**Built structures – sketched out visions** (PRESS TEXT)

 The current art exhibition taking place at the Museum Liaunig in Neuhaus/Suha tells of buildings and sculptures and of designed surfaces and formed structures. For the fourth time, the artistically-minded industrialist Herbert Liaunig and his family will be presenting treasures at their private museum, taken from a collection of 3,000 works of contemporary Austrian art dating from 1945 onwards.

- Sculpture

This year, sculptures, paintings and architecture will be on display under the motto of ‘From surfaces to spaces’. The who’s who of the Austrian sculpting and architecture scene (which has had a significant impact on the 20th century) ranges from Abraham to Gironcoli and Wotruba. The 160 m exhibition space resembles an industrial hall and also features works by students of some prominent pioneers – artists of the following generations such as Manfred Erjautz, Wolfgang Becksteiner, Elmar Trenkwalder with his monumental ceramic sculptures and Peter Dörflinger with his organic-looking works. The show presents an exciting interplay between ‘surface and space’ and is complemented by picturesque representations of the theme (e.g. by Maria Lassnig, Robert Motherwell, Alfons Schilling, Markus Prachensky and Arnulf Rainer).

- Pure architecture

The small yet refined extra exhibition contains sketches, models and photos by architects such as querkraft, Coop Himmelb(l)au, Hans Hollein, Gustav Peichl, Günther Domenig, Zaha Hadid and Lebbeus Woods and is all about castles in the sky, ivory towers and cabinets of wonder and about projects completed by museum owner Herbert Liaunig and visions of his preferred architecture.

- Protected monument and museum prize

The approx. 200 exhibits in the exhibition are presented in a structure which was awarded the Austrian Museum Prize in 2012 and which has recently been designated as a protected monument. Renovation work to expand the museum will begin at the end of the 2013 season – again under the tried-and-trusted lead of the Vienna architecture bureau ‘querkraft’. Following the redesign in 2014 (the museum will be closed during this year), visitors can expect to enjoy an extra 2,500 m2 of space with additional exhibition and event rooms and a museum shop.

‘From surfaces to spaces’ exhibition, Museum Liaunig in Neuhaus/Suha, www.museumliaunig.at, 1 May to 31 October 2013, Weds to Sun 10:00 – 18:00, advance registration welcome (but not essential); tours held at 10:00, 12:00, 14:00, 16:00, children aged 12 and over are welcome; Tel.: 04356/21 115