

Sigmund Freud Museum newly reopened – renovated and extended

VIENNA. The Sigmund Freud Museum, located at Berggasse 19 in Vienna, has reopened on August 29, 2020 following a rebuild (which took longer than planned due to COVID-19) in which it was renovated, expanded, and made wheelchair accessible. Sigmund Freud and his family lived at this historic address, which was also the site of his practice, for 47 years until they were forced to flee from the National Socialist regime in 1938. New exhibitions offer comprehensive information on the life and work of Freud. The multifaceted concept of architects Hermann Czech, Walter Angonese, and ARTEC Architects, has preserved traces of history and combined them with state-of-the-art museum standards. For the first time ever, all private rooms of the Freud family will be accessible including his “first” practice located on the upper ground floor. The bel étage is entirely dedicated to research. It houses Europe’s largest library of psychoanalysis as well as the museum archive, which is equipped with a new reading and lecture room. The modernized museum infrastructure provides up-to-date facilities that include a ticket counter, museum shop, and café in the newly designed foyer.

The exhibition area, which now totals about 550 m², has nearly doubled during the course of the renovation. For the first time ever, it now includes all rooms in which Freud and his family lived and worked: The entire mezzanine floor, the private family apartment, and the practices of Sigmund and Anna Freud are the sites of comprehensive exhibitions that provide a wide range of information from the historical developments of psychoanalysis to critical perspectives on its contemporary issues. These will be in the center of the special exhibition *Analysis Interminable. Psychoanalytical Schools of Thought after Freud*. The history of the building and its inhabitants is presented in a newly constructed stairwell that unites all museum levels and enables visitors to tour all exhibition rooms.

The rooms on the upper ground floor that used to make up Freud’s practice now display art: The collection of conceptual art, which was established by Joseph Kosuth, includes works by, among others, John Baldessari, Pier Paolo Calzolari, Susan Hiller, Ilya Kabakov, and Franz West, and they are exhibited where Freud once wrote *The Interpretation of Dreams*. The installation „Hellion“ by American artist Robert Longo is on display in the Showroom Berggasse 19, a storefront exhibition space in what used to be the butcher shop Kornmehl. Longo’s installation envisages new associations between the disciplines of art and psychoanalysis.

The ticket counter and museum shop are located in the new foyer on the ground floor, and, together with the new wardrobe system, provide an infrastructure for a frequency of over 110,000 visitors per year. By separating the commercial museum activities from the historical rooms, the atmosphere of the former family apartment and practice can be experienced without any distractions. The new café in the foyer provides space to relax and enjoy a culinary finish to the museum visit. The café and shop may be visited independently of the museum, and are thus available to walk-in customers.

Berggasse 19 – a commemoration site: On the one hand, this world-famous address is the “birthplace of psychoanalysis” where Freud studied the human psyche and the unconscious,

and in doing so gave people a new way of looking at themselves that has left its mark on science, culture, and society to this day. On the other hand, the location functions as a site of commemoration and memorial to the loss of culture and humanity under the National Socialist terror regime: Because of the historical responsibility of Austria and Vienna, Berggasse 19 serves as a commemoration site and memorial to all displaced and murdered Jewish Austrians.

The renovation and restoration project, which cost around 4 million euros, was financed by the city of Vienna, the federal government, private donors, and the Sigmund Freud Foundation, which also operates the museum.

Architecture, Renovation and Design

The international architecture competition for the museum renovation and expansion was won by a group of architects that consists of Hermann Czech, Walter Angonese, and ARTEC / Bettina Götz and Richard Manahl. With its prudent and careful modernization of the museum, the architectural concept retained the original character of Freud's living and working spaces. Visitors walk through the museum following the layout of the rooms in which they learn about their histories, how they were used, and gain insights into how they used to be furnished. In the new exhibition on the mezzanine level, which includes bespoke display cases, visitors learn about psychoanalysis, how it was developed, as well as about its founder Sigmund Freud and his family. According to Hermann Czech, who was instrumental in the design of this exhibition and the museum's spaces, "These rooms are a museum in their own right. That being the case, there are only structural, partly concealed traces left from their historical usages. These authentic commemoration spaces are the cause for, and central subject of, the architectural intervention, for they are the ambiances of historical personages and not just architectural substance."

