

Temporary Exhibition

HERKULES OF THE ARTS

Johann Adam Andreas I von Liechtenstein and Vienna around 1700

(16 February – 1 April 2024)

Liechtenstein Garden Palace, Fürstengasse 1, 1090 Vienna

Daily between 10 am and 6 pm, free admission

Johann Adam Andreas I von Liechtenstein (1657–1712) was not only a pre-eminent figure within the Princely House of Liechtenstein but as a passionate collector of art also one of the major patrons of his time. With two magnificent edifices, the Garden Palace in the Rossau quarter and the City Palace near the Hofburg, he created imposing monuments to himself, and his ambitious construction projects included the establishment of a new quarter called Lichtental that still exists today as part of Vienna's 9th municipal district.

Reigning prince of the House of Liechtenstein from 1684, Johann Adam Andreas proved his economic acumen by reorganizing the princely administration and restoring the family finances. His efforts were crowned with success, creating the basis for an extensive building programme and the expansion of his outstanding collections of art. Johann Adam Andreas made important acquisitions, including the great »Decius Mus cycle« by Peter Paul Rubens, paintings by Anthony van Dyck and Marcantonio Franceschini, and bronze sculptures by the Florentine court artist Massimiliano Soldani-Benzi. The correspondence between Johann Adam Andreas and Franceschini has been preserved in the Princely Archives, an important source that provides a vivid picture of the relationship between artist and patron.

The prince's collecting activities and architectural projects were an expression of his claim to rank and as such continued the tradition of his father, Prince Karl Eusebius I von Liechtenstein (1611–1684). The exhibition duly examines both the works of art acquired by Johann Adam Andreas and the buildings and their interiors.

The Garden Palace assumes a special role, not only as the exhibition venue but as an exhibit in its own right in which the prince's vision can be explored and experienced at first hand. The Italian influences in its architecture and the decoration of its facade continue inside the palace, the prince's love of Italian art manifesting itself in his commissioning of painters, architects, sculptors and fresco painters from Italy, including Domenico Martinelli, Giovanni Giuliani, Santino Bussi and Antonio Bellucci. One of the highlights of the Garden Palace interiors is Andrea Pozzo's ceiling fresco in the ceremonial hall presenting a visual allegory in allusion to the prince as a new Hercules. With its soaring trompe l'oeil architecture and scenes depicting the exploits of the ancient hero, it has lost none of its power to amaze.

For further information on the Princely Collections: www.liechtensteincollections.at

GUIDED TOURS OF THE TEMPORARY EXHIBITION

Special guided tours in German to accompany the temporary exhibition take place daily at 9 am and 6 pm and will be offered at a reduced rate: € 15 (single ticket; additional reduction for Ö1 Club members) or € 39 (family ticket: 2 adults and 2 children aged between 12 and 18). Registration by phone or via website recommended. For further information on the temporary exhibition and bookings: www.palaisliechtenstein.com

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