



MAK

Press Release

**(CON)TEMPORARY FASHION SHOWCASE:
SUSANNE BISOVSKY**

Press Tour	Friday, 10 June 2022, 10 am Please register via presse@MAK.at
Opening	Saturday, 11 June 2022, 10 am–8 pm
Exhibition Venue	MAK Geymüllerschloß Pötzleinsdorfer Straße 102, 1180 Vienna
Exhibition Dates	11 June – 28 August 2022
Opening Hours	Saturdays and Sundays, 10 am–6 pm

As of 11 June 2022, Susanne Bisovsky will be a guest in the Geymüllerschloß in the context of the *(Con)temporary Fashion Showcase* series, where she will present selected ensembles in her special, unmistakable “Vienna Chic.” The extraordinary creations originate from her involvement with a gigantic material and immaterial fund and her playful and well-founded approach to fashion and artisanal techniques, as well as a knowledge of traditional garb. Far from the short-lived trends of international fashion and textile production, Bisovsky transfers an only ostensibly outdated image of a “Beautiful Viennese Lady” into the present. She presents her ideal cosmopolitan lady as a kind of homage to and idealized personification of her conception of Vienna, where she has lived and worked for more than three decades.

As of 5 pm on 11 June 2022, on the occasion of the exhibition opening, Susanne Bisovsky will present and sign her publication *WIENER CHIC. Mode für eine große Stadt*, illustrated by celebrated photographers and complemented with texts by renowned protagonists of the fashion scene (Suzy Menkes, Barbara Vinken, Elisabeth Längle, and others). The opening evening will be rounded off with a demonstration of the now only seldom practiced technique of mangling, which should visualize the time-consuming and labor-intensive complexity of the processing of surfaces by hand.

Only pieces that originated between 2003 and 2022 will be shown in the exhibition *(Con)temporary Fashion Showcase: Susanne Bisovsky*. These also include a stage costume: a green spencer with a floral print pattern from the early 20th century and a floral-patterned rug fabric skirt for Carl Maria von Weber’s *Il Franco Cacciatore* at La Scala in Milan (2017).

Textile souvenirs of an imagined metropolis

Always with a wink, Bisovsky translates historical set pieces and citations into the present and transfers them into a timelessness typical for her style. References to regional garments are frequently recurring elements in Bisovsky's designs and in the stagings originating from her ideas. However, they lose their clear legibility through eclectic combinations and thus at the same time seem "international." Her "Chic Slavique," for example, may evoke reminiscences of the Mexican painter Frida Kahlo, but originates from the contrast of heterogeneous elements like colorful woven rugs from Romania and the typical Austrian golden cap. A top with sequins of the *Everlasting Collection No. 2* as an interpretation of an *Aussee Flinserl*, a traditional carnival costume, simultaneously arouses associations for practiced viewers with the typical sequin embroideries of traditional Polish vests.

The use of conspicuous headgear, voluminous underskirts, and delicate lace, as well as luxuriant ruffles, fringes, and floral motifs also define Susanne Bisovsky's repertoire. Together with clever recourse to traditional techniques like indigo printing or the embedding of Leonic goods, this ensures a high degree of recognition value. References to the clothing traditions of a once larger Austria are obvious there. The rose embroidery in a red shade of an ensemble from the *Everlasting Collection No. 2* (2007), for example, cites garments from the region of Posavina, which links present-day Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Serbia with one another. Also conspicuous is a crocheted white creation from the *Innocentia* collection of 2011, with ruffles that cover the entire body of the wearer, including the face, thus reawakening a Christmas symbolic figure from (East) Germany: the Sorbian "Bescherkind" (regional variant of the Christ Child).

The native of Linz and a graduate of the University of Applied Arts Vienna was not only the favorite student of her professor in the fashion class, Helmut Lang. Susanne Bisovsky also worked for him and developed, among other things, the latex lace of the *dress of the year 1995*, which is today part of the MoMA collection in New York. Further stations in her career included cooperation and designs for well-known fashion labels and companies like Jean-Charles de Castelbajac, Sportalm, Austrian Embroideries, or Kathleen Madden. In 2020, Susanne Bisovsky was honored with the Outstanding Artist Award for experimental fashion design of the Federal Ministry for Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport (BMK/OES) of the Republic of Austria. This is now her second solo exhibition organized by the MAK: in 2005, twelve items of clothing of the designer were shown in the MAK on the Stubenring under the title *Austrian Look*.

Julia Koerner and Susanne Bisovsky will be followed in the context of the new MAK series *(Con)temporary Fashion Showcase* in the Geymüllerschloss by Jojo Gronostay.

(3 September to 4 December 2022).

Detailed press texts on the exhibitions in the context of the *(Con)temporary Fashion Showcase* will be continually updated at [MAK.at/en/press](https://mak.at/en/press).

Continually updated details on the program at: [MAK.at/en/contemporaryfashion](https://mak.at/en/contemporaryfashion)

Press photos for the exhibition are available for download at [MAK.at/en/press](https://mak.at/en/press).

Press Data

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Curator Lara Steinhäuser, Curator, MAK Textiles and Carpets
Collection

Admission € 7
Free admission for children and teens under 19
Free admission with MAK Annual Ticket

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