

PRESSE RELEASE

16.02.2022

Second Hundertwasser Museum to open on 22nd anniversary of the artist's death

Friedensreich Hundertwasser was a cosmopolitan. His art is shown in exhibitions all over the world and in many countries his pioneering architectural projects have become landmark buildings. Since 1976, Vienna's best-known artist has also had a residence in the north of New Zealand, and in 1986 he was granted New Zealand citizenship. Marking the 22nd anniversary of the artist's death the world's second Hundertwasser Museum after Kunst Haus Wien, a museum of Wien Holding, is now to be opened in the coastal city of Whāngarei on 20.02.2022.

"Hundertwasser was a great artist and a visionary in the field of architecture and ecology. He created buildings where the creativity of nature meets human creativity. I am delighted that his plans for the Hundertwasser Art Centre in New Zealand have been realised, and that we have now an example of Hundertwasser's marvellous architecture and art in the southern hemisphere as well," states Peter Hanke, Executive City Councillor of Finance, Business, Labour, International Affairs and Vienna Public Utilities.

New Hundertwasser Art Centre with Wairau Māori Art Gallery in New Zealand

The new Hundertwasser Art Centre with Wairau Māori Art Gallery is based on the artist's 1993 design for a public art gallery for Whāngarei. The project was resumed after Hundertwasser's death and has finally been realised through fundraising and the volunteer work of many Whāngarei citizens in close cooperation with the Hundertwasser Private Foundation.

"New Zealand welcomes the realisation of Hundertwasser's vision for an art centre in Whāngarei, in the north of New Zealand where he spent so much of his time. The Centre will surely become one of our most iconic buildings, and it is an honour for New Zealand to be home to the final project Hundertwasser designed to be built. He has had a lasting effect on our country and established a strong relationship with Māori, and we are pleased to see this represented through the inclusion of the Wairau Māori Art Gallery in the Art Centre," says H.E. Brian Hewson, Ambassador of New Zealand to Austria.

Works worth four million euros made available

The Hundertwasser Private Foundation has made loans worth four million euros available free of charge. These include original paintings, graphic works, tapestries and architectural models. Kunst Haus Wien and Wien Holding are pleased that the artist is now being honoured with a museum in his second homeland as well.

“Museum Hundertwasser at Kunst Haus Wien is still home to the world’s largest Hundertwasser collection with key works of his painting, original prints, tapestries, applied art, architectural models and materials documenting his ecological commitment. We are delighted that people in his adopted country of New Zealand will now also have an opportunity to get to know the range and diversity of Hundertwasser’s oeuvre,” says Kurt Gollowitzer, Managing Director of Wien Holding.

Whāngarei will thus not only have a cultural centre designed by the artist, it will also showcase Hundertwasser’s legacy in New Zealand – his artistic work as well as his commitment to ecology and architecture.

“By planting more than 100,000 trees on his own land in the Bay of Islands, Hundertwasser implemented his demands for the return of territory to nature in New Zealand in an exemplary way. His poster for New Zealand’s Conservation Week in 1974 was a prelude to his world-wide environmental campaigns. In proposing a second flag for New Zealand featuring the Koru, the New Zealand fern, he showed his appreciation for New Zealand’s ancient natural heritage and the legacy of Māori history. Now, alongside the Kawakawa Public Toilet he redesigned, the Hundertwasser Art Centre will be another example of his vision for more humane, responsible building in harmony with nature and people’s creativity, which will also bring sustainable economic benefits to the city of Whāngarei,” explains Joram Harel, Chairman of the Board of the Hundertwasser Non-Profit Foundation.

Similar to Kunst Haus Wien, a permanent gallery for contemporary art is to be installed in the Hundertwasser Art Centre, where works by contemporary Māori artists will be shown in the future. The Hundertwasser Art Centre with Wairau Māori Art Gallery will open its doors to visitors for the first time on 20 February 2022.

PRESS IMAGES

Images are available in the press section of Wien Holding at <http://www.wienholding.at/Presse/Presseaussendungen>. Reprinting in the context of editorial coverage is free of charge, provided that the copyright is cited.

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KUNST HAUS WIEN

The Museum Hundertwasser is located in KUNST HAUS WIEN, which was founded in 1991 by Friedensreich Hundertwasser, one of the most important Austrian artists of the 20th century. It was originally planned and built as a home for Hundertwasser's work and additionally equipped with rooms for international temporary exhibitions. The unique museum and exhibition house on the Danube Canal still follows the philosophical and design principles of the famous exceptional artist.

Based on Friedensreich Hundertwasser's forward-looking ideas on environmental and social policy, KUNST HAUS WIEN creates a unique place that combines art and ecology. In 2018, KUNST HAUS WIEN was the first museum to be awarded the Austrian Ecolabel. The exhibition house aims to provide impulses for the entire cultural sector with events and activities.

Opening hours: daily 10:00-18:00
Untere Weißgerberstraße 13, 1030 Vienna
www.kunsthauswien.com

Das KUNST HAUS WIEN ist ein Unternehmen der Wien Holding und wird von der Abteilung für kulturelle Angelegenheiten der Stadt Wien (MA 7) unterstützt.

