

Press release

Lausanne, 13.2.2020

Page 1 sur 3

Under the Skin. Vienna 1900, from Klimt to Schiele and Kokoschka

First temporary exhibition at the new MCBA: Viennese modernism

The MCBA's first temporary exhibition in its new building highlights a major moment in the early twentieth century, the contribution made by the Viennese artists in the birth of modern art. This unique show explores the theme of the skin through 180 paintings, drawings and art objects borrowed from Swiss and international museums, notable private collections and the Wiener Werkstätte. Its six sections convey a new interpretation of this turning point in art history. Following the success of its inaugural exhibition, this world-class cultural event at the MCBA will fascinate the general public and entice visitors from German-speaking Switzerland and numerous tourists.

The show *Under the Skin. Vienna 1900, from Klimt to Schiele and Kokoschka* is a further step in the MCBA's mission to introduce its public to internationally renowned artists, along the lines of previous exhibitions dedicated to Paris in 1900 with Art Nouveau exponents like Théophile-Alexandre Steinlen and Eugène Grasset, major figures in the MCBA's permanent collection. The first presentation of Viennese modernism in French-speaking Switzerland, it takes a new look at an historic period that has been an MCBA favourite.

Under the Skin. Vienna 1900 is based on a unique reading of the origins of modernism. Instead of the customary binary categories (the generation of Gustav Klimt versus that of Egon Schiele and Oskar Kokoschka, Symbolism versus Expressionism in drawing and painting, floral ornamentation versus abstract ornamentation in the decorative arts), this exhibition traces the emergence of a new sensibility expressed by artistic practices obsessed with the skin. Through their exploration of the mysteries of this sensitive surface, Vienna's moderns redefined the connections between individuals and the world, everyday objects and their surroundings, buildings and streets.

The show centres on the period between 1897, when the Vienna Secession was founded, and 1918, when the Austro-Hungarian Empire collapsed, the year of the death of many significant artists (Klimt, Koloman Moser, Schiele, Otto Wagner).

In parallel with the emergence of Viennese modernism, the human body became an object of research in fields ranging from medicine and the natural sciences to psychology, philosophy and art. The artworks and objects in this exhibition shed light on a common denominator among the various figures of the Vienna art scene, a focus on the skin, in both the literal and figurative sense.

The exhibition structure comprises six sections: *Blank skins* (the struggle against academicism and a return to the truth of the naked body), *Colourful skins* (the play of muscles and joints, the expression of emotions), *Under the skin* (the examination of the underlying layers of the flesh, dissection), *About the skin* (auras and forms of thought, the body and the cosmos), *The skin as a space* (the skin as a new site for art and a continuous projection surface), and finally, *Comfortable in your own skin* (recasting our surroundings to adapt them to the needs of modern individuals).

MUSÉE CANTONAL DES BEAUX-ARTS LAUSANNE

Press release

Lausanne, 13.2.2020

Under the Skin. Vienna 1900, from Klimt to Schiele and Kokoschka

Page 2 sur 3

On view are about a hundred paintings and drawings, some fifty pieces of furniture and thirty objets d'art from the Wiener Werkstätte, a Vienna production cooperative of artists and craftsmen. On the level above, the exhibition examines how Viennese artists made their contribution to modernism by endowing the representation of the skin with a new expressivity. The top floor is devoted to the recasting of home interiors and the built environment to adapt them to the needs of this new age.

Exhibition curators: Catherine Lepdor, chief curator,
Camille Lévêque-Claudet, ancient and modern art curator.

Exhibition design: Carole Guinard, Lausanne.

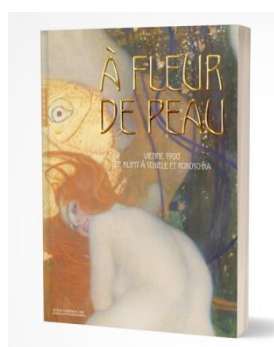
Artists, architects and designers represented:

Josef Engelhart, Anton Faistauer, Otto Friedrich, Richard Gerstl, Josef Hoffmann, Gustav Klimt, Oskar Kokoschka, Utagawa Kunisada, Max Kurzweil, Bertold Löffler, Adolf Loos, Koloman Moser, Robert Oerley, Joseph Maria Olbrich, Max Oppenheimer, Michael Powolny, Otto Prutscher, Alfred Roller, Egon Schiele, Arnold Schönberg, Eduard Stella, Otto Wagner.

This exhibition is organized under the high patronage of the Austrian Embassy in Switzerland, with the support of the Swiss Federal Office of Culture (FOC).

Opening and closing dates: 14.2 – 24.5.2020

Catalogue :



À fleur de peau. Vienne 1900, de Klimt à Schiele et Kokoschka. With texts by the curators Catherine Lepdor and Camille Lévêque-Claudet, and Marian Bisanz-Prakken, Claude Cernuschi, Matthias Haldemann, Astrid Kury and Christian Witt-Döring. 240 pp., with 247 illustrations. In French: Éditions Hazan, Paris, 2020. CHF 52.60. (CHF 42.10 during the exhibition). With the support of Friends of the Museum, and the Österreichisches Kulturforum, Bern.

Contact:

Florence Dizdari
MCBA media coordinator
079 232 40 06
florence.dizdari@vd.ch

MUSÉE CANTONAL DES BEAUX-ARTS LAUSANNE

Press release

Lausanne, 13.2.2020

Under the Skin. Vienna 1900, from Klimt to Schiele and Kokoschka

Page 3 sur 3

Admission

Adults: CHF 20. Reduced rate: CHF 12.

Under 25 years old: free.

Groups of 10 or more: CHF 16.

Online tickets: mcba.ch/billetterie

Opening hours:

Closed Monday

Tuesday through Sunday: 10am-6pm

Late night: Thursday, 8pm

Good Friday (10 April): 10am-6pm

Easter Monday (13 April): 10am-6pm

Ascension Thursday (21 May): 10am-8pm

Social media

Insta: [@mcbalausanne](https://www.instagram.com/mcbalausanne)

FB: [@mcba.lausanne](https://www.facebook.com/mcba.lausanne)

Newsletter: mcba.ch/newsletter

Friends of the Museum

mcba.ch/amis-du-musee/