



Unveiling ceremony for Dóra Maurer's With One Another at the Ringturm

Artistic wrapping of the Ringturm officially unveiled with Austrian Foreign Minister Alexander Schallenberg and Hungary's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Péter Szijjártó, in attendance.

Work on the covering for the facade of the Ringturm began in mid-May, and the 4,000m² wrapping – a piece entitled With One Another by Hungarian artist Dóra Maurer – was officially opened today. Invited to a special ceremony by Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein, Hungary's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó unveiled the oversized artwork, with Austrian Foreign Minister Alexander Schallenberg also present.

"There has never been a single period in history when Hungary and Austria have not been connected in some way. The wrapping of the Ringturm is a wonderfully vivid example of the ties between our two countries. As Dóra Maurer's work illustrates, both countries are joined by a variety of unbreakable bonds. We would like to thank the artist for giving us so much pleasure with her work in these difficult times," commented **Péter Szijjártó**.

Alexander Schallenberg: *"An international outlook is the life and soul of contemporary art. Art needs unrestricted freedom; if it is constricted, it fades away. Its strength of expression and vividness promote open dialogue and diversity. This is the only way that art can fulfil its role as a source of inspiration. And this is why a prominent symbol like the colourful covering of the Ringturm by Hungarian artist Dóra Maurer serves as a reminder that art needs to have a place in our everyday lives – and as a beacon of artistic creativity in the heart of Vienna, so to speak."*

The artistic covering of the Ringturm, a remarkable art installation initiated by Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein, is making a comeback after a two-year hiatus during the coronavirus pandemic. *"We're absolutely delighted to have commissioned internationally respected Hungarian artist Dóra Maurer for the wrapping of our head office, and this year's artistic covering symbolises Hungary's significance for our company,"* **Günter Geyer**, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein, the main shareholder of Vienna Insurance Group AG, emphasised.

Alongside high-level political representatives from Austria and abroad, guests from the worlds of politics, business and culture attended the celebration at the invitation of Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein, including Krisztina Varju, Deputy Secretary of State at the Hungarian Foreign Ministry; the Hungarian Ambassador to Austria, Andor Nagy; Hungarian Ministerial Commissioner Gyula Budai; former Austrian minister Maria Rauch-Kallat; and District Chairman of the first district of Vienna, Markus Figl.

The opening was also attended by Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein Managing Board Members Helene Kanta and Herbert Allram, alongside Vienna Insurance Group (VIG) Managing Board Chair Elisabeth Stadler and VIG Managing Board Member Gábor Lehel, Donau Versicherung CEO Judit Havasi, UNION Biztosító Managing Board Members Zsolt Raveczky and Attila Mészáros, and Alfa Biztosító CEO Péter Iván Zatykó.

The artist: Dóra Maurer

Dóra Maurer is the second Hungarian artist to produce the wrapping for the landmark office building on Schottenring, following in the footsteps of László Fehér who designed the covering a decade ago. Maurer is regarded as one of the most important figures and leading lights in Hungarian contemporary art. Entitled *With One Another*, the 4,000m² artwork is made up of a total of 30 printed netting sheets, each around 3m wide and up to 63m long. Diagonally intersecting stripes in a spectrum of bright, cheerful colours trace a path across the facade of the buildings on the Ringstrasse boulevard, overlooking the Danube Canal, in Vienna city centre. Created especially for the wrapping of the Ringturm, the artwork's origins go back to an elaborate system of geometric and chromatic elements devised by Dóra Maurer some 30 years ago, which she has continued to develop in the intervening years. Austria and its neighbour Hungary each play an integral part in Dóra Maurer's biography: for decades, Vienna and Budapest were both points of departure for the artist's creations. She has lived and worked in both cities by turns over the years.

From Austria to Hungary

The Vienna Insurance Group – Austria's largest international insurer – began operating in Hungary 26 years ago. Together with its strong Hungarian partners, the Vienna Insurance Group is an influential and pioneering player on the country's insurance market. Its aim is to take the lead on issues related to insurance coverage for private and corporate customers, as well as affordable housing and infrastructure projects.

Socially engaged and committed to supporting the arts in Austria and Europe

Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein is committed to promoting cross-border cultural exchange and supporting social initiatives. Championing a range of art projects in Austria and abroad, and supporting young artists, is a key objective for VIG's main shareholder. The artistic covering of the Ringturm is a highly visible symbol of this philosophy. Several well-known Austrian artists have designed the Ringturm wrapping, including Gottfried Helnwein and Arnulf Rainer, and since 2012 artists from Eastern Europe have been invited to create the covering.

Artistic wrapping of the Ringturm, 2006-2022

2022	Dóra Maurer	<i>With One Another</i>	Hungary
2019	Daniela Kostova	<i>Future Dreaming</i>	Bulgaria
2018	Gottfried Helnwein	<i>I saw this</i>	Austria
2017	Mihael Milunović	<i>Vision</i>	Serbia
2016	Ivan Exner	<i>Unburdened</i>	Czech Republic
2015	Tanja Deman	<i>Summer Pleasures</i>	Croatia
2014	Arnulf Rainer	<i>Veil of Agnes</i>	Austria
2013	Dorota Sadovská	<i>Ties</i>	Slovakia
2012	László Fehér	<i>Society</i>	Hungary
2011	Xenia Hausner	<i>A Sense of Family</i>	Austria
2008	Hubert Schmalix	<i>Tower in Blossom</i>	Austria
2007	Robert Hammerstiel	<i>Tower of Life</i>	Austria
2006	Christian Ludwig Attersee	<i>Don Giovanni</i>	Austria

Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein is the main shareholder of Vienna Insurance Group AG Wiener Versicherung Gruppe (VIG), the holding company for the Group's international insurance operations. Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein supports the Group's cultural and social activities, with an emphasis on cross-border exchange with the Central and Eastern European countries in which VIG has a presence. Its partnerships and initiatives are geared specifically towards supporting the activities of social organisations which provide space and scope for personal and cultural development.

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