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PRESS INFORMATION

THE GUSTAV KLIMT DATABASE

The first comprehensive virtual record of one of the world's most important artists

www.klimt-database.com

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Idea and Concept

“We attach huge importance to sharing information about the work and influence of Gustav Klimt. Following a flood of art-historical and popular publications, our new database sets new standards for the digitalization and presentation of scientific content and source material with the aim of supporting research into Klimt around the globe.” – Peter Weinhäupl, Director of the Klimt Foundation

It's more than five years since the Klimt Foundation began its search for a contemporary means of presenting Gustav Klimt's oeuvre and biography. The idea was to move beyond the boundaries of the classic publication and to make use of the latest media and technical possibilities in order to create a virtual record of the work, influence, and network of the exceptional artist – free of charge and accessible to all, online, from anywhere in the world. The objective of this ambitious scientific undertaking, whose launch on September 21, 2022 represents a first major milestone, was and is to transport Klimt's impact on the world of the Wiener Moderne, with all its phenomena, achievements, and personalities, – on 'the world of yesterday' at the dawn of the 20th century – into the digital age and to document this in an up-to-date manner.

The extensive data archive, whose state-of-the-art user interface offers access to registers of Klimt's paintings, manuscripts, and photographs, is aimed at not only interested members of the public but also experts, worldwide. The Klimt Database will be continually expanded in the coming years and is a key online source for anyone carrying out research into Gustav Klimt and his age and, in particular, the period known as 'Vienna 1900'.

Research Material and Objectives

“We want to be the first point of contact for subjects related to Gustav Klimt and his period: a digital Klimt encyclopedia with a state-of-the-art interface that presents cultural and scientific information in a multimedia manner and is constantly being expanded. The consciously magazine-like layout will appeal to both a broad culturally interested public and the research community and can be accessed worldwide from

mobile phones, tablets, and desktop devices.” – Sandra Tretter, Deputy Director of the Klimt Foundation

The basis for the research work and the structuring of the data has been provided by previously published Klimt monographs (H. O. Miethke/H. Heller, E. Pirchan, F. Novotny/J. Dobai, A. Weidinger, T. Natter, A. Strobl, M. Bisanz-Prakken, etc.) and existing online artists' catalogues, enhanced with source material from the fields of photography and manuscripts (W. Fischer, H-J. Krug, A. Husslein, etc.) and historical catalogues and periodicals from the archives of the Klimt Foundation and its project partners. All these publications have been critically reviewed, which has also allowed discrepancies to be corrected, new insights to be gained, and some works to be newly attributed. In addition to this, research platforms such as, in particular, ANNO (Austrian National Library) or the online library catalogue HEIDI (University of Heidelberg) and digitally accessible residential registration forms and baptism and death certificates have provided further well-founded and, for the Klimt Database, essential contents. Another key objective for the Klimt Database was to offer a digital tool that allows all the previously isolated published information about such specific areas as Klimt's paintings, manuscripts, photographs, and drawings to be linked together digitally so that it can be examined as a complex whole.

To date, around 12 team members – historians and art historians – have contributed to this project, which we have completely financed using our own resources, over the past five years, working on data collection and detailed research tasks in a wide range of specialist areas. We remain committed to meeting the highest quality standards, as a result of which every entry to the database undergoes a multi-stage critical assessment procedure. In addition to this, we are fundamentally committed to linking all these entries so that users become deeply aware of the complex network surrounding the global artist Klimt in 'Vienna 1900'.

A key USP of the Gustav Klimt Database is the range of information and the way this is all linked together. As a result, the platform is the first online portal that, with the help of texts and selected images, comprehensively illustrates not just the artistic work of the Jugendstil

painter, but also his private and public life within the socio-political network of this dynamic period. Moreover, the digital registers of Klimt's paintings, photographs, and manuscripts by, for, and about the artist are an integral part of the database and – thanks to the database's simple and user-friendly structure – make it easier for both the scientific community and interested members of the public to carry out their research.

Content and Accesses to the Database

The Klimt Database currently consists of three main sections: 'Klimt's Work', 'Network Vienna 1900', and 'Research'. The digital information platform on 'Klimt's Work' and 'Network Vienna 1900' is accessible to all interested parties, while use of the 'Research' section requires a one-off, free-of-charge registration. While the sections 'Klimt's Work' and 'Network Vienna 1900' enable users to discover Gustav Klimt with the help of informative and entertaining texts about his life and artistic career, the more complex data structure of the 'Research' section contains information about Klimt's paintings, manuscripts, and photographs that is principally aimed at a more specialist audience.

