



PRESS INFORMATION, 16.01.24

23 x SALZKAMMERGUT ON DISPLAY exhibition till March 30th 2024 Gmundner Keramik manufaktur

The Academy of Ceramics Gmunden is starting the festive year with a gift to the 23 municipalities of the European Capital of Culture 2024. Gmundner Keramik and OÖ Landes-Kultur GmbH are pleased to open the exhibition 23 x SALZKAMMERGUT ON DISPLAY.

This exhibition is closely linked to the communities of the cultural capital and presents unique objects from the folklore and archaeological collections of the Upper Austrian State Museum and loans from the region. Each object, a reflection of the rich ornamentation in the Salzkammergut, served as inspiration for the Gmundner Keramik painters. The result is 23 masterfully painted plates, each unique, combining both tradition and contemporary artistic vision.

Textiles, tableware, furniture, grilles or gates - many objects of material folk culture are adorned with ornaments. The colorful variety covers a wide range: from geometric shapes from early history and the Middle Ages to Renaissance plant motifs. Christian symbols of Baroque popular piety and patterns from more recent artistic eras are also part of this design.

These include, for example, embroidered leather trousers from Bad Ischl, a painted farmer's box from Traunkirchen or knitted knee socks from Obertraun. There are also archaeological objects, such as a crescent brooch from Hallstatt. Over centuries, patterns with lines, spirals, stars, hearts or tendrils have been transformed and spread. The changeable art forms serve as a bridge between past and future as well as between local identity and supraregional creativity.

The fruitfulness of the combination of old patterns and new creative impulses is impressively reflected in the resulting plates, whose shape was designed by the ceramic artist Gudrun Wittke-Baudisch in the 1970s and has a diameter of 44 cm. In addition, charger plates with the same motifs were created, which will be presented as a gift to the mayors during the opening ceremony.

“As a traditional company with strong regional roots, we are proud to make a valuable contribution to the Capital of Culture – as a symbol of our appreciation for the region and as a lasting reminder of this meaningful cultural exchange,” says Alexander Köck, explaining the commitment of Gmundner Keramik.

„The collections of the state of Upper Austria house a rich treasure of historically interesting objects from all over the state. The fact that here at Gmundner Keramik they now serve as the basis for new art objects that combine local tradition with contemporary handicrafts is a forward-looking step and a special gift to the communities in the region,” says Alfred Weidinger, Managing Director of Upper Austria. Culture GmbH



Academy of Ceramics Gmunden

23 x Salzkammergut on display

Exhibition in the Gmundner Keramik

An associated project of Kulturhauptstadt Salzkammergut 2024

Curator: Hannah Konrad, OÖ LKG

Painters Gmundner Keramik:

Alina Hemetsberger
Sabrina Santner
Silvia Auinger
Gabriela Fröhlich
Tina Gerhardinger
Maryam Safdari
Anna Schmitzberger

Project organsition: Sandra Kratochwill, OÖ LKG

Exhibition date: 12. January – 30. March 2024

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 10:00-17:00
Sat 10:00-16:00

Entrance FREE

Keramikstraße 24
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