In this vein, traces of former usage on the walls were uncovered: original wall paintings, wallpaper, traces of fabrics that were attached to the walls, and even a telephone line in daughter Anna Freud's bedroom. These elements were authenticated by conservators and provide insight into how the rooms were used during Freud's time. A selection of photographs secretly taken of the interior of Berggasse 19 with remarkable courage and technical know-how by Edmund Engelman in 1938 while the apartment was under surveillance by the Gestapo, show us how the original interior and furnishings of the practice spaces looked prior to Freud's 1938 flight. The architectural interventions therefore demark a separation of service and operative spaces from those of the museum whose function it is to preserve history. Only the necessary accessibility additions, such as the construction of an elevator and fire escape, required the use of historical ancillary rooms.

See further texts from the catalog „Freud. Berggasse 19 – The Origin of Psychoanalysis“ by architect Hermann Czech

PERMANENT EXHIBITIONS

Freud, Berggasse 19

Reorganization of the permanent collection on the life and work of Sigmund Freud

*Concept and design: Atelier Czech /
Hermann Czech and Gerhard Flora
Curators: Sigmund Freud Museum /
Monika Pessler and Daniela Finzi*

If we consider the rooms of Berggasse 19 as exhibits by their very nature that center on their former functions and significances, they are given another layer of information by the presentation curated by Monika Pessler (director) and Daniela Finzi (research director) on the life and work of Sigmund Freud located on the mezzanine level of the building.

According to Monika Pessler in summarizing the basic conceptual idea behind the new museum presentation, “The architecture of this Gründerzeit building not only defined the redesign with regard to space, it also correlates with the significance of subject matter.”

Originally preserved spatial structures reveal an authentic experience of the birthplace of psychoanalysis, and the various exhibits (objects, historical manuscripts, photographs) highlight the professional stations and biographical facets of Freud’s professional and family life. Special printings, rare first editions, offprints, and presentation copies provide insights into the geneses of Freud’s theoretical work. Foreign-language (first) editions in Hungarian, Swedish, Hebrew, or Japanese, furthermore eloquently testify to the extent of the international dissemination of the psychoanalytical movement during Freud’s time.

This layer of information is in many ways closely connected to the history of each respective room: the practice of psychoanalysis and the so-called “talking cure” is addressed with the help of case histories and texts in Freud’s former treatment room. Doing so refers to the former use of the room and brings it into the present. In this vein, the spot where the psychoanalytical couch once stood remains empty. Monika Pessler explains why the museum deliberately avoided reconstructing the original room: “This void, which has existed in Freud’s treatment room since his flight from the National Socialist regime, clearly represents the dark side of history. To reconstruct a ‘world of yesterday’ (Stefan Zweig) within these rooms – i.e. a world before the March 1938 Anschluss (annexation of Austria into Nazi Germany), as if Freud’s forced exile in London never happened – would be to negate a significant part of Freud’s history and, in doing so, negate ours.”

Anna Freud’s adjacent living and practice rooms are dedicated to her work of combining psychoanalysis and pedagogy, which she performed together with her partner Dorothy Burlingham in Vienna and, after their emigration, in London. Several personal artifacts on display have been loaned from the Freud Museum London including Anna Freud’s *laterna magica* (magic lantern).

Following the exhibition concept, the private rooms of the Freud family are dedicated to Freud’s life as a family father and his career path as a young physician and neurologist. Objects such

as hospital documents and medicinal instruments, as well as travel toiletry kits, gifts to his future wife Martha, and other personal objects provide the viewer with information on Freud's family life, and according to Daniela Finzi, "set into motion imaginations, associations, and narratives." Texts and manuscripts from the estate of the Freud family will be presented to the public for the first time in these rooms. Freud's former bedroom is dedicated to the topic of *The Interpretation of Dreams* – listening stations furthermore provide an auditory experience of Sigmund Freud's dreams. Original pieces of furniture have found their way into the exhibition for the first time including a dresser on permanent loan from the Freud Museum London which, along with its accompanying intarsia table, makes up part of the original, historical ensemble of the Herrenzimmer (gentlemen's salon).

See further texts from the catalog „Freud. Berggasse 19 – The Origin of Psychoanalysis“ by Monika Pessler and Daniela Finzi (Sigmund Freud Museum)

Berggasse 19: History and Occupants 1880 – 2020

A fragmentary timeline of historical events in commemoration of the occupants of Berggasse 19 who fell victim to Nazi terror.