The information about Klimt's oeuvre in all these research registers is structured in the same way as a classic catalogue raisonné: artist or attribution, object title, date, technique, dimensions, ownership, etc. This data structure also permits a full-text search function with auto-completion. By selecting the appropriate filters and variable sub-filters, users can also generate an even more precise list of results.

The database can be accessed via either common standard browsers or mobile devices at www.klimt-database.com.

Information platform: Klimt's Work

This section is devoted to all aspects of the artistic output of the Jugendstil painter. Illustrated texts describe and explicitly visualize Klimt's oeuvre – from his training, via his congenial cooperation with Franz Matsch and his brother Ernst in the 'Artists' Company', the affair of the Faculty Paintings, his commissions as a respected portraitist, and his atmospheric landscape paintings, to his posthumous fame and the myth that continues to surround this exceptional artist to this day.

Two levels of access allow his creative periods to be examined in different ways. An intriguing, scrollable timeline enables each period to be explored intuitively. And, in addition to this, the index view offers an overview and a list of all the chapter texts for each timeslot of the respective creative periods.

Information platform: Network Vienna 1900

This section is sub-divided into the categories family & milieu, colleagues, patrons, personalities, and places of autobiographical and artistic significance. It currently comprehensively describes and documents more than 350 personalities who shaped Klimt's private, professional, and artistic milieus as well as places that stimulated and inspired him. Furthermore, this section also offers information about Klimt's travels and about those places that are regarded as the cradle of 'Vienna 1900'. Users will also find detailed 'family trees' that illustrate the relationships between key personalities and, hence, shed further light on Klimt's network.

This section is accessed via a clearly designed editorial tool that facilitates the intuitive exploration and browsing of the contents. In addition to this, all content is also accessible via an index page that enables users to order and examine the information in terms of specific categories.

Research platform

This section is a scientific research tool in which the collections of the Klimt Foundation and its project partners are presented in a way that allows them to be explored. With the help of a search function, users can make general queries or refine the level of detail

by using the various inbuilt filter options that include dates, types, subjects, motifs, owners, and series, etc. A special feature of all these research sections is the interconnection of individual data sets which, by shedding new light on these many complex relationships and connections, illustrates new and noteworthy aspects of the research into Gustav Klimt. This section also offers users a downloadable datasheet.

Register of paintings

In line with the principles of a catalogue raisonné, this 285-object register contains basic data about each work including date, technique, ownership, and concordance information as well as illustrative material. This section is also linked to historical information about exhibitions, which documents the presentation of Klimt's paintings in Austria and abroad. Information about relevant literature is also included.

Register of photographs

The documentation of the exhibition of the paintings is complemented by this register, which currently contains around 450 photographs that were taken in the context of exhibitions of Klimt's works in Austria and abroad, during his lifetime and after his death. This section also contains photographs that document Klimt and key companions in private contexts but also on his travels or during excursions. A further focus of this register is a series of professional portrait photographs by, amongst others, Carl Schuster, Moriz Nähr, Anton Josef "Antios" Trčka, and the famous atelier of Madame d'Ora.

Register of manuscripts

This section currently contains around 900 letters by, for, and about Klimt as well as a range of miscellaneous manuscripts. These will allow researchers to, for example, investigate how the master spent his days during his summer visits to the Attersee, understand his fascination for the world of plants, or even experience the work of Klimt the poet. In addition to this, this section also contains letters that cast light on the origins of his commissioned works as well as some of Klimt's very personal writings,

which offer insights into the essence and the innermost thoughts of the artist. The Klimt Foundation has produced extensive transcriptions, references, and crosslinks in order to simplify scientific research and make this information more readable.

Project Partners

It would not have been possible to ensure such an abundance of information in the Klimt Database without the willing and mostly gratis support of more than 80 public institutions (museums, archives, auction houses, galleries, etc.) and private collections. Many reviewed their archives and collections for the specific purposes of data collection, as a result of which the project also led to the uncovering of a number of previously unprocessed archival treasures. Conversely, the Klimt Foundation has also been able to enhance the collections of a number of institutions by presenting them with additional research material.

