Margaret of Austria · Mary of Hungary · Catherine of Austria

*The Art of Power* focuses on three remarkable women who set standards in courtly culture within the Habsburg dynasty: Archduchess Margaret, governor of the Burgundian Netherlands (1480–1530), Archduchess Mary, Queen of Hungary (1505–1558) and Archduchess Catherine, Queen of Portugal (1507–1578). For the first time, an exhibition focuses on Habsburg female patronage in the Renaissance. Thus, this special exhibition on three powerful women, a daughter and two granddaughters of Emperor Maximilian I, sheds light on an unknown side of patronage in the history of art.

This high-calibre exhibition presents some one hundred works from important European collections from Hungary, Portugal, Germany, Switzerland and Austria, including outstanding objects from Schloss Ambras Innsbruck and the Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna: *Kunstkammer* objects, paintings, sculptures, illuminated manuscripts, valuable gemstone jewellery and objects from foreign countries that had not been seen before in Europe.

The special exhibition is curated by Dagmar Eichberger and Annemarie Jordan Gschwend and will be accompanied by a richly illustrated catalogue in a German and English edition.
Art is a medium which transmits ideas without the need for words, leaving viewers with lasting impressions. Tapestries, portraits, sculptures, illuminated manuscripts, valuable jewels, and objects from new foreign lands were the media used to define social status, rank and wealth in the Renaissance. The men of the Habsburg house became impressive collectors in the 16th century: Maximilian I, Archduke Ferdinand II, Maximilian II, Philip II and Rudolf II.

More recently, the leading role of prominent Habsburg women as cultural agents involved in the acquisition, collecting, display and ownership of collections has been given more recognition. As political representatives of emperors and as wives of ruling kings across Europe, these women had access to the best artists of their time, at the same time satisfying their passion for collecting by resorting to international dealers and intermediaries.

The outstanding art collection of the Archduchess Margaret of Austria (1480-1530), daughter of Emperor Maximilian I and Governess of the Netherlands, based in Mechelen (Malines) is regarded today as the forerunner and model for younger generations of women in her family.

Mary of Hungary (1505-1558), younger sister of Emperor Charles V, grew up at Margaret's court, experienced her aunt's collection firsthand. As widow and later regent, Mary inherited Margaret's library and implemented the idea for a Habsburg dynastic portrait gallery in Brussels. She quickly became a leading patron, building palaces and collaborating closely with such painters and sculptors as Anthonis Mor, Leone Leoni und Jacques DuBroeucq.

Catherine of Austria (1507-1578), Queen of Portugal, the youngest sister of Emperor Charles V, was exposed to other collecting trends in Spain and Portugal. She specialized in the importation of exotica and luxury wares from Africa, Asia and the New World. She supplied the Habsburg family network with foreign objects and wild animals.
THE EXHIBITION IN CONTEXT

The exhibition at Ambras Castle is part of a series of significant international exhibitions.

The generously designed exhibitions in recent years about Emperor Charles V, Emperor Ferdinand I and Emperor Rudolf II, as well as about Archduke Ferdinand II in Innsbruck in 2017 and Prague in 2017/2018, resulted in very successful presentations which have shaped the political, historical and cultural image of the Habsburg dynasty in a lasting fashion. The current exhibition »Women. Art and Power« here joins the ranks: it makes three of the most important Habsburg Archduchesses of the 16th century accessible to a broad public.

PRELUDE TO THE COMMEMORATIVE YEAR 2019 FOR EMPEROR MAXIMILIAN I

The exhibition in Innsbruck sheds light in advance on the commemorative year 2019 for Maximilian I (1459–1519)

In 2019, the 500th anniversary of the death of Emperor Maximilian I will be memorialised with many exhibitions and events. The special exhibition at Ambras Castle already thematises one year ahead of time the legacy of this great ruler, thereby highlighting aspects which until now have been little known. Instead of emphasising the usual, historical, male series of emperors, the Kunsthistorisches Museum offers for the first time a view of a daughter and two granddaughters of Maximilian, three powerful women who came after him and who, in the house of Habsburg, were particularly appreciative of the arts.

