



**TIME TRAVEL TO EARLY 1900s AUSTRIA WITH KIRKLAND MUSEUM'S  
EXHIBITION "JOSEF HOFFMANN'S VIENNA"**

*Running Jan. 21 to April 3, 2022, the temporary exhibition features new and never displayed works*

**Denver, January 5, 2022** - Kirkland Museum of Fine & Decorative Art presents [Josef Hoffmann's Vienna](#) Jan. 21 through April 3, 2022, offering visitors the chance to time travel to early 1900s Austria without the need of a passport and plane ticket. Revel in the influence of architect and designer Josef Hoffmann (1870–1956) on the Vienna Secessionist movement and subsequent Wiener Werkstätte (Vienna Workshops). Unlike Art Nouveau designers across Europe who were heavily into curving botanical motifs, Hoffmann and his Austrian contemporaries made and taught a streamlined style. Hoffmann was integral to the advancement of modern art, design and architecture.

“Vienna, and especially the Wiener Werkstätte, created its own unique style that relied more heavily on geometry than that of their neighbors in France and Britain,” explains Associate Museum Director Renée Albiston. “Kirkland Museum’s Deputy Curator Christopher Herron’s compelling exhibition design incorporates the motif of checkerboard squares, made popular by Hoffmann’s designs.”

Hoffmann was a central figure in two progressive design movements in Austria. The Vienna Secession was an organization formed by artists and designers who broke away from the formal Viennese Artists’ Association, which the Secessionists saw as too formal and rooted in the past. During its first year (1898), Hoffmann served on the

editorial board of *Ver Sacrum* magazine, the Vienna Secession's publication that promoted modernism and rejected historicism or imitating past styles. Hoffmann went on to co-found the Wiener Werkstätte artist cooperative, one of the longest lasting design movements of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (1903–1932). Thus, he was instrumental in leading the culture of his country into a more global and modern future through art and design.

Kirkland Museum's exhibition will feature a mix of visitor-favorite Hoffmann designs along with new acquisitions. Highlights include Hoffmann's iconic Seven Ball Bentwood Side Chair and original issues of *Ver Sacrum* magazine.

Presented by Deputy Curator Christopher Herron and chosen from the collection assembled by Founding Director & Curator Hugh Grant, this special exhibition is included with admission and does not require a separate ticket.

For more information, please visit [KirklandMuseum.org/josef-hoffmanns-vienna/](https://KirklandMuseum.org/josef-hoffmanns-vienna/).

### **Programming for *Josef Hoffmann's Vienna***

#### **Virtual Tour**

Join exhibition curator Christopher Herron, along with Becca Goodrum (collections & research manager) and Maya Wright (director of interpretation), for a closer look at *Josef Hoffmann's Vienna*. The tour, hosted on Zoom and followed by a live Q&A with staff, will explain how the exhibition was designed and let in you in on fun trivia about the objects on view. Please join us for one or both of the tours.

Wednesday, February 9, 2022, 12pm MT

Wednesday, March 9, 2022, 12pm MT

\$7 for members, \$10 for non-members

#### **Lecture**

#### ***Innovative Prints by Viennese Artists*, a lecture by Barbara Thompson**

Wednesday, March 23, 2022, 6pm MT

Join this hybrid lecture in one of two ways:

**Virtual**

On Zoom

Members: \$12, Non-members: \$15

**In-Person VIP Experience**

See the exhibition in person and enjoy an intimate conversation with Barbara Thompson and curatorial staff from Kirkland Museum.

*Attendance is extremely limited with tickets available on a first come basis.*

*Refreshments will not be provided at this event.*

Members: \$20, Non-members: \$25

**About the Lecture**

Join Kirkland Museum and scholar Barbara Thompson to learn about Viennese printmakers and their monthly journal, *Ver Sacrum*, as seen in *Josef Hoffmann's Vienna*. Early 20th century Austrian printmakers created some of the most innovative images of their era. They combined the methods and compositional styles of Japanese printmakers with traditional European art. While less famous than Gustav Klimt's paintings and the commercial designs of Josef Hoffmann, the prints of these and other Secession artists were equally groundbreaking and influential to the world of printmaking. *Josef Hoffmann's Vienna* is on view at Kirkland Museum of Fine & Decorative Art through April 3, 2022 and is included with Museum admission.

**About Barbara Thompson**

Barbara Thompson holds a BA in Art & Design from Kansas State University and an MA in Museum Practice & Art History from the University of Michigan. Her multi-faceted professional career has included serving as the Director of Education for Cranbrook Academy of Art Museum, the Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha and the Denver Art Museum. From 1984 through 2012 she was the owner of Barbara Thompson Design in Denver, an interior design studio and French antique & unique object shop. During the past 10 years, while serving as a guest print curator for the Wichita Art Museum, Thompson has curated exhibitions and written catalogs on the Wichita-based members of the Prairie Print Makers print society, printmakers of World War I and most

recently *The International Block Print Renaissance*, which includes examples of *Ver Sacrum*.

Registration links for the tours and lecture will be posted at

[KirklandMuseum.org/exhibitions-events/events/](http://KirklandMuseum.org/exhibitions-events/events/)

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### **MEDIA CONTACT on behalf of Kirkland Museum of Fine & Decorative Art**

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### **About Kirkland Museum of Fine & Decorative Art**

Kirkland Museum of Fine & Decorative Art inspires people through the beauty of art and design presented in a unique and approachable way. The Museum carries on the curatorial vision established by Founding Director & Curator Hugh Grant (b. 1945), who was influenced by artist and educator Vance Kirkland (1904–1981). The Museum serves the general public and scholars through exhibitions, the loan of works and public programs.