

Gothic Modern, Vienna 1900 (Vienna, 30 Apr 26)

Vienna, University of Vienna, Institute for Art History, Apr 30, 2026

Juliet Simpson, The Warburg Institute, University of London

The recent exhibitions “Gothic Modern” at the Ateneum in Helsinki, National Museum in Oslo and the Albertina in Vienna (lead curators Juliet Simpson and Anna-Maria von Bonsdorff) explored the modern turn to the medieval, the museum networks that fostered a fascination with Gothic art as an expression of a latent, uncanny modernity, and the visibility of diverse imaginaries shaped through these networks. They highlighted a fascination with the Gothic that transcends national, cultural, and gender boundaries. Building on these perspectives, the workshop on Gothic Modern/Vienna 1900 in Vienna, organized by Juliet Simpson (Warburg Institute, London), Assaf Pinkus (University of Vienna), and Andreas Nierhaus (University of Vienna/Wien Museum), seeks to explore the significance of the Middle Ages and the Gothic in the context of Vienna around 1900, and to outline directions for future research on a broad methodological and thematic basis.

Date and venue: 30.04.2026, 09:00-16:00; Seminar Room 5, Institute for Art History, University of Vienna, Garnisongasse 13, Hof 9, 1090 Vienna

9:15–9:30 Welcome and Workshop Opening

9:30–10:00

Structure and Iconography of the Votivkirche
Wojciech Bałus (Krakow, Jagellonian University)

10:00–10:30

Armouring the Modern Body. Medieval Knights in Vienna Around 1900
Andreas Nierhaus (University of Vienna)

10:30–11:00

Gothic Modern and the Vienna Secession
Arnika Groenewald Schmidt (Belvedere Museum, Vienna)

11:00–11:30 Coffee/Tea Break

11:30–12:00

Das Rätsel (in) der Kunstgeschichte: Discourse on Gothic Art in Vienna after 1900
Tomáš Murár (Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, and University of Vienna)

12:00–12:30 Discussion

12:30-13:30 Lunch Break

13:30–14:00

Embodied Vienna Gothics - Women and the Medieval as Artistic Agency, c. 1900s

Juliet Simpson (The Warburg Institute, London)

14:00–14:30

Fritz Lang's Nibelungenlied and the Vision of Gothic Modernity

Assaf Pinkus (University of Vienna)

14:30–15:00

Please Don't Mind the Gap: Toward Authorized Medieval Heritage Discourses in Austrian State Museums (1922–1953)

Cedric Huss (University of Vienna)

15:00–15:15 Coffee/Tea Break

15:15-16:00 Plenary and Future Research Directions

The workshop is organized by Prof. Juliet Simpson, Prof. Assaf Pinkus, and Prof. Andreas Nierhaus and is a joint collaboration between The Warburg Institute, London-University of Vienna and Wien Museum.

For more information, please contact Hanna Herceg (hanna.herceg@univie.ac.at) and Juliet Simpson (juliet.simpson@sas.ac.uk)

Reference:

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