From Kliment to Hausner to Wurm – Austrian Art in the Würth Collection

13.02.2017 – 26.01.2019

Art from Austria consists of a particular focal point of the Würth Collection and is among the most extensive holdings of Austrian art in a private collection outside of Austria. The exhibition consists of about 50 paintings, drawings, prints and sculptures by more than 30 artists. Beginning with Gustav Klimt, Oskar Kokoschka and Rudolf Ritter, it moves on to contemporary positions by Siegfried Anzinger, Erwin Wurm, Xenia Hausner and Markus Hilla. This range of artists covers a highly varied art production in Austria in the 20th century.

The exhibition title A.E.I.O.U. is a tongue-in-cheek allusion to the mystical formula, whose meaning has not been definitively explained to this day, yet it still has an impact today.

A modern reading is: Austria Europae Imago, Onus, Union (Austria as Europe's likeness, burden, union) and it goes without saying that 'Austria as a mirror of Europe' can also be applied to art, just think of the enormous contribution given to modernity by the specificity of “Klimt's Europe”, leading in the visual arts, literature, music and psychoanalysis. irrespective of its independent orientation, the development of modern art in Austria has always been seen to parallel the prevailing international trends. In the early 20th century, the Viennese Secession strove to renew the traditional concept of art by including the current European tendencies, at the same time developing its very own brand of Art Nouveau. French Impressionism, more-over, influenced artists like Eugen Jellinek, Rudolf Ritter and Otto von Tesche. The Second World War also meant a crisis for Austria, subsequently exacerbating its resentment in art.

The preconditions for this were the existing link to the international art scene and the attempt to create a new Austrian consciousness. The sculptor Fritz Wotruba exerted a crucial influence on the new Austrian sculpture; his school produced Rudolf Fluhler and Alfred Hittasso. The Art Club in Vienna was also an important nutrition in the post-war era, initially taking up all the art trends and offering a platform for creative artists from Suresdon to Abstraction. Different groups were quick to form, while individual artist personalities like Friedrich Hundertwasser, Rudolf Hausner and Arnell Rainer also caused a stir and soon gained international recognition. Among the experiences of the early 60s the performances of the pioneers of the viennese actionist Günter Brus, Hermann Pichl and Rudolf Schwarzkogler aroused scandal and strong reactions.

Around 1968, artists such as Peter Pongratz, Franz Ringel and Kurt Kocherscheidt burst onto the scene under the heading “Wirklichkeit” (Realities). They pursued the expressive tradition of Austrian painting, taking it to new heights in the 1980s, culminating in a “triumph of painting” (Dieter Rams) by Austria’s New Wild Ones. Despite their evident connections with the international art scene, this generation of artists, with renowned representatives like Siegfried Anzinger, Erwin Bohatsch, Herbert Brandl, Gunter Domsch and Hubert Schkizl, created its own national mode of expression. Current positions in painting and sculpture conclude the exhibition of Austrian art at the Art Forum Würth Capena.

The accompanying catalogue is published by Swiridoff Verlag, Künzelsau.
L’arte austriaca occupa una posizione privilegiata all’interno delle Collezioni Würth, rappresentando da oggi una delle raccolte più vaste di opere di artisti austriaci al di fuori dell’Austria, custodite da una collezione privata. Fra le opere esposte troviamo 50 opere tra dipinti, opere grafiche e sculture di più di trenta artisti, iniziando da Gustav Klimt, Alfred Hrdlicka, Arik Brauer fino a Erwin Wurm, Markus Redl e Markus Hofer. Il percorso espositivo si conclude cronologicamente con artisti del movimento surrealista fino all’arte astratta. Si formano presto diversi gruppi e anche singole personalità come Friedensreich Hundertwasser, Rudolf Hausner e Alfred Hrdlicka facen poesie di atto e offrono riconoscimenti internazionali.

La mostra è accompagnata da un catalogo dell’editore Ausstellungsverlag Künzelsau. Robin Christian Andersen, Oskar Kokoschka, Rudolf Ribarz, passando per l’ampia produzione artistica austriaca del XX secolo, per arrivare ad esponenti dell’arte contemporanea quali Sigfried Anzinger, Erwin Wurm, Ruth Hausner e Markus Hofer. Il percorso espositivo si conclude cronologicamente con artisti del movimento surrealista fino all’arte astratta. Si formano presto diversi gruppi e anche singole personalità come Friedensreich Hundertwasser, Rudolf Hausner e Alfred Hrdlicka facen poesie di atto e offrono riconoscimenti internazionali.

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