar to that of *Curator's Choice*, there are plans to provide detailed indexing of the 24 works by Gustav Klimt in the collection. The implementation of a complete English version of the online collection will continue with an update to eMuseum 6.5, and accessibility will be further enhanced. In 2025, even more works will be made available online and equipped with screen reader texts.

sammlung.belvedere.at

sammlung.belvedere.at/collections/437017/curators-choice/objects

EXHIBITION HISTORY ONLINE

At the end of 2023, the Belvedere became the first federal museum to present its exhibition history online. To date, a total of 685 temporary exhibitions commencing from 1924 have been entered into the TMS collection database and linked to collection holdings, historical catalogues, exhibition views, and a selection of 100 exhibitions, each accompanied by short descriptive texts. Historical exhibitions are brought back to life through sources such as photographic records, exhibition catalogues, and works from the collection. The chronology is continually updated, with early exhibitions being enhanced by incorporating archival materials. The forthcoming phase will involve documenting presentations related to the permanent collection since 1903.

sammlung.belvedere.at/exhibitions

EXPANDING THE ONLINE COLLECTION IN 3D AND ENHANCING THE DIGITAL ARCHIVE

As of the fall of 2024, we have successfully secured funding from the Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sports (BMKÖS) as part of the "Kulturerbe Digital" initiative to facilitate the creation of 3D digitization. This pilot project will run for 20 months, during which at least 30 objects from the collection will be documented using photogrammetry techniques. The first 3D models are expected to be completed by 2025 and made available to the public through the Online Collection by the project's conclusion in 2026. The selection will cover all areas of the collection, various materials, and

dimensions to ensure the best possible empirical data. In addition, this funding will enable us to digitize a portion of Fritz Wotruba's written legacy, which will be made available through the Goobi archival software. The selected archival materials will include portions of the artist's correspondence, as well as personal texts and documents. This initiative aims to expand the digitization process beyond the original scope outlined.

CATALOGUES RAISONNÉS

In 2024, we launched two online catalogues raisonnés: one for *Georg Eisler* and another for *Friedrich von Amerling*. These catalogues are now also available in print format. This year's update includes a detailed online project presentation and a new feature that allows users to view the updated history of each work entry in a tabular format. In addition, we have added Digital Object Identifiers (DOI) to make these catalogues easily identifiable and enhance their citation potential.

werkverzeichnisse.belvedere.at/groups/online

RESEARCH

THE ART MUSEUM IN THE DIGITAL AGE

International Online Conference, January 20 to 24, 2025

The Belvedere Research Center continues its successful conference series on the digital transformation of art museums. The seventh edition emphasizes the ethical and societal implications of digital transformation within art and cultural heritage institutions, with a thematic focus on digital humanism. Julian Nida-Rümelin, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy and Political Theory at Ludwig Maximilians University Munich, has been selected as the keynote speaker.

belvedere.at/digitalmuseum2025

BELVEDERE SUMMER SCHOOL

Following the success of the Summer Institute sponsored by the Getty Foundation in Los Angeles in September 2023, the Belvedere Research Center, in cooperation with the University of Leicester, the University for Continuing Education Krems, and Ars Electronica Linz, organized the second Belvedere Summer School in September 2024. This year's topic was "Collection Institutions in a Digital World: Strategies – Methods – Tools." The event was sponsored by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport (BMKÖS). The week-long training program for staff of art and cultural institutions received an enthusiastic response, and plans are in place to continue the format in the fall of 2025.

digitalmuseum.at

belvedere.at/summer-school-2024

ART EXPERIENCE IN THE (POST-)DIGITAL AGE

{ORIGINAL | DIGITAL | VIRTUAL}

From 2024 to 2027, the Belvedere, in cooperation with the University for Continuing Education Krems, will investigate the impact of digital technologies on the aesthetic experience of viewers. The research project employs a mixed-methods approach to explore the complex relationship between engagement and visual media—specifically examining

whether there are differences in the reception of analog images, digital surrogates, and virtual reality. The initial empirical studies with visitors were conducted at the Upper Belvedere in the fall of 2024. The project is funded by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) with a grant of 373,416.75 Euros.

donau-uni.ac.at/en/university/faculties/education-arts-architecture/departments/arts-cultural-studies/centers/cultures-and-technologies-of-collecting/research/ordiv.html

belvedere.at/art-experience-post-digital-age-original-digital-virtual

THE MUSEUM GAZE

The Belvedere is a project partner in the externally funded FWF (Austrian Science Fund) research project *The Museum Gaze* (2022-26). By combining the expertise of the Laboratory for Cognitive Research in Art History at the University of Vienna, the Human-Centered Technologies for Learning group at the Technical University of Munich, and the curatorial team at the Belvedere, the project will examine the exhibition as a medium and its appropriation by visitors. The focus is on investigating the relational gaze (viewing behavior between individual works of art, textual information, and other objects of interest) and the medium-specific gaze (looking at sculptures vs. paintings), as well as developing new open-source solutions for automatic data annotation and 3D mapping.

