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**AUSTRIAN PROFESSOR EXPLORES L.A./VIENNA  
CULTURAL CONNECTIONS**

**Herbert Lachmayer Probes “Creative Decadence and Pornosophic  
Reflections” in June 3 Talk**

(West Hollywood, May 15, 2009) Professor Herbert Lachmayer of the University of Art and Design in Linz, Austria will give a lecture at the MAK Center at the Schindler House at 7 p.m. on June 3, 2009. Entitled *Los Angeles/Vienna: Creative Decadence and Pornosophic Reflections*, the talk will explore the influence of Viennese emigres on the development of the 20<sup>th</sup> century avant-garde and Hollywood popular culture.

Professor Lachmayer will discuss the parallels between the intellectual developments of two turn-of-the-century eras in Vienna, not only the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century but also developments at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Fin-de-siècle Vienna is known as a birthplace of the avant-garde and also for a certain “creative decadence” that informed the work of influential figures such as Sigmund Freud, Arnold Schönberg, Ludwig Wittgenstein and the Vienna Circle.

At the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, however, Vienna already was a turn-of-the-century city, this time of the debut-du-siècle. It was the time of Joseph II and his radical enlightenment, the “pornosophic” dimension of which Mozart’s and Lorenzo Da Ponte’s operas manifest colorfully (*La Nozze di Figaro*, *Don Giovanni*, *Così fan tutte*). Both turns of the century show the specific Viennese sense for ambiguity, irony and a tendency toward productive self-destruction.

Fleeing the Nazi regime, Austrian Jewish intellectuals, philosophers, writers, artists and architects arrived in Los Angeles, bringing along Vienna’s urban spirit as their carry-on luggage. Among these were avant-garde fashion-designers such as Rudi Gernreich (uni-sex and monokini), as well as film directors and script writers such as Erich von Stroheim and Joseph von Sternberg, whose productions satisfied the American dream of European imperial absolutism.



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With reference to his current Haydn exhibition (*Haydn Explosiv – A European Career at the Court of the Esterházy Princes*, Esterházy Castle, Eisenstadt) and earlier projects on Mozart and Da Ponte, Herbert Lachmayer intends to shed new light on this Austro-American relationship and assert the sustained importance of enlightened absolutism for Vienna, the development of 20<sup>th</sup> century avant-garde, and Hollywood popular culture.

Professor Herbert Lachmayer serves in the Department for Experimental Design, Institute of Fine Art and Cultural Theory at the University of Art and Design in Linz, Austria. He is currently a Visiting Professor in the Department for Comparative Literature at Stanford University, and has taught in Berlin, Vienna and London.

Professor Lachmayer's talk will open with a public reception. Admission to this event is free with basic MAK Center admission.

The MAK Center for Art & Architecture is located at the Schindler House, 835 N. Kings Road in West Hollywood. Public hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Regular admission is \$7/\$17 with the guide book, *Schindler By MAK*; students and seniors, \$6/\$16 with book; free for Friends of the Schindler House and on Fridays, 4 to 6 p.m. Parking is available at the public structure at the northeast corner of Kings Road and Santa Monica Boulevard. For further information, the public may contact [www.MAKcenter.org](http://www.MAKcenter.org) or call (323) 651-1510.

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