

THE CHALLENGE OF MODERNISM

Vienna and Zagreb around 1900

Orangery in the Lower Belvedere
20 October 2017 to 18 February 2018



Robert Auer, Portrait of Painter's Wife with a Muff (Leopoldine Auer Schmidt), 1902
Oil on canvas
© Private collection, Zagreb

THE CHALLENGE OF MODERNISM Vienna and Zagreb around 1900

Orangery / Lower Belvedere
20 October 2017 to 18 February 2018

Around 1900, a lively dialogue emerged in Central European art, made possible by a general modernization. This dialogue occurred between Vienna, as the capital of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and the other national centres, including Zagreb. At the end of the nineteenth century, Croatia had already established close cultural ties with Vienna, and the ensuing exchange between Zagreb's artists and the Vienna Secession had a profound influence on *fin-de-siècle* Croatian art. The exhibition at the Orangery of the Lower Belvedere is a joint project organized by the Belvedere and the Galerija Klovićevi dvori, Zagreb, and traces this exchange in works by artists from both countries.

Stella Rollig, CEO of the Belvedere: *“For decades, numerous research projects have been dedicated to Viennese modernism. Nonetheless, it is still always fascinating to witness the many places where its influence can be felt. The exhibition Vienna–Zagreb demonstrates the importance of the Vienna Secession's protagonists as teachers and art educators. It also sheds light on an extremely fertile period in Croatian art history, which is less well known internationally, and is our focus here in Vienna.”*

At the turn of the nineteenth to the twentieth century, Croatia's cultural profile changed dramatically within the space of only twenty years. While Zagreb was more closely aligned with Budapest in politics, its cultural ties to Vienna were stronger and ran deeper. Vienna around 1900 was a vibrant metropolis and a magnet for artists and intellectuals throughout the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The Vienna Secession was a guiding light for many Croatian artists. Gustav Klimt, Koloman Moser, Carl Moll, and Josef Hoffmann had a profound influence on the young generation of Croatian artists and architects.

The exhibition traces the interactions between the Austro-Hungarian cities during this period based on the example of Vienna and Zagreb. At the end of the nineteenth century, Croatia still did not have an art academy. Consequently, many artists came to train at the School of Applied Arts or Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna. Here they encountered and were deeply influenced by the new Secession movement. Furthermore, artists who were already established in their homeland came to Vienna in order to make their name in the capital.

“Almost all Croatian painters, sculptors, and architects from the modernist era were trained at the School of Applied Arts and the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna where they were mentored by

acclaimed Austrian artists and architects. They were very familiar with the current events in Vienna and the foundation of the Secession,” said Irena Kraševac, curator of the exhibition.

Croatian artist Vlaho Bukovac, for instance, participated in the Secession’s first exhibition in 1897. Ivan Meštrović was a member of the Secession and worked with artists from the Hagenbund. Artur Oskar Alexander, Tomislav Krizman, Emanuel Vidović, and others, also exhibited regularly with this association. Only a few months after the foundation of the *Vereinigung bildender Künstler – Secession Wien*, Croatian artists initiated their own “secession” and established the Croatian Salon.

In Croatian architecture, Vjekoslav Bastl and Viktor Kovačić stand out, both students of Otto Wagner, as well as Aladar Baranyai, who was profoundly influenced by Josef Hoffmann. Applied art also flourished in *fin-de-siècle* Zagreb thanks to the activities of the School of Applied Arts, modelled on the renowned Kunstgewerbeschule in Vienna. And it was certainly no coincidence that at the 1911 World’s Fair in Rome, the highest awards went to the Austrian Gustav Klimt for painting and to the Croat Ivan Meštrović for sculpture.

The exhibition is divided into sections on *painting*, focusing on the group of *Zagreb Secessionists* around Vlaho Bukovac, *sculpture* with a selection of works by Ivan Meštrović, and *architecture*, highlighting the influence of Josef Hoffmann and Otto Wagner. A special emphasis will be given to women artists, some of whom studied at the School of Applied Arts and the Art School for Women and Girls. Works by seven Austrian and Croatian artists demonstrate the artistic possibilities available to women and the spectrum of art created by these successful women artists during this period.