ADDITIONAL EXHIBITIONS IN EUROPE ABOUT THE HABSBURG WOMEN

Museum Hof van Busleyden, from 17 June 2018

In Mechelen/Belgium, after an extensive phase of restoration, the Museum Hof van Busleyden will be reopened. A show will be mounted with many exquisite works from the period in which the two Archduchesses Margaret and Mary were Governors of the Burgundian Netherlands.
www.hofvanbusleyden.be/en

Monastère royal de Brou, until 26 August 2018

In Bourg-en-Bresse/Spain, the French Centre des Monuments Nationaux houses the special exhibition »Old Netherlandish Painting. Treasures of Margaret of Austria«. The show is displayed in the very monastery that the regent herself founded, and which contains her elaborate tomb monument designed by Conrat Meit. Margaret is buried there next to her second husband Duke Philibert II of Savoy, with whom she was married happily but very briefly - only from 1501 until 1504 -, before her father Emperor Maximilian I appointed her Governor of the Burgundian Netherlands in 1507.
www.monastere-de-brou.fr/en
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Abbildung:
Portrait medallion of Archduchess Margaret of Austria
Conrat Meit, dated: 1528
Terracotta, painted
Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien, Kunstkammer, Inv.-Nr. KK 3150
© KHM-Museumsverband

Abbildung:
Margaret of Austria
Conrat Meit, Mechelen, c. 1580
Pear wood (?), original varnish (?), remnants of blue-black painting
Bayerisches Nationalmuseum, München, Inv.-Nr. 420
© Bayerisches Nationalmuseum, München

Abbildung:
Margaret of Austria
Netherlandish, after 1506
Oil on wood
Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien, Gemäldegalerie, Inv.-Nr. 5615
© KHM-Museumsverband
Abbildung:
Mary of Hungary (1505–1558)
Hans Maler, Innsbruck, 1519/20 (?)
Oil on wood / parchment
Kunstsammlungen der Veste Coburg, Stadt Coburg und Bundesrepublik Deutschland,
Inv. Nr. M.425
© Kunstsammlungen der Veste Coburg, Stadt Coburg und Bundesrepublik Deutschland

Abbildung:
Catherine of Austria, Queen of Portugal (1507–1578)
Cristóvão Lopes (after Anthonis Mor), 1552–1571
Öl auf Leinwand
Museu de São Roque/Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Lisboa, Inv.-Nr. 50
© Museu de São Roque/ Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Lisboa

Abbildung:
Mary of Hungary
Anonymous Flemish Painter (?) after Titian, mid-16th century
Oil on canvas
Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien, Gemäldegalerie, Inv.-Nr. 8145
© KHM-Museumsverband

We would like to thank the Society of Friends of Ambras Castle for the generous contribution to the restoration
Abbildung:
Emperor Charles V (1500–1558)
German, after Titian, middle of 16th century
Oil on canvas
Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien, Gemäldegalerie, Inv.-Nr. 8060
© KHM-Museumsverband

Abbildung:
King Ferdinand I (1503–1564)
Netherlandish, after Jan Vermeyen
Oil on wood
Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien, Gemäldegalerie, Inv.-Nr. 4059
© KHM-Museumsverband

Abbildung:
Armorial tapestry
Henri van Lacke, Edingen, 1528
Silk and wool
Iparművészeti Múzeum, Budapest, Inv. Nr. 14764
© Iparművészeti Múzeum, Budapest

Abbildung:
Ivory Folding Fan
Ceylon (Sri Lanka), Kotte, 1542
Ivory and ebony, with 22 ivory blades
Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien, Kunstкамmer, Inv.-Nr. KK 4751
© KHM-Museumsverband
Abbildung:
Lacquered bowl
Ryūkyū (?), 2nd half of the 16th century
Wood (?), lacquer, gold leaf
Schloss Ambras Innsbruck, Inv.-Nr. PA 543
© KHM-Museumsverband