crea.univie.ac.at/projects/the-museum-gaze

belvedere.at/entdecken/projekte/museum-gaze

BELVEDERE RESEARCH JOURNAL

The first articles in the *Belvedere Research Journal* were published in 2023. Following the successful launch, six more articles and discoveries are set to be published by the end of 2024, further enhancing the journal's visibility and reputation through regular, high-quality publication activity. The English-language, open-access e-journal on Central European art history (from the Middle Ages to the present) aims to disseminate new research findings and contribute to the dissolution of language barriers and traditional national narratives. An independent, double-anonymous peer review process and collaboration with the Heidelberg University Library guarantee the highest academic standards.

journals.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/index.php/brj

GENERAL INFORMATION

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

High-resolution images for press use can be downloaded free of charge at <https://www.belvedere.at/en/press>.

APPENDICE

EXHIBITION PROGRAM 2025

UPPER BELVEDERE

[PICTURE THIS! The Belvedere Collection from Cranach to Lassnig](#)

Permanent exhibition

How does an epoch shape its art? How do artists respond to upheavals and crises while being an integral part of social developments? This presentation goes beyond the traditional art historical focus on style and emphasizes the dynamic relationship between art and society. Through selected self-portraits, the tour guides visitors through the Belvedere's world-renowned collection, spanning 800 years of art history from the Middle Ages to the 1970s.

[CARLONE CONTEMPORARY: Ugo Rondinone. arched landscape](#)

until March 16, 2025

With his poetic and conceptual works, Swiss artist Ugo Rondinone constructs meditative visual realms that immediately engage the observer. His minimalist sculpture *arched landscape*, made of soil, responds directly to the ceiling fresco in Carlone Hall, functioning as sculpture, architectural form, and reference to art history.

[CARLONE CONTEMPORARY: Sarah Ortmeyer. DIABOLUS \(PROTECTOR\)](#)

March 27 – October 19, 2025

Raw and wild in form, yet recognizable as devils, Sarah Ortmeyer's *DIABOLUS (PROTECTOR)* sculptures take over Carlone Hall and the Belvedere. In the midst of the expansive collection, these unique protective devils transform into timeless, global shadows that defy the ordinary.

[IN-SIGHT: Gustav Klimt. The Bride](#)

May 15 – October 5, 2025

In 1917, the final year of his career, Gustav Klimt began work on one of his largest paintings, the allegorical *The Bride*. His unexpected and untimely death in February 1918 prevented him from completing the work. As part of the exhibition preparations, the painting underwent a thorough technical analysis, including an X-ray examination, the results of which will also be presented.

LOWER BELVEDERE

[Amoako Boafo. Proper Love](#)

until January 12, 2025

This is the first museum exhibition in Europe of the work of Ghanaian painter Amoako Boafo. As one of the most influential voices from a new generation of Black artists, Boafo portrays his friends, acquaintances, and people from public life, presenting a contemporary image of Black self-empowerment and self-perception.

[Akseli Gallen-Kallela. Picturing Finland](#)

until February 2, 2025

In the early 1900s, Akseli Gallen-Kallela was Finland's most renowned progressive artist and an international star. In collaboration with the Ateneum Art Museum: Finnish National Gallery in Helsinki, the Belvedere presents the first monographic exhibition of his work in Austria. The exhibition traces Gallen-Kallela's artistic exploration of the people, myths, and nature of his homeland.

[The World in Colors. Slovenian Painting 1848–1918](#)

January 30 – May 25, 2025

In collaboration with the National Gallery of Slovenia, the Belvedere presents highlights of Slovenian painting from the era of national emancipation, spanning from the revolutionary year of 1848 to the collapse of the Danube Monarchy in 1918. The exhibition focuses on a

central characteristic of local artistic approaches during this period: the intense preoccupation with color.

[Gustav Klimt. Pigment & Pixel](#)

February 20 – September 7, 2025

Recent technological analysis offers new insights into Gustav Klimt's working methods and artistic practice. Peering beneath the layers of paint reveals the creative process behind his works. Occasionally, this exploration has revealed surprising differences between the preliminary drawing and the final work.

[Radical! Woman Artists and Modernism 1910–1950](#)

June 18 – October 12, 2025

Radical! creates a dialogue among more than seventy women artists from over twenty countries, offering fresh perspectives on the diversity and boundary-pushing dimensions of Modernism. The exhibition includes works by Gertrud Arndt, Benedetta, Romaine Brooks, Alexandra Exter, Hannah Höch, Erika Giovanna Klien, Katarzyna Kobro, Käthe Kollwitz, Lotte Laserstein, Tamara de Lempicka, Alice Lex-Nerlinger, Alice Neel, Gazbia Sirry, Sophie Taeuber-Arp, Charley Toorop, Fahrelnissa Zeid, and many more artists. *The exhibition is a joint project with the Museum Arnhem and the Saarlandmuseum – Moderne Galerie, Saarbrücken.*

[Cézanne, Monet, and Renoir. French Impressionism from Museum Langmatt](#)

September 25, 2025 – February 8, 2026

With the exhibition of selected works from the Villa Langmatt Collection, the Belvedere introduces one of the earliest and most extensive private collections of French Impressionism in Switzerland. With works by Paul Gauguin, Claude Monet, Paul Cézanne, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, and Camille Corot.

