

## PRESS INFORMATION

### STATE GALLERY OF LOWER AUSTRIA



State Gallery of Lower Austria, 2021, photo: Raffael F. Lehner

#### Press images and press kits:

<https://celum.noeku.at/pinaccess/showpin.do?pinCode=ArchitekturLandesgalerie>

<https://www.lgnoe.at/de/presse/Presseinformation>

#### Press contact

Elisabeth Zettl

+43 664 604 99 178

[elisabeth.zettl@kunstmeile.at](mailto:elisabeth.zettl@kunstmeile.at)

#### State Gallery of Lower Austria

Museumsplatz 1

3500 Krems an der Donau

[lgnoe.at](http://lgnoe.at)

## **STATE GALLERY OF LOWER AUSTRIA: A NEW LANDMARK FOR ART**

On May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019 an extraordinary exhibition venue was inaugurated, embedded in one of Austria's most important cultural landscapes: The State Gallery of Lower Austria in Krems is a new museum that sends a strong signal for the fine arts at the gateway to the World Cultural Heritage Wachau. With its unique architecture, the winning project, which was selected during an EU-wide competition, represents a contemporary landmark, visible from afar, that stimulates dialogue between the old and the new.

### **Centre for the Fine Arts in Lower Austria**

The museum displays the State Collections of Lower Austria as well as solo exhibitions and international installation projects. The new building, designed by the renowned Vorarlberg-based architectural practice Marte.Marte Architects, serves as a central gateway to the Kunstmeile Krems, which, with its institutions, including Forum Frohner, Kunsthalle Krems, Karikaturmuseum Krems and Dominikanerkirche, already stands out as a centre for the exploration of art and culture far beyond the borders of Lower Austria.

### **Architecture: Graceful Sculpture**

In 2015, the design by Marte.Marte Architects was selected among 59 submissions in an EU-wide competition. Following a three-year construction period—the groundbreaking ceremony took place in 2016—the museum was opened to the public in May 2019. The jury of the competition, consisting of renowned experts, unanimously considered Marte.Marte's design to be the most convincing response to the task. "Applying great precision, a landmark, a graceful sculpture is created, which captivates with its significance and independence and redefines the urban space", reads one of the statements of the jury. The museum has since received renowned architecture awards such as the German Design Award and the Iconic Award for excellent architecture.

### **Exhibitions:**

#### **Stage for State Art Treasures**

"The State Gallery of Lower Austria aspires to serve as a stage for the outstanding artistic treasures of the State of Lower Austria," says new director Gerda Ridler, naming one of three important pillars in her museum program. The state art collection comprises around 100,000 objects. In addition to important works from the Middle Ages and the Baroque period, the collection focuses on art from the nineteenth century to contemporary works. All disciplines – painting, sculpture, drawing, prints, photography, media art as well as installation and textile art – are represented. By forging stronger ties to the State Collections of Lower Austria, Gerda Ridler will strengthen the institution's role as a museum and further develop its program and content.

#### **Stage for Local Artists**

The State Gallery of Lower Austria aspires to be an attractive venue for representing not only the State Collections but local artists as well. Above all, artists will be featured who have not yet received the recognition they deserve in Austrian art history.

#### **Window on International Art with Installation Projects**

The third pillar opens a window on international art. Renowned international artists will be invited to realize installation-based projects at the State Gallery of Lower Austria that relate strongly to the architecture.

## ARTISTIC INTERVENTIONS

### Werner Reiterer

Sound installation in the large elevator (2019)



© Claudia Larcher / Bildrecht Wien

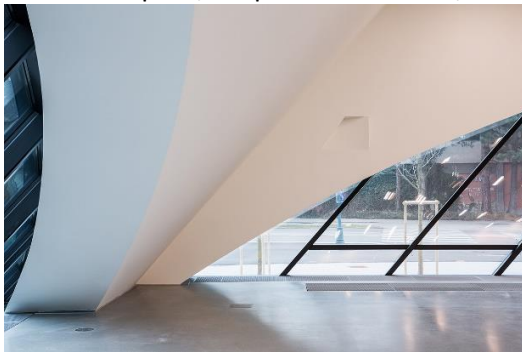
## FUNDAMENTAL

A project by the State Gallery of Lower Austria based on a concept by **Rainer Prohaska**.  
With contributions by:

### Judith Fegerl

*anchors* (2019)

Exhibition space, shop and back office, 0



© LOXPix



### Leo Zogmayer

WHEN I SAY ART I MEAN THE WHOLE THING (2019)

Exterior space



© LOXPix

## CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

[Current — Landesgalerie Niederösterreich \(ignoe.at\)](http://ignoe.at)

## ABOUT THE ARCHITECTURE

The architectural twist, which connects two directions of movement—towards the historic city centre and to the Danube, respectively—is the central accent of the building designed by Marte.Marte Architects. This place will from now on be the gateway to the Kunstmeile Krems with its multifaceted institutions dedicated to art and culture.

The museum welcomes visitors with wide, light-flooded arches, inviting them to explore the exhibition space across five floors. The visitors' path leads them through the newly constructed four-story building to the presentation area in the basement, where the museum and the Kunsthalle Krems are linked through a corridor.

