

**PRESS RELEASE**

**THYSSEN-BORNEMISZA AUGARTEN CONTEMPORARY**  
**A Partnership for Vienna**

Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary and the Belvedere are pleased to announce their institutional collaboration for a renewable period of three years, beginning in the spring of 2012. The aim of the collaboration is to expand the programming of Augarten Contemporary under the leadership of T-B A21 and to engage in shared cultural activities to spark the appreciation of contemporary art in Vienna and within an international context. The collaboration proposes a model for a mutually beneficial partnership between a public museum and a private foundation. T-B A21 is delighted to have this opportunity to expand its activities in Vienna and at the same time support the Belvedere's burgeoning engagement with contemporary art with a series of exhibitions drawn primarily from its exceptional collection of works by international and Austrian artists. This program is entirely funded by T-B A21 and its main sponsors.

Under the new name **THYSSEN-BORNEMISZA AUGARTEN CONTEMPORARY**, the venue will primarily offer public programs that expand on the Belvedere's previous activities focusing on contemporary art at Augarten. In programming the space, T-B A21 is building on its seven-year experience of hosting exhibitions in Vienna's city center at Himmelpfortgasse, where most of the small and medium-size works in the foundation's collection have been presented in the context of a dozen exhibitions featuring more than 150 artists. The ongoing collaboration with the Belvedere will also include loans to its contemporary art program, including works by Jason Rhoades, Hans Schabus, Isa Genzken and other artists. The Augarten offers T-B A21 an opportunity to exhibit and contextualize some of its more important large-scale works and installations and will give the foundation the opportunity to premiere its new commissioned works and projects in Vienna as opposed to venues in Venice, Kassel, New York and Sydney.

The mission of THYSSEN-BORNEMISZA AUGARTEN CONTEMPORARY furthers the foundation's vision of serving as an agent of transformation, participating actively in the reformulation of our environment and our social space, and creating a site of dialogue and experimentation in Vienna.

*Opening Up the Collection*

Set in a lush corner of the Augarten Park, Augarten Contemporary is an artist's studio built in the 1950s for the sculptor Gustinus Ambrosi. As a sculptor's workshop, it not only lends itself to the presentation of three-dimensional works, illuminated by direct daylight through large skylights, but also fosters an atmosphere of intimacy, working ambience, and personal use.

T-B A21 proposes to reconsider the history of the studio by dedicating THYSSEN-BORNEMISZA AUGARTEN CONTEMPORARY primarily to presentations focusing on the production of a single artist, possibly in dialogue with other artistic positions. Based on research and experimentation, these

exhibitions will be drawn from the foundation's extensive and internationally celebrated collection. Artists will also be invited to select materials from their individual archives of works, documents, and ephemera and to devise presentations that possibly reveal gaps, reiterations, or create resonances between artworks. These productions reactivate the archive, but also allow artists to engage in new projects exemplifying T-B A21's favorite working methodology: the commissioning process.

Committed to a long-standing engagement with performative practices, THYSSEN-BORNEMISZA AUGARTEN CONTEMPORARY will develop a series of provocative performances, participate in performative collaborations and initiate a stimulating lecture program. This will complement its exhibition program, setting the stage for T-B A21's commitment to interdisciplinary practice. It is intended to develop a relationship with our audience, whether local or international, in this wonderfully attractive location. This is the spirit of T-B A21, and Augarten will become its hub.

*Francesca Habsburg's personal statement*

Agnes Husslein and I have a long-standing friendship since we share the same sense of courage and enthusiasm. We have also been creative colleagues for decades and have successfully worked together in the past. In fact, Agnes hosted T-B A21's first exhibition in Austria, titled ein-leuchten, nearly 10 years ago, when she opened the Museum der Moderne Mönchsberg in Salzburg. It seems that we always get together when she launches her most impressive projects, and I am delighted that the foundation's collection will find a home under her auspices. This creates a win-win situation that we both can celebrate. This time we are venturing into a very desirable collaboration, which I hope will set an example for the future in Austria, encouraging relationships between private initiatives and state institutions. By doing so, we are accepting these economically difficult times and addressing them with a sensible solution that enhances programming rather than dissolving it. It is my firm conviction that so much more can be achieved when these two worlds come together. It is a symbol of progress, courage, and a sharing of responsibilities. This is something that I believe is encouraged in the worlds of business and finance but that is still developing in the cultural sphere.

Francesca Habsburg  
November 14, 2011

**INFORMATION**

**Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary**

Himmelpfortgasse 13, 1010 Wien

T +43 1 513 98 56 12

F +43 1 513 98 56 22

press@tba21.org / www.tba21.org

**PRESSE / Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary**

Christina Werner

w.hoch.zwei Kulturelles Projektmanagement

Breite Gasse 17/4, 1070 Wien

T +43 1 524 96 46 22

F +43 1 524 96 32

werner@kunstnet.at



**VIENNA INSURANCE GROUP**

As the leading Austrian insurance group in Central and Eastern Europe, the **Vienna Insurance Group** and its main shareholder clearly perceive its social responsibilities and have been reliable sponsoring partners for Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary and other cultural projects for many years. Numerous museums and galleries have insured their collections with Vienna Insurance Group. The main objective for cooperating with cultural institutions is to promote the international exchange in the field of arts and culture.