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Highlights 2026



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KUNSTHISTORISCHES MUSEUM

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Michaelina Wautier, Painter





KUNST HISTORISCHES MUSEUM

MICHAELINA WAUTIER, PAINTER

30 SEPTEMBER 2025 - 22 FEBRUARY 2026

Forgotten, Marginalised, Celebrated. In a highly anticipated exhibition opening in autumn 2025, the Kunsthistorisches Museum will put the spotlight on a painter who has to be one of the biggest rediscoveries in art history of recent decades: Michaelina Wautier.

Michaelina Wautier is undoubtedly one of the most fascinating artists of the Flemish Baroque. At a time when female artists focused on still-lives or paintings depicting scenes of everyday life, Michaelina Wautier self-confidently produced grand history paintings as well. However, for centuries, her work was unappreciated, forgotten or misattributed to male contemporaries.

The artist's oeuvre is characterised by originality, humour and remarkable artistic courage. Her output – including large-format history paintings, portraiture, altar paintings and allegories – not only smashed the boundaries of what was expected of female painters at the time, it also provides a female perspective on classical and innovative pictorial themes and the male body.

The exhibition offers the most comprehensive insight into Wautier's work to date and shows how this extraordinary artist deserves to be mentioned in the same breath as Peter Paul Rubens and Anthony van Dyck. Many of the paintings in the show have been loaned by private collections in Europe and the USA and are therefore only rarely seen in public. The works by Wautier that will be reunited in Vienna include her famous series *The Five Senses*, which will be shown as a complete set for the first time ever in Europe.

The exhibition invites visitors to explore the extraordinary quality of Michaelina Wautier as an artist and as a master of the senses and to learn about the research that led to her rediscovery as an outstanding artist of her time.

Michaelina Wautier, *Two Girls as Saints Agnes and Dorothy*, c.1655, Royal Museum of Fine Arts Antwerp – Flemish Community

Previous double page:
Michaelina Wautier, *The Triumph of Bacchus*, c.1655-59

*Back in Her Rightful Place Alongside
Her Contemporaries – The First Major
Exhibition on Michaelina Wautier*

Canaletto & Bellotto





KUNST HISTORISCHES MUSEUM

CANALETTO & BELLOTTO

24 MARCH - 6 SEPTEMBER 2026

In their impressive urban landscape paintings, or *vedute*, Giovanni Antonio Canal and his nephew and pupil Bernardo Bellotto, both known under the name Canaletto, depict urban life and the societal ideals of their day. In spring 2026 the Kunsthistorisches Museum will stage an exhibition of works by these famous Venetian *vedutisti*.

Both painters have their roots in Venice's rich artistic tradition. Canal in particular became famous for his exquisitely detailed views of Venice and its lagoon. Bellotto started his career working in his uncle's studio but quickly developed his own style. The political turbulence of the 1740s however, prompted both of them to leave Venice and pursue artistic opportunities elsewhere.

Canal moved to England where he captured London's advancing modernity and presented the city as a symbol of *civic humanism*. Bellotto initially accepted a position as court painter in Dresden before moving to Vienna for two years. His views of the Habsburg city reflect the Enlightenment ideals of progress and order, but gloss over the social and economic challenges of the period. Bellotto painted views of both cities and even today this perspective is known as the Canaletto View – in Vienna, for example, this is the famous view of the city centre.

For the first time in the German-speaking world, the exhibition places Canal's and Bellotto's views of Venice, London and Vienna in a revealing dialogue. With around 60 paintings, drawings, prints, books and scientific instruments from many of the most important collections in Europe, the show offers new insights into the relationship between art, urbanity and society in the eighteenth century.

Bernardo Bellotto, *The Dominican Church in Vienna*, c.1759–60

Previous double page:
Antonio Canal, known as Canaletto, *The Dogana in Venice*, c.1724–30

*Two Artists, Three Cities,
Three Perspectives*

Neue Hofburg



Cleopatra & Rome
Crime Scene Ephesus





KUNST HISTORISCHES MUSEUM

AN EXHIBITION OF THE KUNSTHISTORISCHES MUSEUM IN THE NEUE HOFBURG

CLEOPATRA & ROME

CRIME SCENE EPHEBUS

20 OCTOBER 2026 - 29 MARCH 2027

A mysterious tomb, an unsolved murder, a world in turmoil – it was in Ephesus, one of the most magnificent cities of the ancient world, that Cleopatra's sister Arsinoë was murdered and buried in unexplained circumstances. But on whose orders was she killed and what role did the political upheavals of the first century BC and AD play?