*Concept and design: Atelier Czech / Hermann Czech and Gerhard Flora
Curators: Sigmund Freud Museum / Monika Pessler and Daniela Finzi*

Coming from the museum's foyer, that accommodated the Erster Österreichischer Konsumverein (First Austrian Consumers' Cooperative) in Freud's day, one comes to a new staircase. Like the historical stairs, it connects all of the exhibitions and the library, thus enabling visitors to visit all floors of the museum. These stairs are used to display information in order to recount the history of the house and its occupants.

The building itself was built in 1890 from the plans of architect Hermann Stierlin on the site where the house of Victor Adler, the founder of the Social Democratic Workers' Party, had once stood. Excerpts from Freud's personal correspondence and diaries give details of the family's life above all during the First and Second World Wars: for example when Freud, increasingly appalled by the ongoing wartime atrocities, writes to Lou Andreas-Salomé in November 1914: "I do not doubt that mankind will survive even this war . . . I know that science is only apparently dead, but humanity seems to be really dead."

More than twenty years later, Freud noted in his daily records on March 14, 1938: "Hitler in Vienna", followed the next day by "Checks in publishing house and home" and, just one week later, on March 22, "Anna at the Gestapo". Today we suspect that it was only the arrest of his youngest daughter Anna and the long hours of anxiously waiting for her to return unharmed which induced Freud to leave his home country – in order "to die in freedom", as he would later write in the language of exile.

The exhibition also depicts the period following Freud's expulsion, a time fraught with violence when "collecting houses for Jews" were established, with a total of seventy-six people forced to await their final deportation to extermination camps at Berggasse 19. A separate section on the gallery of the foyer, accessed from the new stairs, is dedicated to Freud's successful flight into exile in London with his closest family, to his brother Alexander and the fate of his sisters Rosa, Marie, Pauline and Adolfine, and their murder in the Nazi extermination camps Theresienstadt and Treblinka. The gallery not only features the cabin trunk used to ship the Freud family's possessions into exile but also – from this elevated position – looks down on Berggasse, that Freud left for good on June 4, 1938, after living and working here for forty-seven years.

Hidden Thoughts of a Visual Nature. An Exhibition of Conceptual Art

Selected works of the Sigmund Freud Museum art collection

*Curator: Sigmund Freud Museum /
Monika Pessler*

Now as then, the historical staircase, which is an integral part of the new museum concept, connects the living spaces on the mezzanine level with the "doctor's apartment" on the upper ground floor where Freud had his office from 1896 to 1908: The permanent exhibition "Hidden Thoughts of a Visual Nature" is on show here now – a presentation of selected works from the Sigmund Freud Museum's collection of conceptual art that was established in 1989 with an installation by American artist Joseph Kosuth.

Today, twelve selected works by John Baldessari, Wolfgang Berkowski, Pier Paolo Calzolari, Jessica Diamond, Georg Herold, Susan Hiller, Ilya Kabakov, Joseph Kosuth, Sherrie Levine, Haim Steinbach, Franz West and Heimo Zobernig are on display in the rooms of Freud's "first" office.

The works by Joseph Kosuth and Heimo Zobernig are exhibited in the former waiting room, that served as the meeting place for the famed Wednesday Psychological Society from 1902 onwards: Kosuth's installation encourages the integration of new thoughts into the existing material. Zobernig's piece also places the structural similarity between vision and reality at the centre of attention once again.

Exhibited on the veranda are works by Wolfgang Berkowski and Sherrie Levine in which found objects and linguistic finds become leading artistic figures. In the treatment room, where analysands, reclining on the couch, developed the "talking cure" method together with Freud, core themes of psychoanalysis are incorporated into the artistic investigations: Georg Herold answers the question "whether our 'civilized' sexual morality is worth the sacrifice which it imposes on us" with critical wit. Steinbach draws attention to the possibilities of communication in the course of the psychoanalytic therapy, bringing up the subject of the "talking cure" with an "AHA!" emblazoned on the wall. For John Baldessari, photographic references form the starting point for visualising the affinity and the discrepancy of the un-canny, while Susan Hiller tests the idea of "recognising oneself in others" in her extensive examination of archive material from Sigmund Freud's estate. Franz West's "Liège" from 1989 is exhibited at the centre. Where

once Freud's couch is thought to have stood, its crudely welded counterpart now resides on a white plinth; rather than inviting people to rest a while, instead it makes reference to the instrumental nature of the psychoanalytic setting.

