

## press information

### Museum construction completed – opening on August 29, 2008

#### Vienna/Neuhaus, July 30, 2008

The museum project of the industrialist and art collector, Herbert W. Liaunig, in Neuhaus/Carinthia is about to open its doors. The building, which was designed by the Viennese architectural office, querkraft, is already finished and at present the finishing touches are being applied, and the exhibition installed under the auspices of the curator, Peter Baum. The official opening will take place on August 29, 2008 and from September 2008 the private museum will be open to interested members of the public subject to agreed appointment.

The new museum will contain Herbert W. Liaunig's collection of contemporary art and, as an interesting counterpoint, his collection of gold objects from the Akan. Herbert W. Liaunig, "The museum will fulfil the long-held wish of my family to create an adequate home for our collection. At the same time, we will thus close one of the major gaps in the Carinthian cultural landscape."

The Liaunig Museum will dispose over one of the best collections of Austrian art dating from 1950 onwards, which is supplemented by notable works from foreign painters and sculptors such as Tony Cragg, Robert Motherwell and Pierre Soulages. Among the Austrian paintings and graphics are large bodies of work from Marc Adrian, Hans Bischoffshausen, Erwin Bohatsch, Gunter Damisch, Jakob Gasteiger, Alfred Klinkan, Hermann Painitz, Peter Pongratz, Markus Prachensky, Arnulf Rainer, Hubert Schmalix and Hans Staudacher.

Equally impressive and representative is the special selection of works from Austrian sculptors and object artists, which offers first class ensembles from Avramidis, Bertoni, Otto Eder, Gironcoli, Göschl, Hoflehner, Cornelius Kolig, Moswitzer, Nakajima, Karl Prantl, Walter Pichler, Joser Pillhofer, Erwin Reiter, Meina Schellander, Andreas Urteil, Fritz Wotruba and Erwin Wurm.

The highly aesthetic and stringent architectural concept from "querkraft" consists largely of four striking elements. The entrance leads to a presentation depot with an area of around 600 m<sup>2</sup> after which visitors arrive in the painting and sculpture section. This part of the building, which is designed as a white cube measuring 160 m in length and 13 m in width with skylights, provides an exhibition area of around 2,000 m<sup>2</sup>. There follows a separate room for graphics (approx. 500 m<sup>2</sup>), as well as an annex for the presentation of the gold collection (approx. 350 m<sup>2</sup>). Including the foyer, a workshop and the rooms required for infrastructure purposes, the building has an area of around 5,000 m<sup>2</sup>.

The structure, which is extremely reduced in design, closely follows the prevailing site topography. The long gallery section is the only part of the building that is visible from the outside and offers views of the landscape from its terraces. The remainder of the museum is subterranean. As far as materials are concerned "querkraft" mainly employs exposed concrete, steel and glass.

Visit the museum homepage at [www.museumliaunig.at](http://www.museumliaunig.at)

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