



ARCHITECTURE PORTRAITS

Infeld Haus der Kultur, Halbtorn

08 March 2025 - 08 December 2025

The exhibition "Architecture Portraits" marks the 25th anniversary of Infeld Haus der Kultur in Halbtorn. In 2000, Viennese string producer Peter Infeld (1942–2009) transformed the hunting lodge of Halbtorn Castle into a meeting place for international and local artists and musicians. Over the past quarter-century, the Infeld Haus der Kultur has hosted nearly 100 exhibitions and 100 concerts, all free of charge.

A significant aspect of a society's cultural identity is reflected in the diverse structures that surround people in their daily lives. Even in early paintings, depictions of architecture were used to add depth to works. The architecture served as a backdrop or complementary element. By employing unusual perspectives or incidences of light, familiar motifs could be reinterpreted and experienced in a new way. From the 16th century onwards, architectural painting emerged as an independent form of Western art.

The exhibition "Architecture Portraits" brings together several impressive depictions of buildings. Spanning works by contemporary Austrian artists to Art Brut art works, the presentation highlights the diversity of the Infeld collection.

The magnificent Venetian palazzi in the works of Karl Goldammer are vivid in colour and rich in detail. His elaborately staged depictions of these architectural monuments evoke a yearning in viewers, letting them glimpse a lost paradise. While their inhabitants are absent, they have left behind numerous status symbols and markers of a once-great maritime power. Personal interpretations of La Serenissima are offered by Hans Staudacher and Anton Lehmden. The ever-changing nature of Venice's architecture creates a dual impression - static on the one hand, yet dynamic and intriguing through the confrontation with new perspectives.

Eduard Angeli is a master of the aesthetic of deserted spaces. His melancholic, atmospheric works captivate viewers with their striking coldness. In contrast, Walter Schmögner's residential complexes are infused with wit and humour. At the same time, these appear enigmatic, mysterious and challengingly static.

Emerik Fejes created his vibrant architecture works based on black-and-white postcards. Instead of brushes, he used matchsticks, driven by a desire to make the world more colourful and beautiful. He prioritised the imagination over appearance and colouring. Perspective detail was less important than architectural diversity.

The exhibition "Architecture Portraits" presents architecture works in all their variety: from poetic (Anton Lehmden) and raving (Hans Staudacher) to imaginative (Drago Jurak) and strikingly austere (Oswald Tschirtner).



The Infeld collection

Peter Infeld (1942-2009) and his mother Margaretha Infeld (1904-1994) began to collect art in the mid-1960s.

The Vienna School of Fantastic Realism, naive art from Croatia, Pop Art, Buddhist meditation paintings from Tibet (so-called "Thangkas") and Art Brut are the main focus of the Infeld collection.

In order to make the works accessible to a broader public, patron of arts Peter Infeld, has built representative cultural centers in Halbtorn in Burgenland and in the idyllic village of Dobrinj on the Croatian island of Krk. In total, more than 120 exhibitions were held free of charge at both locations.

The company Thomastik-Infeld GmbH

The traditional Viennese company Thomastik-Infeld is one of the three most important string producers worldwide. The company produces around 3000 different strings and is the world market leader in some areas. The strings have been handmade.

Founded in 1919, the company had 20 employees after the Second World War. To date, this number has increased tenfold. Exports go to more than 95 countries. Following the death of Peter Infeld in 2009, his widow, Croatian-born Zdenka Infeld, continues the family's long business and art collecting tradition.

Exhibition dates

Duration: The exhibition "Architecture Portraits" can be seen from March 08 to December 08, 2025.

Venue: Infeld Haus der Kultur, Parkstraße 13, 7131 Halbtorn / Burgenland

Opening hours: Thu-Sun 1 pm to 6 pm, as well as on public holidays

Free admission

Works: approximately 90 oil and acrylic paintings, watercolours and drawings

Artists: Eduard Angeli, Herbert Breiter, Andre Bouquet, Michael Coudenhove-Kalergi, Emerik Fejes, Claudio Frank, Johann Garber, Karl Goldammer, Franz Grabmayr, Martha Grünenwaldt, Johann Hauser, Friedensreich Hundertwasser, Dragutin Jurak, Franz Kernbeis, Karl Korab, Albina Kudeljnjak, Ivan Lackovic-Croata, Anton Lehmden, Josef Pachta, Viktor Pipal, Ivan Rabuzin, Lisbeth Raidl, Heinrich Reisenbauer, Walter Schmögner, Philipp Schöpke, Sava Sekulic, Hans Staudacher, Oswald Tschirtner, August Walla, Franz Zadrazil

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