In the room in which Freud wrote *The Interpretation of Dreams* we find Jessica Diamond's self- and other-referential piece "Me Constellation". Where once Sigmund Freud's desk is thought to have stood, today Ilya Kabakov unfolds his specific symbolism with found items of furniture: The artistic arrangement emphasises the room's one-time purpose, adding the autobiographical story "The Man Who Flew Into His Picture".

In the kitchen, through which patients could once leave the office discreetly after finishing their session, Pier Paolo Calzolari presents "Avido" (Engl. "greed"), a piece which highlights the situation of sexual desire.

With its preserved original layout of rooms, not only the "birthplace of psychoanalysis" is clearly defined. Today, the works of conceptual art, on permanent display for the first time, also contribute to those aspects with which Freud once occupied himself here: Some take gender relations as their theme, others the potential discrepancy between experience and memory or between individual and societal (self-)determination. The intimate, mutually conditional relationship between art and its surrounding space is fundamentally different here to the criteria of the neutral "White Cube", as is generally favoured for showcasing contemporary art: in this case the artworks corresponding with Freud's former workplace and all of its historical implications merge with their surroundings at this location to form a unity of effect.

FREUD Berggasse 19 _ Birthplace of Psychoanalysis

With an introduction by Siri Hustvedt

Edited by Monika Pessler and Daniela Finzi

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Graphic design: Martha Stutteregger

Sigmund Freud referred to his pioneering psychological theory and treatment as “psychoanalysis” for the first time in 1896. The same year, he moved into new office rooms on the upper ground floor of his home at Vienna’s Berggasse 19. It was here that he received his patients, developing the “Talking Cure” together with them, and also wrote his famous book *The Interpretation of Dreams*, among other works.

Published on the occasion of the reopening of the renovated and extended Sigmund Freud Museum, the book is dedicated to this birthplace of psychoanalysis. More than 200 colour illustrations reflect the atmosphere of the rooms in which Freud lived and worked for forty-seven years, forced to leave by the Nazis’ reign of terror in 1938, and also document the museum’s diverse holdings with its valuable writings, books, antiques and furniture.

Additionally, the publication includes a detailed dossier of images and texts on the museum’s art collection, that was initiated by American artist Joseph Kosuth in 1989 and that now goes on permanent show for the first time with selected works of renowned international artists. More than twenty-five essays by experts from different disciplines examine the life, work and fate of Sigmund Freud and his family and the development of psychoanalysis with the history of its continuing influence on art, culture and society.

The publication also describes the transformation which the house museum has undergone at this famous address as a result of the new concept and recent conversion work, planned by the architects Hermann Czech, Walter Angonese and ARTEC Architekten / Bettina Götz and Richard Manahl.

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

Analysis Interminable. Psychoanalytical Schools of Thought After Freud

Curator: Esther Hutfless

In future too there will be room in Freud's former private apartment for a rotating programme of special exhibitions that address contemporary questions and problems of psychoanalysis and its related fields. *Analysis Interminable. Psychoanalytical Schools of Thought after Freud* contains short films and interviews with five practising psychoanalysts from New York, Dublin and Berlin who introduce a variety of psychoanalytical schools: contemporary drive and conflict theory, structural psychoanalysis, relational psychoanalysis, object relation theories, as well as self-psychology. The exhibition is curated by philosopher and psychoanalyst Esther Hutfless.

Freud describes the treatment of mental conditions and the approach to the unconscious in *Analysis Terminable and Interminable* as an interminable task, one that has given rise to numerous revisions and refinements of his theory and which continues to do so today. It is this task which was taken for the title of the special exhibition which marks the reopening of the Sigmund Freud Museum.

Generations after Freud have updated his approaches, developing them further where they displayed gaps or were insufficiently elaborated, where contradictions were evident, where growing clinical experience reveals new problematic areas, and where changes in social conditions lead to changes in mental conditions which need to be understood. But also where there are conflicts regarding the interpretation and meaning of certain concepts and terms within the psychoanalytic discourse, people continue to work on psychoanalysis in theory and practice. New branches are growing continuously, resulting over time in different psychoanalytic "schools".