The intensified digitalization strategies of a number of institutions and the rapid opening up of previously hidden primary sources (as a result of, for example, the swift growth of the ANNO Periodicals Database of the Austrian National Library) made it possible – and indeed essential – to add new discoveries and/or new attributions to all the registers in not only the ‘Research’ section but also the information platforms and in Klimt’s biography itself.

Project partners: Austrian National Library, Leopold Museum Private Foundation, Österreichische Galerie Belvedere, Austrian State Archives, Federal Monuments Office, Burgtheater, Archive of the University of Vienna, Albertina, MAK – Museum of Applied Arts, Wien Museum, Vienna City Library in the Rathaus, Vienna’s Municipal and Provincial Archive, the Archive of the Künstlerhaus, the Archive of the University of Applied Arts, The Graphic Collection of the Academy of Fine Arts, Kallir Research Institute, KHM-Museumsverband, Sotheby’s, Christie’s, Dorotheum, Auktionshaus im Kinsky, the District Museums of the City of Vienna, Anton Hanak Archive, Lentos Kunstmuseum Linz, Galerie Welz, Tyrolean State Museum Ferdinandeum, Kunsthaus Zug, Heidi Horten Collection, Archiv města Liberec (AML), Aichi Prefectural Museum Of Art, Institut Ferdinand Hodler, The Israel Museum, Kunstmuseum Bern, Kunsthaus Zürich, Kunstmuseum Moritzburg, Toyota Municipal Museum of Art, University of Glasgow, and Tel Aviv Museum of Art as well as private collectors and many more museums and archives.

Use and Fairness Policy

The platform is not a commercial image database and only uses pictorial material to support the provision of research information in artistic, cultural, and historical subject areas.

The Klimt Foundation endeavors to meet all current legal standards for the use of images in digital media and to comply with the terms of use of the relevant institutions. Any images, whose reproduction must be approved, are only used if this approval has been given. In addition to this, no claims are made to hold the image rights to any of the provided image files. All illustrative material is endowed with the correct image credit and, where desired, linked with the relevant institution. The Klimt Foundation has no aspiration to benefit commercially (by sale or conveyance) from the image files that are presented online and refers any requests for the use of such information to the relevant institution. The image material that is provided by project partners is basically neither downloadable nor storable. In general, the Klimt Foundation endeavors to prevent any incorrect use of this image material by third parties.

When citing any of the used data sets for research purposes or in other publications please refer to the permalink listed in the sheet for the data set and add the date of access.

Further Development Phases

In addition to constantly updating and enlarging the database, the following development phases are planned for the coming months and years:

***2023:**

Register of exhibitions together with illustrative material in the general research section
Implementation of the English language version
Didactic material for downloading

***2024:**

Notes on the works and information about their provenance in the research section
dedicated to Klimt's paintings

***Subject to change**

Project Team

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Sandra Tretter and Peter Weinhäupl for the Klimt Foundation, Vienna, 2022

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Website programming & hosting

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Klimt Foundation

The Klimt Foundation was founded in 2013 by Ursula Ucicky, née Kohn (*1922), and is an Austrian non-profit private foundation that is based in the office building MQ-West, which was designed by the architect Carl Pruscha and is located close to Vienna's MuseumsQuartier. In line with its charter, the research and collection of the Foundation focus on the work of Gustav Klimt and of the epoch 'Vienna 1900', which he did much to shape, with the specific objectives of preserving and researching into this heritage and, hence, highlighting and communicating its continuing importance for Austria's cultural development. The collection primarily consists of oil paintings, drawings, watercolors, photographs, and manuscripts by Gustav Klimt as well as further objects produced by his artistic companions between 1890 and 1918.

The non-profit private foundation, whose aim is to benefit the general public, acts as an independent and interdisciplinary research center. In the past nine years it has been a cooperation partner for exhibitions on a number of occasions and supported over 40 national and international exhibitions in the form of loans, most recently in Rome and Piacenza and, currently in Amsterdam. In addition to this, it is the publisher of the series of publications *Edition Klimt* and *Edition Klimt-Research* and the initiator of the 1st *Gustav Klimt Symposium*, which took place in Villa Paulick in Seewalchen am Attersee in June 2022 in cooperation with Vienna's Leopold Museum: www.klimt-research.com

Contact

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