

Projects

Macht und Tradition

The Lentos


The Lentos Kunstmuseum Linz, which was opened in 2003, is an Austrian museum of modern and contemporary art. Designed by the Zurich architects Weber & Hofer, this “glass ship on the Danube” has functioned as an outstanding landmark in Upper Austria’s capital over the last two decades.

With its splendid collection of world-famous paintings, graphics and photographs, the Lentos traces a sweeping arc from works by classical modernist artists, such as Helene Funke, Gustav Klimt, Oskar Kokoschka and Egon Schiele, to contemporary artists of the 20th and 21st centuries, such as VALIE EXPORT, Haus-Rucker-Co, Maria Lassnig and Andy Warhol. The greatest additions to the core of the collection, which goes back to Berlin art dealer Wolfgang Gurlitt, include the VALIE EXPORT Archiv, which has been at the focus of dedicated research since 2017 at the VALIE EXPORT Center Linz, and the Archiv Günter Zamp Kelp, which will be presented to the public in a premiere in the exhibition Haus-Rucker-Co. Breathing Zones later this year from 6 October.

In addition to the all-year-round presentation of the collection, special exhibitions give an insight into a wide range of subjects and epochs of art history or put the focus on the oeuvre of individual artists.

Lentos & Kulturhauptstadt 2024 [Lentos and the European Capital of Culture] – Linz, Lauffen, Bad Aussee

Within the overall framework of the programme line “Macht und Tradition“ [Power and Tradition], the Lentos Kunstmuseum Linz contributes three exhibitions in a project entitled “Reise der Bilder“ [Uprooted Pictures] to the European Capital of Culture 2024. Of these, *Reise der Bilder. Hitlers Kulturpolitik, Kunsthandel, Einlagerungen und Bergungen in der NS-Zeit im Salzkammergut* [Uprooted Pictures. Hitler’s Cultural Policies, the Art Trade, Storages and Retrievals in the Nazi Era] at Linz’s Lentos is the Capital of Culture’s flagship event in the capital of Upper Austria and invites visitors to stop over on their way to or from the Capital of Culture. Furthermore, the Lentos will be present in the Salzkammergut in a collaborative venture with the Kammerhofmuseum in Bad Aussee, the exhibition *Wolfgang Gurlitt. Kunsthändler und Profiteur in Bad Aussee* [Wolfgang Gurlitt. Art dealer and profiteer in Bad Aussee], and in an exhibition at the revitalised former Markttrichterhaus [Market Reeve’s House] in Lauffen, entitled *Das Leben der Dinge. Geraubt – verschleppt – gerettet* [The Life of Things. Looted – displaced – salvaged].

Lentos 
Kunstmuseum
Linz

Raiffeisenlandesbank
Oberösterreich 

 UNIQA

→ The Journey of the Pictures



Antonius van Dyck, Jupiter as Satyr at Antiope, c. 1620
Photo: © Rheinisches Bildarchiv Köln

→ The Life of Things. Looted – “Displaced” – Salvaged



Said Baalbaki
The arm, 2011
Photo: Eric Chernov

→ Wolfgang Gurlitt. Art dealer and profiteer in Bad Aussee



Wolfgang Gurlitt in Bad Aussee, around 1945
Family archive, photo: private property

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THE JOURNEY OF THE PICTURES

Hitler's cultural policies and the art trade; the storage and safe-keeping of art works in the Salzkammergut during the Nazi era

During World War II, the Salzkammergut was unrivalled among Austria's regions as a transshipment point and a safe haven for outstanding works of art of European art history.

For the "Führermuseum" Hitler was planning for Linz, he used the Aussee salt mines as holding areas for works of art. Nor was he alone. Leading Austrian museums were also availing themselves provisionally of mines, churches, and even pubs in St. Agatha, Bad Aussee, Altaussee, and in Bad Ischl/Lauffen as temporary places of storage and safekeeping.

The exhibition sets off in an exemplary manner in search of works of art, which were hoarded, stored, looted, aryanized, forcibly sold, shifted to the black market, auctioned off or salvaged in the Salzkammergut in World War II. The paths these works of art struck out into the wide world were the consequence of their "uprooting". The exhibition features masterpieces by such artists as Arnold Böcklin, Lovis Corinth, Francisco José de Goya, Francesco Guardi, Oskar Kokoschka, Franz von Lenbach, Hans Makart, Edvard Munch, Moritz von Schwind, Max Pechstein, Giovanni Battista Tiepolo, Tiziano and Ferdinand Georg Waldmüller.

The contemporary installation *Ruinenwert* [The Value of Ruins] (2019) by German artist

Henrike Naumann expands the exhibition architecture designed by the artist-and-architect duo Nicole Six and Paul Petritsch.

The exhibition *Reise der Bilder* functions as an important cross-border project focusing on Austria (Linz / Salzkammergut) – Italy – Germany – Netherlands – France.