The exhibition consists of five sections each showcasing one of the selected schools of psychoanalysis with a major exponent and an important "founder figure". Arising from interviews conducted by the curator Esther Hutfless with the psychoanalysts, the films give an insight into the individual approaches and approaches specific to particular schools and theories, and into the current relevance of the psychoanalytic discourse in the context of both clinical and socio-political questions.

Robert Longo, Untitled (Hellion), 2011

An installation by American artist Robert Longo in the Showroom Berggasse 19

Curator: Monika Pessler

“Art is an attempt to try and understand our own contemporary situation through making images that are completely personal, while also addressing our social context.” – In just a few words, this quotation by American artist Robert Longo reveals how close artistic intentions come to those of psychoanalysis. Freud already attached great importance to turning hidden, latent thoughts into pictures in dreams, hoping that their manifestation and analysis would yield important insights into mental dynamics and conflicts.

Born in Brooklyn in 1953, Robert Longo grew up in Long Island, New York, and began at a very early age to take an active interest in the social and political situations of his time. Events such as the student protests against the US invasion of Cambodia at the beginning of the 1970s, particularly how it was portrayed in the media, led to his ongoing examination of prevailing power relations in politics and society. Together with Charles Clough he co-founded “Hallwalls” in the mid-1970s, an exhibition and discourse platform which showcased pioneering artists such as Vito Acconci, John Baldessari, Lynda Benglis, Robert Irwin, Joan Jonas, Bruce Nauman and Richard Serra. As a protagonist of the “Pictures Generation”, turning away from minimalism and conceptualism, Longo worked with different means of expression in the following decade – photography, painting, sculpture, performance, film and music – with the aim of critically questioning capitalism, war and their consumerist media policy.

From the end of the 1990s onwards, Longo began making charcoal drawings as his favoured medium: the print of “Untitled (Hellion)” from the “Monsters series” on show here was done at the same time as the “Freud Cycle”, in which the artist engaged in an intensive examination of Edmund Engelman’s photographs of Berggasse 19, taken just a few weeks before Freud’s flight into exile. The historical documentation of Freud’s place of work already hints at its impending misappropriation by the Nazi regime. While this aspect is only adumbrated in the photographs, Longo portrays it vividly in a varied play of light and shade – individual objects such as Freud’s psychoanalytic couch (see cover of the new collection catalogue), his desk or the door to his office are modelled out of the surrounding darkness to become symbols of humanist thought and action. Whereas the sense of menace and danger is clearly evident in the contrasty black-and-white “Monsters” drawings. Compared with the “Freud Cycle”, the visualisation of the “untamable oceans” forms a counterbalance to the “human reason” which Longo sees reflected in the images of Freud’s everyday working and living environment. The title in parentheses “Hellion” also emphasises the possibility of the unpredictable unleashing of inner forces inherent in the wave subject: The large-format, eerily beautiful water formation becomes the embodiment of meaningless violence and destruction.

The imagery of Robert Longo’s visual idiom not only testifies to his artistic interest in the psychological dimensions of human realisation and therefore seems to fit in well in the “Showroom Berggasse 19”. The image of a wave which – although banished behind glass – menacingly exceeds the viewer’s horizon is a powerful, visual symbol of our current individual and collective fears in times of the coronavirus crisis.

LIBRARY OF PSYCHOANALYSIS

With its collection of approximately 40,000 books and other media, the Sigmund Freud Museum library is Europe's largest specialized library on psychoanalysis. Formerly located in the Freud family's private rooms, it is now accessible to users one floor higher, on the bel étage. The new reading room, equipped with state-of-the-art technology, can be used as a multipurpose lecture hall for in-house or external events. One of the library rooms is dedicated to psychoanalyst Michael Turnheim, and contains books and furniture from his estate. An additional room can be used as a seminar room. The entire bel étage level of Berggasse 19 is dedicated to research, and together with the Library of Psychoanalysis is also the home to a comprehensive archive as well as workspaces.

Sigmund Freud Museum

From Saturday, August 29, 2020

Berggasse 19, 1090 Vienna, Austria

Daily 10 am – 6 pm, Wednesday 10 am – 9 pm

www.freud-museum.at