



**MAK**

Press Release

**JEWELLERY 1970–2015**  
**BOLLMANN COLLECTION**  
**FRITZ MAIERHOFER – Retrospective**

Press Conference    Tuesday, 13 January 2015, 10:30 a.m.  
Opening             Tuesday, 13 January 2015, 7 p.m.  
Exhibition Venue    MAK Exhibition Hall  
                              MAK, Stubenring 5, 1010 Vienna  
Exhibition Dates    14 January – 29 March 2015  
                              Tue 10 a.m.–10 p.m., Wed–Sun 10 a.m.–6 p.m.  
                              Free admission on Tuesdays 6–10 p.m.

On show in the MAK from 14 January 2015, the exhibition *JEWELLERY 1970–2015: BOLLMANN COLLECTION. FRITZ MAIERHOFER – Retrospective* presents an overview of the formal aesthetic and material-specific wealth of contemporary international jewellery design. For the first time, the display affords a deep insight into the Austrian Bollmann couple's exquisite jewellery collection, which comprises over 1,000 objects in total. Style-setting one-offs and experimental forms are distinctive of the exhibition, which also displays alongside the exhibits from the Bollmann collection the oeuvre of the internationally renowned Austrian jewellery artist, Fritz Maierhofer.

Some 454 exhibits from the Bollmann collection will be presented to the public in the MAK. Heidi and Karl Bollmann chose 206 artists' works, which forge a bridge across highly diverse cultural regions. Pieces of jewellery from the USA, Mexico, Israel, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Korea, Vietnam, and China can be seen alongside exhibits from Austria and nearly all European countries.

“Even today, jewellery is overwhelmingly seen as a sign of a person's social position that is to be read according to convention. Roughly in the middle of the 1960s, however, there was a radical fresh start in Europe—and almost at the same time in Japan and the USA: the freedom of art would also apply to jewellery. We see the essence of the exhibition, with its wide variety of exhibits, as inviting every visitor to freely and passionately define their own position. For that reason, the underlying unity of the pieces

of jewellery should also be revealed,” says Karl Bollmann.

Among the outstanding artistic positions on show are, for example, Manfred Bischoff (born 1947 in Germany, lives and works in Italy and Germany), Yasuki Hiramatsu (1926–2012, Japan), Bruno Martinazzi (born 1923, Italy), Philip Sajet (born 1953, Netherlands, lives and works in Germany), Annamaria Zanella (born 1966, Italy), as well as the Austrians Helfried Kodré (born 1940, Austria), Manfred Nisslmüller (born 1940, Austria), and Peter Skubic (born 1935 in Serbia, lives and works in Austria).

The Bollmanns have been following developments in contemporary jewellery art for more than 40 years. “From the outset, my wife and I were fascinated by the tremendous diversity and variety of this new jewellery. Peter Skubic was a selfless mentor in that regard. Always accompanied by a sense of doubt, the question as to what jewellery actually is and the search for a universally valid quality have also led to an encyclopedic and geographically global approach,” is Karl Bollmann’s description of his interest in collecting.

As part of the project *Schmuck zur Jahrtausendwende – die Möglichkeit, die Wirklichkeit, der Mensch* [Jewellery at the Millennium: the Opportunity, the Reality, the Human Being], Karl Bollmann invited prominent international jewellery artists to create a piece of jewellery for his wife, Heidi Bollmann. All 61 works—16 of which are Austrian—will be displayed together for the very first time in a specially dedicated section of the exhibition, which as a whole is divided into three time periods (1970 to 1999, 2000, and 2001 to 2015).

### **FRITZ MAIERHOFER – Retrospective**

The second segment of the MAK exhibition *JEWELLERY 1970–2015* presents the oeuvre of Fritz Maierhofer, one of the leading Austrian jewellery and object artists. His show includes jewellery and sculptures from the 1960s until the present day. On display are a total of some 200 objects, which are characterized by unusual combinations of materials and an avant-garde understanding of jewellery.

Maierhofer, who received his training with Juwelier Heldwein in Vienna, creates unique objects from acrylic glass, steel, pewter, aluminum, and the synthetic material corian. The artist, who revealed a penchant for sculpture at an early age, was influenced by England’s revolutionary pop culture in the 1960s and 1970s. “The following decades saw various changes in Maierhofer’s creative work, particularly due to his experiments with highly diverse materials. Despite the formal variety, the structural points of reference remained constant: it is the structure, the rules of extreme minimalism, and the

lavish abstract geometric combinations of beams, axes, and cross-beams—all of them forms that appear to have been extrapolated from architectural installations,” is Graziella Folchini Grassetto’s analysis of part of his artistic development in the catalog that accompanies the exhibition.

Maierhofer’s first works from the 1960s and 1970s are captivating due to their unusual combination of the materials acrylic and metal. Brooches and rings from his early career lie on square plinths and frames held by steel wires. These three-dimensional works are continued in the works of subsequent decades, during which the artist realized sculptures for squares, gardens, and parks. In his recent sculptural works, he initially creates rectangular models from folded paper, which he then transfers to colorful metal surfaces, thereby generating three-dimensional effects.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a richly illustrated catalog in German and English, published by the Arnoldsche Verlagsanstalt, with a foreword by Christoph Thun-Hohenstein as well as contributions by Karl Bollmann and Graziella Folchini Grassetto.

Press photos are available for download at [MAK.at/press](http://MAK.at/press)

Press Data Sheet

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Opening Hours	Tue 10 a.m.–10 p.m., Wed–Sun 10 a.m.–6 p.m. Free admission on Tuesdays 6–10 p.m.
Guest Curators	Heidi and Karl Bollmann as well as Fritz Maierhofer
MAK Curator	Elisabeth Schmuttermeier, Curator, MAK Metal Collection and Wiener Werkstätte Archive
Curator-Guided Tours	Saturday, 24 January 2015, 2 p.m. with Karl Bollmann, Guest Curator Tuesday, 17 February 2015, 6 p.m. with Fritz Maierhofer, Guest Curator Saturday, 28 February 2015, 2 p.m. with Karl Bollmann, Guest Curator Tuesday, 17 March 2015, 6 p.m. with Elisabeth Schmuttermeier, MAK Curator Saturday, 28 March 2015, 2 p.m. with Karl Bollmann, Guest Curator
Publication	Christoph Thun-Hohenstein/Elisabeth Schmuttermeier (eds.), <i>JEWELLERY 1970–2015: BOLLMANN COLLECTION</i> . With a foreword by Christoph Thun-Hohenstein and contributions by Karl Bollmann and Graziella Folchini Grassetto, 144 pages, 21 x 27 cm, ca. 120 color illustrations, hardcover, German and English, Arnoldsche Verlagsanstalt, Stuttgart 2015. Available at the MAK Design Shop and at MAKdesignshop.at for € 29.80.

MAK Admission € 7.90 regular/€ 5.50 reduced/Family Ticket € 11  
Free admission for children and teens up to 19

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