The jury, chaired by architect Elke Delugan-Meissl summarized the quality of the winning project as follows:

*"Marte.Marte's design was unanimously considered by the jury to be the most convincing response to the task. Applying great precision, a landmark, a graceful sculpture is created, which captivates with its significance and independence and redefines the urban space. The project convinces due to its aesthetic balance between built and developed space and open space.*

*This tension is emphasized in the design of the new building by the building's vertical twist spanning multiple floors, by the homogeneous appearance created by a façade of metal panels, iridescent like a sequin dress.*

*The interior and the surrounding spaces interact, allowing for new perspectives on the exhibition hall from every angle, and encourage visitors and the inhabitants of Krems alike to embrace a wide variety of visual relationships."*



© Raffael F. Lehner



© Claudia Rohrauer

## FACTS & FIGURES

Operator:	Kunstmeile Krems Betriebs GmbH
Competition:	Open, EU-wide, two-stage competition
Jury chair:	Architect DI Elke Delugan-Meissl, Prof. Peter Baum (deputy chair)
Footprint:	33 x 33 m
Number of floors:	5, including an underground exhibition space connecting the State Gallery of Lower Austria with the Kunsthalle Krems
Building elevation:	21.5 m
Façade:	7,200 silver-grey zinc shingles
Construction time:	June 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2016 (groundbreaking), completion of the building: December 2018
Grand Opening:	May 25 <sup>th</sup> and 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2019
Total cost:	€35 million
Budget per year:	€3.5 million
Visitors expected:	70.000 per year
Client:	Office of the Provincial Government of Lower Austria

## MARTE.MARTE ARCHITECTS

Bernhard Marte, born in February 1966 in Dornbirn/Vorarlberg

Stefan Marte, born in December 1967 in Dornbirn/Vorarlberg

Following its foundation in 1993, the architectural practice Marte.Marte achieved successes in competitions and earned awards and accolades from very early on. In 2011, Marte.Marte was ranked first in a Europe-wide online competition that ranked architecture practices. In addition to a large number of private buildings, the two brothers designed a considerable number of award-winning buildings in the fields of culture, education, infrastructure and health. Numerous publications and exhibitions, including “Concrete Works” in the Aedes Gallery in Berlin, as well as jury activities in European competitions display their versatility.

Bernhard and Stefan Marte have won countless international awards, including the Grand Austrian State Prize for Architecture (2004), the red dot award product design (2012), the German Design Award (2014) and several Bauherrenpreise awarded by the Austrian Chamber of Architects, among other awards. They have also been nominated for the 2009 Mies van der Rohe Award.

Among the most important buildings and competitions won by the practice are the Visitors’ Centre Mathildenhöhe, Darmstadt, the Documentation Center of the Foundation Flight, Expulsion, Reconciliation, the University College of Teacher Education in Lower Austria in Baden, the exhibition halls 9–12 Dornbirn (2017), the refuge Schutzhütte in the Laternser Valley in Laterns (2010/2012), the Fresach Diocesan Museum, Fresach (2011), the Educational Center Grieskirchen (2003/2011), the bridge Schanerlochbrücke, Dornbirn (2005) and the Pathology Building of the State Hospital in Feldkirch (2003/2007).

## **STATE COLLECTIONS OF LOWER AUSTRIA**

A core component of the State Collections of Lower Austria is the art collection which comprises almost 100,000 objects, including masterpieces of past centuries and outstanding contemporary works. In addition to important works from the Middle Ages and the Baroque period, the collection focuses on art from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present. From graphics and painting to photography and sculpture to art installation and media art, all artistic disciplines are represented.

In 2014, the Provincial Government of Lower Austria decided to build a central exhibit place to host the collections of the state, creating a permanent place to present the pieces embedded in the ever-changing thematic contexts of contemporary issues.

Following a three-year construction period—the groundbreaking ceremony took place in 2016—the museum is now presented and opened to the public. For the first time in more than 100 years of the collection's history, the collection finds its home in a museum dedicated solely to the fine arts.

## FACT SHEET

Visitor information	<p>State Gallery of Lower Austria Museumsplatz 1 3500 Krems an der Donau, Austria T: +43 2732 908010 E: <a href="mailto:office@kunstmeile.at">office@kunstmeile.at</a> <a href="http://ignoe.at">ignoe.at</a></p>
Opening hours	<p>March-October: Tue-Sun, 10 am–6pm (Mon in case of holiday) November-February: Tue-Sun, 10 am–5pm (Mon in case of holiday) Closed on Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and Jan. 1<sup>st</sup></p>
Social Media	<p>Instagram: <a href="https://www.instagram.com/landesgalerie_noe">@landesgalerie_noe</a> Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/ignoe">@ignoe</a> YouTube: <a href="http://bit.ly/KunstmeileKrems">http://bit.ly/KunstmeileKrems</a> YouTube</p>

### Press contact

State Gallery of Lower Austria / Kunstmeile Krems Betriebs GmbH  
Elisabeth Zettl  
M: +43 664 60499178  
E: [elisabeth.zettl@kunstmeile.at](mailto:elisabeth.zettl@kunstmeile.at)  
[kunstmeile.at](http://kunstmeile.at)  
[ignoe.at](http://ignoe.at)

### Press material

<https://www.ignoe.at/en/press>  
<https://www.ignoe.at/de/presse/Presseinformation>

## Kunstmeile Krems

