

ALBERTINA

ALBERTINA: OPENING OF THE NEW STUDY BUILDING

The collection of the Albertina, founded in 1776 by Albert of Saxe-Teschen, comprises drawings, watercolours and graphic prints ranging from the 14th century to the present day. In recent years an adequate presentation of the far more than one million works of art was only possible to a limited degree, due to the lack of suitable study space.

The evolution of the Study Building

After Dr. Klaus Albrecht Schröder became Director in 1999; the most extensive renovation and modification of the palace in the Albertina's history began. In the course of this reconstruction a Study Building and an underground storage facility were built. Consideration was given to putting the Study Room in an underground expansion integrated into the bastion, which up to that time had served no purpose. By 2002 the five-storey, 3500 m² Study Building with a 5,000 cubic metre high- security depot as well as an exhibition hall, the present Bastei Hall, was completed. The Study Building is infused with daylight down to the fourth underground level. This natural lighting goes all the way to the lowest level, without any glare, through a large interior courtyard and a sophisticated glass roof.

At the end of April 2002 certain functions – for example, the conservation workshop – were moved from the palace to the newly completed Study Building. Within a short time, however, water started leaking through the ceiling of the new Study Room, which made it impossible to use it as a facility open to the public, as had been planned. After further reconstruction work, the Study Building was opened to researchers, scholars and art lovers in April 2008. A total of 948,000 works from the Graphic Art Collection, 90,000 from the Photographic Collection, 50,000 from the Architectural Collection and 24,000 from the Poster Collection can be viewed. A majority of these works can be examined in the 300 m² Study Room.

For conservation reasons, especially valuable and fragile originals, such as the drawings of Albrecht Dürer, can only be made available for scholarly research after approval is granted by the direction of the Study Room.

The Library

The Library of the Albertina is a collection of reference works on art history – especially on the art of drawing, graphic prints and photography – that has been compiled over a long period of time. It also includes approximately 100 current periodical subscriptions and a unique collection of historical auction catalogues and illustrated books (artists' books). The total holdings of some 120,000 titles include not only the Albertina's own holdings, but also the loan collection of the Austrian National Library.

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What does the Albertina Study Room have to offer?

- * The Study Room of the Albertina provides comprehensive, professional service for students, researchers and art lovers. Open Monday through Thursday from 10 am to 4 pm, the room offers a pleasant working atmosphere free of all street noise.
- * The room has a total of 20 workstations with laptop connections.
- * A comprehensive art history handset provides assistance in the search for pertinent information.
- * In one part of the Study Room the Albertina makes the entire range of current art periodicals available to visitors.
- * In addition, terminals for the databases of the museum and the library are available.

General information

Entrance and registration

The Study Room can be reached via the Albertina Bastion, along the front of the Albertina facing the Burggarten.

The Study Room may be used by scholars, students and interested members of the public. Valid personal identification must be presented at the entrance to the Study Room.

Opening times

Monday to Thursday, 10 am to 4 pm

Limited opening hours in July and August

(Closed on official public holidays and when maintenance work is being carried out) Tel. +43 (0)1 534 83-470

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