

# EROS & THANATOS – DRIVES, IMAGES, INTERPRETATIONS

## THE EXHIBITION IN THE LIECHTENSTEIN MUSEUM

The LIECHTENSTEIN MUSEUM is recognized as one of Europe's outstanding treasuries of art. It is furthermore a collection of universal character, in which the great themes and predicaments of human history are presented in exemplary visual renderings of superior quality. Many phenomena such as Eros, narcissism, violence and the longing for death are sketched out in ancient myths, in the Bible and in history. This exhibition project in cooperation with the Sigmund Freud Museum links these themes to the theories of Sigmund Freud for the first time in a single exhibition.

The legitimation for such linkage was provided by Freud himself, who saw in ancient mythology clear precursors of his ideas about love and sexuality, violence, melancholy, murder, suicide and a host of other psychological constellations. For this reason, he often made such myths the starting points of his theories. And in order to underline these, Freud himself was prone to resort to illustrative metaphors: "He who first used an insult, rather than a spear, was the founder of civilization." The exhibits shown in this presentation – which is conceived as a both psychoanalytical and art-historical juxtaposition – include artworks from the Princely Collections as well as from the Graphic Collection of the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna. It is further enriched by objects from the Sigmund Freud Museum. This presentation seeks to make apparent the complex interrelationships that are brought together and dealt with in psychoanalytic theory. The geographical proximity of the two exhibition locations makes it possible for visitors to explore Freud's theories in a concentrated manner. This exhibition is intended as a contribution to their updating, as well as to the general discourse on Freud's views and their validity.

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An exhibition at the Sigmund Freud Museum and the LIECHTENSTEIN MUSEUM mounted in cooperation with The Graphic Collection of the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna