

Press Release

16th Bamberg Art and Antiques Festival 2011

16th Bamberger Kunst- und Antiquitätenwochen 2011

The 16th Bamberg Art and Antiques Festival is being held from 23 July to 21 August 2011 in the World Cultural Heritage city of Bamberg. The dates of the event coincide almost exactly with those of the Richard Wagner Festspiele in nearby Bayreuth.

These two cultural events, both held in the Free State of Bavaria, are of the highest standard and attract a national and an international audience. Both events are firmly established in the international cultural calendar.

Fifteen art and antiques dealers have joined forces with the Villa Concordia International Artists' Centre to host the Bamberg Art and Antiques Festival in the medieval cathedral city.

The Bamberg "unity in diversity" model offers interested parties a vast range of items, with exhibitors competing in quality and co-operating in advising clients. Collectors looking for items from particular periods of art benefit from a system of mutual referral between galleries, while owners of inherited works of art can access their expertise to determine the provenance and value of their pieces.

Colleagues operating internationally are keeping a sharp eye on this form of co-operation between Bamberg art and antique dealers, which they call the "Bamberg model". This is the name, by now well known in specialist circles, under which we have created a furore in the European art market.

In the historic baroque city centre, the so-called "antiques quarter" stretches for around 500 metres from the foot of Cathedral Hill. In the personal atmosphere of their own galleries, this is where art and antique dealers offer works of art that will hold their value at a time of uncertainty.

The annual art and antiques show of treasures mounted by the dealers occupies a total exhibition space of 3,800 square metres, and all the display rooms are in listed buildings. Since gallery owners are in their own premises, set against the picturesque background of the old city of Bamberg, they can display far more exhibits than at conventional fairs, and in an unequalled personal atmosphere. They form one enormous museum within the Bamberg World Cultural Heritage site, with the distinction that the exhibits are for sale.

The prime exhibits displayed by the Bamberg galleries bear comparison with the international art market, offering a broad range of national and international objets d'art.

The earliest art works are religious – gothic figures from renowned workshops – while the baroque period is well represented by monstrances and chalices, paintings and craft work, dressers, bureaux, tables, chairs, cabinets and chests, which are complemented by Biedermeier cherrywood furniture, mirrors, chandeliers, silver, glassware and porcelain.

Modernism is represented by paintings by Gabriele Münter and Alfons Walde.

Already, representatives of major international museums and galleries have frequently come to Bamberg in their quest for outstanding works of art. Given the quality found here, such clients will be even more regular visitors to Bamberg in the future. Very many art dealers also attend our events year after year.

In Germany too, the Bamberg Art and Antiquities Festival is attracting growing attention. The question arises, why? Why is Bamberg the home of so many art and antiques dealers?

The answer is simple: the dealers all pull together, working with rather than against one another. If one dealer cannot provide what a client wants, an effort is made in Bamberg to locate someone who can. Dealers refer clients to each other, so that they find what they are looking for and are satisfied. Hence: once Bamberg – always Bamberg!

This philosophy of co-operation strengthens the art and antiques trade. Given its incomparable atmosphere and the high quality that it offers, Bamberg is predestined to become the Eldorado of the German art and antiques market. Many Bamberg dealers are members of the Deutscher Kunsthandelsverband, the professional association of art dealers.

The Bamberg Art and Antiques Festival has found its own special niche in the international art market, alongside the major antiques fairs in Maastricht, Brussels, Vienna, Salzburg, Berlin, Munich, Düsseldorf, Cologne and Hanover, at which some of the Bamberg dealers are naturally also represented.

Year by year, the Bamberg Art and Antiques Festival has expanded in importance beyond its national context, and it has now become established on the international scene. It has received coverage on television and radio, and in the national and international print media.

As in previous years, the Bamberg art and antiques dealers also expect to welcome numerous visitors from around the world who are attending the nearby Bayreuth Festspiele.

The 16th Bamberg Art and Antiques Festival will be formally opened on 22 July 2011 by the city's Lord Mayor, Andreas Starke, who is also the patron of the event, in the Renaissance Hall of Geyerswörth Castle.

This year for the first time, there will be late night art and antiques events on 11 August, for which each gallery is developing its own programme

On 24 July 2011 at 16.00 there will be a talk on "Eighteenth Century Furniture" at Christian Eduard Franke Antiquitäten.

On 31 July 2011 at 16.00 there will be a presentation by Walter Senger Kunsthandel in the sculpture basement entitled "What makes antiques so valuable?"

On 7 August 2011 at 16.00 there will be a talk by Matthias Wenzel Kunsthandel on the "Iconography of the Blessed Virgin – practical examples".

On 13 August 2011, starting at 15.00, there will be a presentation entitled "Cathedral outcrops" at Glaserie Pusch, with Frau Liebolt of Glaswerkdesign.

Every Saturday, starting at 15.00, there will be a tour of the antiques quarter for children and young people, organised by Walter Senger Kunsthandel.

Every Wednesday, at 15.00, there will be a tour of the antiques quarter for school pupils and students, especially for those studying art history, organised by Matthias Wenzel Kunsthandel.

Every Friday at 11.00 there will be a talk at Auktionshaus Schlosser on the "Bibra Palais – the history and furnishings of a stately home in Bamberg".

The quality to be found in Bamberg can be clearly illustrated by a few examples.

Walter Senger founded his art dealership in Bamberg forty years ago. He has exhibited for many years at the greatest antiques fair in the world, TEFAF in Maastricht. In March of this year, Walter Senger won huge admiration at TEFAF for his sale of the painting "Madonna and Child with the Young John" by Lucas Cranach the Elder.

Exquisite rococo artefacts are on offer from Ulf and Marlene Härtel. This couple specialise in the baroque and rococo, and their business has been in existence for some 40 years. The elegance of French Louis XV and Louis XVI is particularly well represented.

Several examples of rare baroque Braunschweig furniture can be found at the gothic villa of Christian Eduard Franke, who opened his art business around 20 years ago and is present at all the major international fairs.

Matthias Wenzel took over his art dealership from his father, who opened his business some 60 years ago in a 15th century nobleman's residence. As an example of the outstanding quality of his stock, mention may be made of the limewood Saint Sebastian from the workshop of Erasmus Grasser, from around 1485/90.

Bamberg – UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site and city of art and antiques

Bamberg was included in the World Cultural Heritage list by UNESCO in 1993. The old city has the largest unspoilt set of medieval buildings in Europe. The idyllic alleyways, charming squares and unmistakable architecture of the old imperial city invite visitors to linger. The city also offers numerous cultural attractions such as concerts by the Bamberger Symphoniker, the Bayerische Staatsphilharmonie and the Capella Antiqua Bambergensis. The wide choice of performances in the concert hall of the Neue Residenz and in romantic cloisters, inner courtyards and castle gardens, shows off the range of venues available in this world heritage site. Other events include the summer Calderon Festival in the Alte Hofhaltung, the Magic Festival and cabaret shows.

The Otto Friedrich University of Bamberg, with its 9,000 registered students, has traditionally focused on the humanities. The University was founded in the mid-17th century by the Jesuits, and was expanded into a full university in 1773 by Lothar Franz von Schönborn.

The names of the canonised Emperor and Empress Heinrich II and Kunigunde of the House of Luxemburg are still closely associated with the World Heritage city of Bamberg and its 75,000 inhabitants. The imperial couple founded the diocese of Bamberg, while the world-famous imperial mantle of Heinrich II – the so-called Cloak of Stars – is unique in art history; there is no other surviving medieval textile of its kind in Europe.

Tilmann Riemenschneider created the imperial tomb, and Veit Stoss carved the Christmas Altar; both items are in the Cathedral. A replica of Heinrich's crown has been commissioned by the Upper Franconia Foundation from a silversmith who is taking part in the Festival – Friedemann Haertl – for the thousandth anniversary of the original consecration of the Cathedral in 2012. Unfortunately the original can no longer be moved.

Albrecht Dürer worked for the Bamberg Prince-Bishop Georg III Schenk zu Limburg.

In 1807, Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel found a publisher in Bamberg for his book "Phenomenology of the Spirit", and Ernst Theodor Amadeus Hoffmann lived in Bamberg from 1807 to 1813; in 1809 he composed his first literary work, Ritter Gluck.

Franz Marc founded the "Blauer Reiter" group of artists with Wassily Kandinsky in Munich in 1911. His forebears came from Bamberg.

Claus Schenk Graf von Stauffenberg was married in Bamberg and lived here with his family. It was Stauffenberg who carried out the failed attempt on Hitler's life on 20 July 1944.

The Villa Concordia International Artists' Centre is participating in the Bamberg Art and Antiques Festival because, in the words of its Director, Nora Gomringer, "Our involvement in the 16th Bamberg Art and Antiques Festival is inspired by the need to achieve a balance between two essential positions: old versus new in art, and craft versus artistic creativity. As an institution conceived and established by the Government of the Free State to give recognition to artistic individuals, the Villa Concordia International Artists' Centre lives and works with these opposites, seeking to reconcile them or to uncover the challenges and surprises in their disparity. The bursars at our Centre represent the 'state of the art' in the international liberal arts scene. Who would have imagined such a varied, contemporary treasure in the baroque treasure-house of Bamberg? The Art and Antiques Festival brings together what belongs together: admiration, sensibility and the critical eye. These and these alone have been the real tools of the aesthete down the centuries. We have to be there."

The World Heritage city of Bamberg provides the perfect setting for the attractions of the Bamberg Art and Antiques Festival.

This press release was drafted by Fiona Freifrau Loeffelholz von Colberg on 22 May 2011 on behalf of the Bamberg Art and Antiques Festival.

Facts, numbers and dates**16th Bamberg Art and Antiques Festival 2011**
23 July – 21 August 2011

City	Bamberg World Cultural Heritage site
Location of event	“Antiques Quarter” at the foot of Bamberg Cathedral Hill The fair is held in the listed buildings occupied by Bamberg art and antiques dealers.
Dates	23 July – 21 August 2011
Opening	22 July 2011 at 11.00 Uhr in the Renaissance Hall of Geyerswörth Castle (Schloss Geyerswörth)
Dealers participating	15 galleries Only local galleries are permitted to take part
Exhibition space	3,800 m ²
Items on offer	Broad range of national and international art and craft work covering seven centuries up to the present day
Medieval:	Gothic figures of saints from the Riemenschneider and other workshops
Baroque:	Monstrances, chalices, tabernacles, paintings, craft work, dressers, tables, chairs, cabinets and chests
Biedermeier:	Biedermeier cherrywood furniture, mirrors, chandeliers, silver candlesticks, glassware and porcelain
Modernism:	Art Deco, Jugendstil furniture, paintings by Gabriele Münter & Alfons Walde
Contemporary:	Paintings by Ralf Metztenmacher / brush artist Visual art bursars of the Villa Concordia International Artists’ Centre
Most valuable exhibit	1,600,000.00 € 4 panels from a cycle of the Blessed Virgin from the workshop of Lucas Cranach
Least valuable exhibit	25.00 €

Oldest exhibits	Madonna, Orvieto, around 1320 Domenico di Niccolò dei Cori (1362-1450), Virgin and Child with Saint Anne, Siena, around 1390/1400
Newest exhibit	Ralf Metztenmacher / brush artist "Jafa", March 2011
Particular features	<p>The Bamberg Art and Antiques Festival has expanded its coverage of contemporary art by including the Villa Concordia International Artists' Centre as an additional gallery.</p> <p>Bamberg is the city where Retro-Art was founded in 2004 as a successor to the Pop Art movement.</p> <p>Friedemann Haertel will have completed the replica of the 11th century crown of Heinrich II commissioned by the Upper Franconia Foundation in time for this year's Bamberg Art and Antiques Festival.</p>
Fairs attended by gallery owners	Ars Noblis Berlin Atique & Kunstsalon Herrenhausen Bamberg Art and Antiques Festival (Bamberger Kunst- und Antiquitätenwochen) Cologne Fine Art & Antiques TEFAF (The European Fine Art Fair) Maastricht Kunstmesse Düsseldorf Kunst und Antiquitäten am Nockerberg, Munich Kunst- und Antiquitätenmesse, Residenz, Salzburg Messe für Kunst und Antiquitäten, Hofburg, Vienna Sculptura (European Sculpture Fair) Berlin
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