



16 June 2014

Arnulf Rainer wraps the Ringturm with the “Veil of Agnes”

On Monday, 16 June, the official opening event to mark the wrapping of the Ringturm with Arnulf Rainer’s Veil of Agnes design was attended by Margit Fischer, wife of the Austrian president, Josef Ostermayer, Federal Minister for Arts, Culture, Constitution and Public Service, Erwin Pröll, Governor of Lower Austria and Michael Häupl, Mayor of Vienna. Also attended by the artist, the event celebrated the traditional links between Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein and Klosterneuburg Monastery.

*“The Veil of Agnes by Arnulf Rainer shows just how well art integrates into the cityscape, in a process that generates new ways of seeing things. I would like to congratulate Arnulf Rainer on this fantastic piece which in this new, adapted version provides a logical progression in his oeuvre, from “overpaintings” to his search for new approaches in painting”, commented **Federal Minister Josef Ostermayer.***

*“This public art initiative symbolises the historic partnership between Klosterneuburg Monastery and Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein. Arnulf Rainer has created an impressive link between the legend surrounding the foundation of Klosterneuburg Monastery, and the Ringturm in Vienna. The Monastery is a cultural gem for Lower Austria, a point of identification and a place that has shaped the history of the province”, said **Governor of Lower Austria, Erwin Pröll** of the Monastery’s regional significance.*

*“The Ringturm wrapping is already a long-established tradition. In summer Vienna has a temporary art work which is visible from a considerable distance, and that for many has become part of the cityscape. I would like to thank Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein for the initiative and the artist for his work”, concluded **Michael Häupl, Mayor and Governor of Vienna.***

A large number of guests from the worlds of culture, business and religion attended the celebration alongside high-ranking politicians, at the invitation of **Günter Geyer, Chairman of the Managing Board of Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein** and **Provost Bernhard Backovsky, Abbot Primate of Klosterneuburg Monastery**. Guests included Stefan Schmuckenschlager (Mayor of Klosterneuburg), Nicolaus Buhlmann (Curator Klosterneuburg Monastery), Boris Podrecca (Architect), Johann Sereinig (Deputy CEO Verbund AG), Sabine Haag (Director Kunsthistorisches Museum), Johanna Schwanberg (Director Dommuseum), Robert Hammerstiel, László Fehér and Dorota Sadovská (Artists), Karin Strobl (Editor-in-Chief Regionalmedien Austria), Rainer Nowak (Editor-in-Chief Die Presse), Kurt Reissnegger (Ö1), Christian Rainer (Publisher profil), Wolfgang Jansky (Managing Director Heute) and Rudolf Ertl, Karl Fink and Hans Raumauf (Members of the Managing Board of Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein), Peter Hagen (CEO Vienna Insurance Group), Robert Lasshofer (CEO Wiener Städtische Versicherung), Judit Havasi (Deputy CEO Wiener Städtische Versicherung), Martin Simhandl and Peter Höfinger (Members of the Managing Board of Vienna Insurance Group), Christine Dornaus and Ralph Müller (Members of the Managing Board of Wiener Städtische Versicherung) and Wolfgang Lehner (Provincial Director for Lower Austria Wiener Städtische).

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WIENER STÄDTISCHE WECHSELSEITIGER VERSICHERUNGSVEREIN, MAIN SHAREHOLDER OF VIENNA INSURANCE GROUP

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Visual expression of long-term ties

“I am delighted that such clear expression has been given to the long-term bond between Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein and Klosterneuburg Monastery, through this initiative in both institutions’ special anniversary year. The fact that we were able to commission the services of Arnulf Rainer to wrap the Ringturm in the Veil of Agnes underscores the importance of this connection for both organisations”, noted **Chairman Günter Geyer** at the opening ceremony.

Arnulf Rainer’s artistic wrapping of the Ringturm

In Arnulf Rainer’s work, Veil of Agnes, the Ringturm is wrapped with powerful yet finely-nuanced brush strokes which blend into each other in numerous transparent overlays to create an abstract overall design. A vivid yellow brush stroke running in a vertical arc across two sides of the Ringturm provides a compositional constant. It softens the building’s stark geometric lines, giving the architecture a graceful and light appearance.

First exhibition dedicated to Ringturm wrapping

This year the Ringturm wrapping will be accompanied by a special exhibition to mark the occasion. Arnulf Rainer’s original work, which provided the motif for the covering, provides the focal point of the show. Exhibits from various points in the history of art illustrate the legend behind the foundation of Klosterneuburg Monastery, which celebrates its 900th anniversary this year. The exhibition also takes a look at the history of Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein and its formation 190 years ago, illustrated by numerous contemporary documents. The exhibition is open from 17 June-11 July 2014 at the exhibition centre in the Ringturm, Schottenring 30, 1010 Vienna. Admission is free.

Arnulf Rainer – Veil of Agnes 190 years of Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein 900 years of Klosterneuburg Monastery

Location:
EXHIBITION CENTRE IN THE RINGTUM
Schottenring 30, 1010 Vienna

Dates:
17 June – 11 July 2014

Opening hours:
Mon– Fri, 9–18:00, closed on public holidays

Visitor information:
T: +43 (0)50 390-21119
www.wst-versicherungsverein.at

Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein is the main shareholder of the Vienna Insurance Group (VIG) and provides support for the Group's cultural and social activities, with a focus is on enhancing cross-border, intercultural exchange. The emphasis is also on creating an environment in which individual cultures can thrive. Partnerships and initiatives are geared towards supporting the activities of social organisations, especially in the Central and Eastern European countries in which the Vienna Insurance Group has a presence. As the main shareholder, Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein is also concerned with key strategic matters within the Group.

Enquiries to:
Press and PR
Schottenring 30, 1010 Vienna
Tel: +43 (0)50 350 ext. 21029
Fax: +43 (0)50 39099 21029
E-mail: presse@wst-versicherungsverein.at

Press:
Christina Werner
w.hoch.2wei. Kulturelles Projektmanagement
Breitegasse 17/4, 1070 Vienna
Tel.: +43 (1) 524 96 46 - 22
Fax: +43 (1) 524 96 32
E-mail: werner@kunstnet.at

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