The exhibition is a joint project organized by Galerija Klovićevi Dvori, Zagreb, and the Belvedere, Vienna

The show was first staged by the Galerija Klovićevi dvori in Zagreb from 9 February to 7 May 2017 and has been adapted for this presentation in Vienna.

Curators: Petra Vugrinec, Galerija Klovićevi dvori, Zagreb; Irena Kraševac, Institute of Art History, Zagreb

Organization: Stella Rollig, Director, Belvedere, Vienna; Antonio Picukarić, Director, Galerija Klovićevi dvori, Zagreb

The exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue.

Please contact us, if you want us to send a PDF of the exhibition catalogue: presse@belvedere.a

#WienZagreb

Complimentary images can be downloaded for press purposes at www.belvedere.at/press.

ARTISTS in the exhibition

Croatian Artists

Alexander, Artur Oskar	Kljaković, Jozo
Auer, Robert	Kovačević, Ferdo
Auer Schmidt, Leopoldine	Krizman, Tomislav
Baranyai, Aladar Vladimir	Kovačić, Viktor
Bastl, Vjekoslav	Krasnik, Antonija
Benedik, Slavko	Medović, Mato Celestin
Bukovac, Vlaho /Blaise Biagio Faggioni	Melkus, Dragan
Crnčić, Menci Clement	Meštrović, Ivan
Csikos Sesia, Adalbert (Bela)	Rački, Mirko
Ehrlich, Hugo	Raškaj, Slava
Fischer, Ignjat	Rojc, Nasta
Frangeš Mihanović, Robert	Tišov, Ivan
Iveković, Oton	Valdec, Rudolf
Kalda, Lav	Vidović, Emanuel
Kerdić, Ivan (Ivo)	

Austrian Artists

Gustav Klimt	Tina Blau
Koloman Moser	Olga Wiesinger-Florian
Carl Moll	Karl Mediz
Josef Hoffmann	Eduard Veith
Rudolf Bacher	Johanna Meier-Michel
Josef Engelhart	Michael Powolny
Max Kurzweil	Franz Schleiss (Zuschreibung)
Franz von Matsch	

GENERAL INFORMATION

Exhibition title	The Challenge of Modernism. Vienna and Zagreb around 1900
Exhibition duration	20 October 2017 to 4 February 2018
Venue	Orangery in the Lower Belvedere
Exhibits	132
Curators	Petra Vugrinec, Galerija Klovičevi dvori, Zagreb; Irena Kraševac, Institut für Kunstgeschichte, Zagreb
Organization	Stella Rollig, Direktorin, Belvedere, Wien Antonio Picukarić, Direktor, Galerija Klovičevi dvori, Zagreb
Curator Assistance Vienna	Ana Petrovic
Catalogue	<i>The Challenge of Modernism. Vienna and Zagreb around 1900</i> Editors: Stella Rollig, Irena Kraševac, Petra Vugrinec Authors: Darija Alujević, Marina Bagarić, Irena Kraševac, Stella Rollig, Petra Vugrinec 240 p; 23 x 28,5 cm, Softcover with flaps ISBN 978-3-903114-45-6 (Museum edition german) € 34,-
Contact	Belvedere, Prinz Eugen-Straße 27, 1030 Vienna T +43 1 795 57-0 www.belvedere.at
Guided Tours	Belvedere Kunstvermittlung T + 43 1 795 57-134 M public@belvedere.at
Opening hours	daily 10am to 6pm Friday until 9pm
Regular Entry	€ 13,- (Lower Belvedere)
Press Contact	Presse Belvedere Prinz Eugen-Straße 27, 1030 Vienna T +43 1 795 57-177 M press@belvedere.at

Complimentary images can be downloaded for press purposes at www.belvedere.at/press

#WienZagreb