

## Vienna: Muse, Kiss and Avant-garde

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**The world's largest Bruegel collection and the prettiest kiss immortalized by Jugendstil genius Gustav Klimt in his world famous painting can only be found in Vienna. The cultural capital is also a place where you can discover a rich diversity of styles and eras. Baroque opulence and cool avant-garde coexist in an exciting creative environment. Pieces by talented young designers now hang in the ornate staterooms and are just as impressive as the old masters found in Vienna's modern museums.**

The Albertina, a venerable former palace, is now home to one of the world's leading art collections. It is the venue for major exhibitions such as Michelangelo as a Draftsman which opens in fall 2010. The museum's own holdings are spectacular and comprise names such as Matisse, Renoir and Miro. The Museum of Fine Art on the Ringstrasse is devoted to Old Masters. Art treasures from all the key eras are on display here, in particular examples from the Renaissance and Baroque periods by Rubens, Titian, Rembrandt and Raphael. The museum also holds the world's largest collection of works by Bruegel. Some visitors even return to Vienna just to relive the experience of being a guest at Bruegel's Peasant Wedding.

The picturesque Belvedere Palace is home to the biggest collection of Klimts in the world, including The Kiss. The Secession Building, which was used as an exhibition space by Klimt's secessionist group of artists, awaits with its ornate gold leaf dome at Karlsplatz.

Renowned 20<sup>th</sup> century artists are represented at the MuseumsQuartier. Built by Baroque architect Fischer von Erlach, the former court stables now host a whole new district. The courtyard is once again brimming with life thanks to the Leopold Museum — the Schiele collection is always worth a visit — the Museum Moderner Kunst (Mumok), Kunsthalle, Architekturzentrum, Designforum, and various shops, cafés and restaurants.

Young artists create a stir at countless exhibitions in galleries or at the Vienna fair. Rising stars on the Austrian and international art scene can always be found at the Mumok and the Museum of Applied Arts/Contemporary Arts, or MAK for short.

A rest in one of the city's traditional coffee houses is highly recommended following a visit to one of the museums. Take a seat — with any luck it will be a Thonet — and treat yourself. This too is very much a part of Viennese culture.

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