moving freud museum

Exhibition at two venues for the duration of renovation work on the Sigmund Freud Museum
Berggasse 13 and Liechtensteinstraße 19, 1090 Vienna
4 March 2019 to May 2020

The Sigmund Freud Museum has been closed since 1 March 2019 and, once renovation work has been finished, will reopen in May 2020, extended and with barrier-free access. In the meantime, the Museum is mounting an exhibition at two venues in the immediate vicinity of Berggasse 19 that was conceived especially for this transition phase: moving freud museum at Berggasse 13 and Liechtensteinstraße 19.

moving freud museum affords a condensed insight into the life and work of Sigmund Freud. The museum presentation kicks off with a look at the early years of the doctor and neurologist, the “pre-analytical phase”, as it is known. Special attention is given to the “talking cure” developed by Freud and to the science of the unconscious that focuses on dreams, parapraxes, wishful notions, fantasies and memories. The presentation of selected correspondence, for example with Wilhelm Fliess, Lou Andreas-Salome and Albert Einstein, testifies to Freud’s eloquence and sheds light on his networks.

The famous “Home Movies” from the 1930s, compiled and annotated by Anna Freud, present a very private picture of the “father of psychoanalysis”.

A selection of antiques highlights one of Freud’s great passions: collecting. Photographs of colleagues and family members, but also the pictures of Freud’s treatment room and study presented as a photo wallpaper, bring to life his circles, his everyday life, and his work. The original waiting room furniture allows visitors to breathe the atmosphere of Freud’s practice and the birthplace of all psychoanalytic associations: the meetings of the “Wednesday Psychological Society” at Berggasse 19.

The exhibition concludes with a look at the hiatus in the psychoanalytic movement that began in Vienna in 1938, documenting how Freud fled the Nazis with his closest family into exile in London on 4 June that year.

The provisional nature of the moving freud museum is reflected above all in its design: the displays of the exhibition rooms are made of simple materials such as wood and corrugated cardboard, emphasising their purpose as a “temporary setting”. The second venue of the moving freud museum at Liechtensteinstraße 19 also plays with the aspect of time. In the ambience of a fifties café, the site not only features a bookshop and museum shop but also a film room that is showing John Menick’s film collage Starring Sigmund Freud: this short film originally made for the documenta13 brings together various interpretations of Sigmund Freud in international film productions, with actors including Viggo Mortensen, Montgomery Clift or Alan Arkin playing the psychoanalyst. A reading corner invites visitors to stay a while and enjoy a cup of coffee. The two venues forge a link between the past and the future of the Sigmund Freud Museum, both physically and in terms of content, visibly integrating Freud, the history of his life and work, beyond Berggasse 19 into the local area where he lived and went about his business for almost fifty years.

moving freud museum
Berggasse 13 and Liechtensteinstraße 19, 1090 Vienna
From 4 March until the reopening of the Sigmund Freud Museum in May 2020
Daily 10 am – 6 pm
www.freud-museum.at