Venue: Lentos Kunstmuseum Linz

Duration: 20 March – 8 September 2023

Curators:

Elisabeth Nowak-Thaller (Head of Project Uprooted Pictures, Vice Director Lentos), Birgit Schwarz (expert in the Nazis' art policies, guest curator)



Storage at the Altaussee salt mine, 1943/44

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THE LIFE OF THINGS

Looted – “Displaced” – Salvaged

Showcasing contemporary works of art, the exhibition *Das Leben der Dinge* focuses on the fate of works of art and artefacts between looting, displacement, restitution, and reconstruction. Approaches informing the show range from the discussion of colonial looting and questionable collecting activities to state sanctioned theft and expropriation and cultural genocide through looting and the destruction of cultural objects. The exhibition's focus is deliberately directed at the objects' immaterial value and the memories and (hi)stories that have inscribed themselves upon them. As the creators of objects, artists are essentially linked to these objects and their networks of meaning and are uniquely sensitized to their (mis)representation. This is why art institutions are indebted to artists for imparting impulses to new strategies that enable them to deal responsibly with issues of restitution and the preservation of humanity's cultural heritage. With Said Baalbaki, Hera Büyüktaşçıyan, CATPC / Renzo Martens, Ines Doujak, Assaf Hinden, Moussa Kone, Oliver Laric, Markus Proschek, Anja Ronacher, Dierk Schmidt, Philip Topolovac, and others.

Venue: former Markt-
richterhaus Lauffen

Duration: 20 April –
1 September 2024

Curators:

Hemma Schmutz (Director Lentos
Kunstmuseum Linz), Markus Proschek
(Guest curator)



Oliver Laric, *Sleeping Figure*, 2023
Photo: Cédric Eymenier

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WOLFGANG GURLITT

Art dealer and profiteer in Bad Aussee

Das Leben und Wirken des von 1940 bis zu seinem Tod 1965 in Bad Aussee, später auch in München ansässigen Kunsthändlers Wolfgang Gurlitt (1888–1965) und die Anfänge des Lentos Kunstmuseum Linz sind eng miteinander verwoben: Das Linzer Museum verwaltet mit der ehemals in Bad Aussee eingelagerten Sammlung Gurlitt ein ebenso glanzvolles wie problematisches Erbe.

Facettenreich beleuchtet die Ausstellung das bewegte Leben des leidenschaftlichen Sammlers und schillernden Kunsthändlers Wolfgang Gurlitt und seiner jüdischen Partnerin Lilly Christiansen Agoston (1894–1951), die während der Zeit des Nationalsozialismus in den Handel mit beschlagnahmter Kunst involviert waren.

Die Ausstellung im Kammerhofmuseum Bad Aussee ist eine Kooperation mit dem Lentos Kunstmuseum Linz.

Venue: Kammerhofmuseum,
Bad Aussee

Duration: 28 March –
27 October 2024

Curator:

Elisabeth Nowak-Thaller



Lovis Corinth, Portrait of Wolfgang Gurlitt, 1917
Lentos Kunstmuseum Linz
Photo: Norbert Artner

Biographies

Curators Lentos

Dr.in Elisabeth Nowak-Thaller

Studied art history and journalism at the University of Salzburg. PhD thesis on Klemens Brosch (1894–1926).

Since 1986 exhibition curator and organiser, art mediator, Director of the Collection (Dept. Paintings & Sculptures) and Vice Director of the Neue Galerie der Stadt Linz / Lentos Kunstmuseum Linz. 2015–2016 Acquisitions curator of the City of Linz. Curator of more than 50 exhibitions in the Museen der Stadt Linz (Lentos Kunstmuseum Linz and Nordico Stadtmuseum Linz), guest curator at the Belvedere, Vienna, and curator / organiser of international exhibition tours and of collaborative exhibitions both in and outside of Austria.

Author of monographs and catalogues on 20th-century art.

2021 OÖ. Landeskulturpreis für Kunst- und Geisteswissenschaften [Upper Austrian Culture Award for the Arts and Humanities].

Mag.a Hemma Schmutz

Studied art history and German at the University of Vienna. Between 1994 and 1996 she was the director of Depot – Kunst und Diskussion im Wiener Museumsquartier. From 1998 up until 2005 she was a research associate at the Generali Foundation in Vienna and co-curator of numerous exhibitions. From 2005 up until 2013 she was the director of the Salzburger Kunstverein. Between 2015 and 2017 she was the curator of the Kunstraum Lakeside in Klagenfurt. Since 2017 she has been the Artistic Director of the Museums of the City of Linz, Lentos and Nordico. Together with the Kunstuniversität Linz the Museen der Stadt Linz take care of the VALIE EXPORT Center at the Tabakfabrik.

Since 2023 she has been a University Councillor at the Universität für angewandte Kunst Wien [University of Applied Art Vienna].

Dr.in Birgit Schwarz

Studied art history at the University of Mainz and is a graduate of a trainee programme at the Staatliche Kunsthalle Karlsruhe. She is an expert on 20th-century painting and the Nazis' art policies. She has published a great number of articles and books on Hitler's art collections, the "Führermuseum" Hitler had envisaged for Linz, the dictator as a self-styled artistic genius, his policy of looting art, his museum policy, and on Hitler's right-hand man for art matters, Hans Posse. She is involved in the edition of Hans Posse's travel diaries prepared by the Germanisches Nationalmuseum, Nürnberg (editionhansposse.gnm.de).

Mag. art. Markus Proschek

Visual artist and freelance curator, lives and works in Vienna. Solo exhibitions at the Kunstraum Innsbruck, Salzburger Kunstverein, and other venues. Took part in group exhibitions at the Serpentine Gallery London, Lafayette Anticipations Paris, Garage Museum of Contemporary Art Moscow. Curatorial assignments at the Lentos Kunstmuseum Linz (*Transformation und Wiederkehr*, 2021).