Around 100 years ago, Austrian archaeologists in Ephesus discovered an eight-sided mausoleum containing a skeleton. To this day, it remains unclear who was buried in this 'octagon'. This spectacular find forms the starting point for a fascinating exhibition that embeds archaeology, history and the latest scientific findings in an exciting cultural-historical panorama.

Learn all about the 'global players' of the period: Cleopatra, her allies – and lovers – Caesar and Mark Antony, but also her adversary Octavian, later known as Augustus.

Loans from international museums and treasures from the Kunsthistorisches Museum's own collection convey an impressive image of the ancient world as the Roman Republic became the Roman Empire. The results of recent research will also be presented, shedding light on the history and interpretation of the Ephesus Octagon, part of which is now housed in the Kunsthistorisches Museum.

Mummy Mask, 3rd–1st century BC

Previous double page: *Gemma Augustea*, c.9–12 AD

*The Ephesus Case –
Murder in an Ancient City*



Vom Stoff zum
Stahl – Einfluss der
zeitgenössischen Mode auf
die Harnischformen

From fabric to
steel – influence of
contemporary fashion on
the design of armour



NEUE HOFBURG TOUR

HOUSE OF HABSBURG

SELF-GUIDED AUDIO TOUR IN
10 LANGUAGES

The *House of Habsburg Tour* tells the story of the rise and fall of one of the most powerful families to have ruled in Europe in the last millennium. In their final residence and the centre of their power, the Neue Hofburg, we present imperial tales about the Habsburgs through the ages from the dynasty's founding fathers to Sisi, giving you fascinating insights into the world of the emperors and empresses.

Triumph and tragedy are never far apart in the history of the Habsburg Monarchy. Under this dynasty, Vienna was a centre of power and music. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the Neue Hofburg, the most recent wing of the Wiener Hofburg. This is partly due to the building itself, which is steeped in history, but also because of two of the collections that are housed here, the Imperial Armoury and the Collection of Historic Musical Instruments.

Our tour takes you on a journey through the history of the Habsburgs, from the late Middle Ages to the modern era, past suits of armour that cost the equivalent of a high-end sports car today, a fortepiano that was once played by Mozart and past the only wax bust to show Joseph Haydn as he was in life. The tour passes through those halls and rooms which are imbued with the spirit of Sisi; sadly, the Empress, who was murdered in 1898, never took up residence in the rooms that were originally intended for her.

*A Tour through 650 Years of Austrian
History under one Roof*

Palais Lobkowitz
Reopening in November 2026





THEATER MUSEUM

KLIMT. THE NAKED TRUTH

A NEW ERA IN THE PALAIS LOBKOWITZ

STARTING IN NOVEMBER 2026:

A NEW EXPERIENCE!

Autumn 2026 sees the launch of a brand new and exciting presentation at the Palais Lobkowitz. At the heart of this new show is the visionary key work *Nuda Veritas*. This painting is a clear statement of Gustav Klimt's enduring belief in the freedom of art and marks his courageous break with the conventions of his day.

You can look forward to a tour that brings this story of artistic heroism to life: to begin with, you will be transported back to Vienna around 1900 and see Klimt's original *Lady with Purple Scarf* presented for the first time at the Palais Lobkowitz. The main hall features a film that tells the story of Klimt's journey – from celebrated court painter to uncompromising visionary. The highlight of the exhibition is the unveiling of the *Nuda Veritas*, a moment that makes the power of this work immediately tangible, as Klimt directly defies the expectations of his clients, the public and the art world.

The experience is rounded off with a presentation of the famous spandrel paintings that decorate the walls of the Kunsthistorisches Museum, offering an impressive demonstration of Klimt's talent for space and ornamentation. The experience *Klimt. The Naked Truth* is an inspiring journey into the era of Viennese Modernism and a journey to oneself.