[Franz Xaver Messerschmidt. More than Character Heads](#)

October 31, 2025 – March 8, 2026

At the center of Franz Xaver Messerschmidt's (1736–83) oeuvre are the so-called "Character Heads," which, despite their fame, remain a mystery to this day. The psychopathological

interpretations that have prevailed since the twentieth century, however, has significantly limited the perspective on these works. The exhibition will explore Messerschmidt's role as an artist at a cultural and political turning point and his foundational contributions to what is known as the "long nineteenth century."

BELVEDERE 21

[Civa – Contemporary Immersive Virtual Art. coded manoeuvres_sticky webs](#)
until February 2, 2025

The exhibition *coded manoeuvres_sticky webs* will be on view until February 2, 2025. It serves as the centerpiece of the Civa media art festival, which took place in October 2024 and includes works by Filipa César & Louis Henderson, CROSSLUCID, Evan Ifekoya, Martina Menegon, Philipp Muerling, Brooklyn J. Pakathi, Dagmar Schürer, and Ziyang Wu & Mark H. Ramos.

[Monster Chetwynd. Moths, Bats and Velvet Worms! Moths, Bats and Heretics!](#)
until February 9, 2025

Moths, bats, and worms are taking over Belvedere 21, throwing open the doors to heretics and witches: Monster Chetwynd's first solo museum exhibition in Austria interweaves art, (hi)stories, theory, craft, and community to create an expansive work, developed especially for the museum. The exhibition is activated and animated by performances on two occasions throughout its run.

[Kazuko Miyamoto](#)
until March 2, 2025

With her ephemeral, sometimes radical works, Kazuko Miyamoto expands the boundaries of Minimal Art and defies simple categorizations. The most comprehensive international retrospective to date highlights Miyamoto's role in bridging the Japanese and Western art worlds, as well as her activism and contributions as a feminist. *The exhibition was conceived by MADRE – museo d'arte contemporanea Donnaregina, Naples.*

[Hans Haacke](#)

March 1 – June 9, 2025

As a founding figure of artistic institutional critique, Haacke has redefined the relationship between art and society and influenced subsequent generations of artists. In his highly topical work, the German-American artist insists on the social relevance of art and its transformative potential. *The comprehensive retrospective is being held in cooperation with the Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt.*

[Maria Hahnenkamp](#)

March 21 – August 31, 2025

Maria Hahnenkamp has been working with, through, about, and against the medium of photography and its specific dispositives since the late 1980s. In the spring of 2025, the Belvedere 21 will present the first major institutional solo exhibition dedicated to this feminist and media-critical artist. The exhibition's central themes are void, space, craftsmanship, and ornamentation.

[Jonathan Monk](#)

May 23 – September 21, 2025

British artist Jonathan Monk (b.1969) frequently replays, manipulates, and re-examines seminal works of Conceptual and Minimal Art. The exhibition opens with a photo wallpaper wall highlighting the artist's past exhibitions at various institutional venues. The wallpapers, conceived as an evolving archive, not only serve as a visual record of Monk's exhibition history but also function as a platform for presenting his most recent works.

[Wotruba international](#)

July 17, 2025 – January 11, 2026

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of Fritz Wotruba's death (1907–1975), the Belvedere 21 will present a comprehensive exhibition dedicated to this seminal Austrian sculptor. While Wotruba's work has previously been explored either monographically or in terms of his influence on later generations, this exhibition will focus on his international exhibition history and network and the broader reception of his sculptures.

[Ashley Hans Scheirl](#)

September 19, 2025 – January 18, 2026

Since the late 1970s, Ashley Hans Scheirl has developed a remarkably diverse body of work. Known for films primarily shot on Super8, Scheirl is a pioneering figure in queer-feminist and transgender countercultures. The extensive retrospective at Belvedere 21 spans from the 1970s to the present, featuring new works created specifically for this exhibition.

[Civa – Contemporary Immersive Virtual Art](#)

October 2, 2025 – February 25, 2026

The Civa media art festival explores the interplay between emerging technologies, realities, and experiences across digital, physical, and hybrid spaces. In 2025, entering its fifth year, the festival will once again feature an exhibition at the Belvedere 21, alongside a range of discursive formats, film screenings, and live performances. *Since 2024, Civa has been organized by the Belvedere 21 and developed in cooperation with sound:frame.*

The press release and high-resolution images for press use can be downloaded free of charge at <https://www.belvedere.at/en/press>.