Abbildung:
Black Lacquer Table Top
South China or Ryūkyū Islands (?), mid-16th century (before 1596)
Black and gold lacquer, teak, brass hinges
MAK – Museum für angewandte Kunst / Gegenwartskunst, Inv.-Nr. LA 280
© MAK – Museum für angewandte Kunst/Gegenwartskunst, Wien

Abbildung:
Falcon hood from the possession of Emperor Maximilian I
Northern Italian (Milan?), between 1494 and 1508
Gilded, punched leather, pearl crest, painting
Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien, Hofjagd- und Rüstkammer, Inv.-Nr. D 24
© KHM-Museumsverband

Abbildung:
Complainte de Marguerite d'Autriche
Margaret of Austria, Paris, after 1509
Parchment
Wien, Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, Sammlungen von Handschriften und alten Drucken, Sign. Cod. 2584
© Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, Bildarchiv und Grafiksammlung, Wien
Abbildung:
Gold Basket
Ormuz (Persian Gulf), late 16th century
Gold
Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien, Kunstkammer, Inv.-Nr. KK 995
© KHM-Museumsverband

Abbildung:
Bowl of rhinoceros horn
Indo-Portuguese (?), horn: India or Java; 2nd half of the 16th century
Rhinoceros horn
Schloss Ambras Innsbruck, Inv.-Nr. PA 815
© KHM-Museumsverband

Abbildung:
Hat Badge with a Sub-Saharan African Boy
North Italy (Milan), cameo (Commesso), c. 1530–1540
Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien, Kunstkammer, Inv.-Nr. KK 1588
© KHM-Museumsverband

Abbildung:
Ceremonial Archer’s Ring
Constantinople (?), late 16th century
Weißer Nephrit (Jade) mit Gold und Rubinen | White nephrite (jade) with gold and rubies
Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien, Kunstkammer, Inv.-Nr. KK 2216
© KHM-Museumsverband
**Abbildung:**
Mechelen Christ Child
Anonymous (Mechelen), c. 1500
Wood, mantle from Lower Saxony, crown with decoration from the Rostock convent (?)
Staatliches Museum Schwerin / Ludwigslust / Güstrow, Inv. Nr. Pl. 600
© Staatliches Museum Schwerin/ Ludwigslust/ Güstrow

**Abbildung:**
The Thornpuller, or Spinario
Workshop of Severo da Ravenna (active 1496–1543), early 16th century
Bronze, base: wood / Silver plated brass
Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien, Kunstkammer, Inv.-Nr. KK 5541
© KHM-Museumsverband

**Abbildung:**
Bowl
Safavid (bowl), Mughal India (mounts), 16th century (bowl), 17th century (mounts)
Light green nephrite, gold, 48 glass stones (blue), 96 colourless stones, glass or rock crystal
Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien, Kunstkammer, Inv.-Nr. KK 1978
© KHM-Museumsverband

**Abbildung:**
Nautilus
Holland, 2nd half of 16th century
Nautilus-Schale | Nautilus shell
Schloss Ambras Innsbruck, Inv.-Nr. PA 800
© KHM-Museumsverband
Abbildung:
Drinking Horn or Griffin's Claw
Northern Germany (?), 2nd half of the 14th century
Horn, setting: gilded copper
Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien, Kunstkammer, Inv.-Nr. KK 111
© KHM-Museumsverband

Abbildung:
Portrait medals of Philibert of Savoy and Margaret of Austria
after Jean Marende, 1502
Non-ferrous metal
Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien, Münzkabinett, Inv.-Nr. MK 126bß
© KHM-Museumsverband

Abbildung:
Medal of Margaret of Austria
Netherlandish, after 1508 (?)
Silver
Kunsthistorisches Museum Wien, Münzkabinett, Inv.-Nr. MK 2478bß
© KHM-Museumsverband

Abbildung:
Gold thimble with rubies and sapphires
Ceylon (Sri Lanka), Kotte, c. 1550–1600
Gold, rubies, sapphires
Private Collection
© KHM-Museumsverband
www.schlossambras-innsbruck.at

Audioguided tour is available in German and English

**ENTRANCE FEES**

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**FURTHER INFORMATION**

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