Gustav Klimt, *Nuda Veritas*, 1899

*Rediscover Gustav Klimt's
Masterpiece*

KUNST HISTORISCHES MUSEUM

AN EXHIBITION OF THE KUNSTHISTORISCHES MUSEUM IN THE PALAIS LOBKOWITZ

BERNINI

PAINTER AND SCULPTOR

2 DECEMBER 2026 - 4 APRIL 2027

This season the Kunsthistorisches Museum is proud to present an unknown *Portrait of an Old Man* from its own collection as part of an exhibition. Recent research suggests that the previously unknown artist is none other than Gian Lorenzo Bernini. Bernini, one of the most prominent artists of the Baroque period, is chiefly known as the creator of sculptures such as *Apollo and Daphne* and as the man who designed St. Peter's Square in Rome. However, only a small number of his many portrait paintings have survived – which makes this new discovery all the more spectacular.

Stylistic comparisons of the Viennese *Portrait of an Old Man* with Bernini's known self-portraits in Rome, Florence and Windsor, as well as technical analyses have revealed remarkable similarities that are obvious once explained.

The exhibition, which also features about 10 outstanding works loaned by international museums, casts light on Bernini's portraits across the media of sculpture, drawing and painting. It invites the viewer to rediscover the great artist who worked for eight popes and who continued to produce portraits for friends and important clients even in his old age, from a surprising and hitherto somewhat neglected perspective.

Gian Lorenzo Bernini, *Portrait of an Old Man*,
c.1670

The Last Secret of an Old Master

Café-Restaurant in the Cupola Hall





KUNST HISTORISCHES MUSEUM

café

CAFÉ & RESTAURANT

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The Café-Restaurant in the Cupola Hall of the Kunsthistorisches Museum is one of the most beautiful in the world. Let the atmosphere of this magnificent imperial architecture work its magic! Take a stroll through the unique collections of the Kunsthistorisches Museum.

Then indulge your taste buds in the breathtaking gallery restaurant as you enjoy one of the traditional specialities for which Vienna coffee-house culture is so famed. Every Saturday, Sunday and on bank holidays, the Kunsthistorisches Museum will help you get a day full of pleasure off to a perfect start with a carefully curated breakfast. Every Thursday, the Cupola Hall is transformed into a stylish restaurant that serves exquisite dinners – there's no other location in Vienna like it. Between the different courses of your meal you have the opportunity to discover the museum's world famous collections. If you wish, we can also arrange a guided tour to acquaint you with the world of the Imperial Habsburg collections in greater detail.

A BITE OF ART

THEME TRAIL 2026

As part of the Vienna Tourist Board's 2026 theme year under the motto *Vienna Bites. Cuisine, Culture, Character*, the Kunsthistorisches Museum will offer its own culinary trail beginning at Easter 2026. Food is wonderful – especially in art. And if, as the saying goes, the way to a man's heart is through his stomach perhaps a love of art can grow through the enjoyment of culinary delights in a setting with so much glorious art. Using selected masterpieces such as Bruegel's *Peasant Wedding*, Jordaens' *Feast of the Bean King* and other appetising examples, the trail traces the long tradition of eating and drinking in art.

As well as the theme trail, the Kunsthistorisches Museum will also be offering Art & Cuisine packages in cooperation with GMS-Gourmet throughout 2026. Once a month from January 2026 onward there will be a guided theme tour on cuisine in art and a breakfast or fine dining experience in the Café of the Kunsthistorisches Museum for a package price.

Cornelis de Heem, *Breakfast Still Life*, 1660/69

*Imperial Moments and
Fine Dining in the Most
Beautiful Café in the World*



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Daily except Mondays, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Thursday until 9 p.m.
June to August open daily, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Thursday until 9 p.m.
Kunsthistorisches Museum
Maria-Theresien-Platz, 1010 Vienna
www.khm.at

Daily except Mondays, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Tuesday until 9 p.m.
Neue Hofburg
Heldenplatz, 1010 Vienna
www.houseofhabsburg.at

Daily, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Theatermuseum
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