



MAK

Press Release

MAK Exhibition *JOSEF HOFFMANN: Progress Through Beauty* Has Been Postponed

The major project will now be on display from 15 December 2021 to 19 June 2022

Originally intended to open in December 2020 to coincide with Josef Hoffmann's 150th birthday, the exhibition *JOSEF HOFFMANN: Progress Through Beauty* has been postponed for one year. The most comprehensive retrospective ever mounted on the lifework of Josef Hoffmann (1870–1956) will now be on display in the MAK Exhibition Hall from 15 December 2021 to 19 June 2022. In 20 chapters and with over 800 exhibits, the team of curators—Matthias Boeckl, Rainald Franz, and Christian Witt-Dörning—aims to revisit the entire 60-year oeuvre of this architect, designer, teacher, exhibition organizer, and cofounder of the Wiener Werkstätte. In light of the show's conceptual and organizational dimensions and associated expense, the MAK is hoping for considerably more favorable circumstances come the opening of the exhibition late next year in order to have the broadest possible impact—not only within Austria, but also internationally.

These challenging times during the pandemic have significantly impeded the presentation of rarely shown objects from international collections, which are able to spotlight new facets of Josef Hoffmann's oeuvre. Furthermore, the later opening date for the exhibition makes it possible to extend the duration of this MAK project: instead of being on display for four months as originally planned, the exhibition can now be shown for half a year.

Initial insights into the exhibition *JOSEF HOFFMANN: Progress Through Beauty* are afforded by a discussion event to be held at the MAK on Josef Hoffmann's 150th birthday, 15 December 2020.

The publication to accompany the exhibition, entitled *JOSEF HOFFMANN 1870–1956: Progress Through Beauty. The Guide to His Oeuvre*, edited by Christoph Thun-Hohenstein, Matthias Boeckl, Rainald Franz, and Christian Witt-Dörning, will be released as a German and an English edition in spring 2021 by the Birkhäuser Verlag, Basel. In 40 essays renowned international experts analyze Hoffmann's most important buildings, interiors, and exhibitions, as well as decorative art designs and objects. Drawing on the latest research, the guide conveys the multimedia approach and wide-ranging international reception of Hoffmann's artistic vision and is set to become a new standard reference work on Viennese Modernism in an international context.



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