

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

INTERNATIONAL ART FAIR MUNICH



22nd - 25th OCTOBER 2020

MUNICH RESIDENZ

HIGHLIGHTS International Art Fair Munich 2020

22nd to 25th October 2020

Preview: 20th and 21st October 2020

Munich Residenz, Entrance Kaiserhof

Residenzstraße 1, 80333 Munich

Press Release

Press tour: 20th October 2020, 11am – 1pm

To sign up, please email sn@nickl-pr.de

Prized pieces

An elaborate chest that belonged to Frederick the Great, an important painting by Emil Nolde, Sebastião Salgado's archaic photo "Brooks Range, Alaska": Germany's premier art fair, the HIGHLIGHTS International Art Fair, is gearing up for another great year despite coronavirus, bringing blue-chip art-market treasures to Munich once again.

Running from 22nd to 25th October 2020, the eleventh edition of HIGHLIGHTS is one of the few art fairs still taking place this autumn. In deciding months in advance that this year's fair should go ahead, the event's coordinator Juana Schwan and her team were determined to send a positive signal – for the arts, for the trade and not least for the city of Munich. Renowned for its elegant atmosphere and its focus on sought-after, significant works from various eras and genres, this successful boutique fair has been attracting an international mix of guests since 2010. A key factor in the fair's high quality is the participation of eight TEFAF exhibitors, experts in their field who are among the international art trade's crème de la crème. In this unusually difficult year, the fair is being held not, as previously, in the Kaiserhof courtyard but in the Residenz's bronze galleries. Despite the change of location, standards remain as high as ever, something the 27 exhibitors' key pieces clearly show.

Magnetic modernism

As illustrated by the painting *Maske und Blumen*, being offered by Expressionism expert **Thole Rotermond Kunsthandel**, Emil Nolde's mastery of bold hues is not just evident in his watercolours. With

luminous orange and splashes of royal blue, this 1919 still life is a riot of expressive colour. Its Japanese mask was part of the artist's own collection and features in other works from the same year. In 1920, Nolde gifted the picture to the daughter of noted Expressionism collector Gustav Schiefler on the occasion of her wedding. In contrast to his watercolours, Emil Nolde's paintings are rarely seen on the art market these days, and *Maske und Blumen* is being offered for sale for the first time in over 30 years.

Another artist who played a key role in paving the way for modernism was Munich's Franz von Stuck, a symbolist painter who captured the turn-of-the-century atmosphere in mythological motifs. His work has long been a key specialism of **Kunkel Fine Art** and, at HIGHLIGHTS, founder Dr. Alexander Kunkel will be exhibiting a wide range of drawings and paintings spanning three decades of the internationally sought-after artist's oeuvre, among them the 1926 painting *Prometheus*. One of Stuck's last key works, it has distinctly political overtones, the shackled demigod offering a metaphor for Germany's crippling situation following defeat in the First World War.

A contemporary of Stuck's, Lovis Corinth is an artist known for his unmistakably vibrant Impressionism. He is a fixture of **Galerie Michael Schwarze's** holdings and his 1892 painting *Herr am Tisch mit Hund* is among the choice works being offered by the Kelkheim-based firm. **Kunsthandel Nöth**, meanwhile, is showing a delightful mother-and-child study in oil by Max Liebermann; fragmentary and yet highly atmospheric, it's a sketch created in preparation for Liebermann's signature work from 1884, *Münchner Biergarten – Garten des Augustinerkellers in München*. Barely 130 kilometres separates Munich from Kitzbühel, where, in the 1920s and 30s, Alfons Walde painted expressive Alpine motifs full of snow and sharp shadows. Linz's **Kunsthandel Freller** is this year dedicating its entire HIGHLIGHTS presentation to this increasingly sought-after painter of down-to-earth village and landscape scenes. Established in 1838 and now making its HIGHLIGHTS debut, Cologne's **Galerie Boisserée** is presenting Pablo Picasso's 1946 lithograph *Françoise*, a homage to female beauty that's considered one of Picasso's most radiant and lyrical graphic works – it was created in the year he first met the captivating 22-year-old Françoise Gillot, who soon after became his lover and muse. The Parisian art scene of that time is the exclusive focus of **Galerie Française**, which is bringing a modernist gem to this year's HIGHLIGHTS: Georges Braque's *Le tir à l'arc*, a gouache of poetic, silhouette-like forms on a pink background.

The splendour of historic art

Great art is ageless, as a survey of the various 15th- to 18th-century HIGHLIGHTS exhibits reveals. **Kunstammer Georg Laue**, for instance, takes visitors back to the Renaissance, when hard-as-stone,

clear-as-water rock crystal was considered one of nature's wonders and used to make precious objects for princes and patricians. Boasting artistically decorated mounts, Laue's lidded rock crystal jug from 1565 is a rare surviving example of this then much vaunted synthesis of art and nature. A memento mori figure by the great early baroque ivory carver Leonard Kern, meanwhile, reminds us of our universal mortality. A Christ-on-the-cross sculpture attributed to Tilmann Riemenschneider, the most important German sculptor from the period around 1500, is the key piece being presented by **Kunsthandel Julius Böhler**, a dealership now celebrating its 140th year. Combining naturalistic precision with great sensitivity, its peaceful and expressive depiction of recent death is a thing of rare beauty. This year's highlight from **Dr. Rainer Jungbauer – Europäische Skulpturen**, on the other hand, is a Madonna with child that embodies merciful grace. Featuring gently rounded forms and intricately carved folds, the sculpture is Swabian in origin and dates from around 1480.

In **Röbbig München** and Weinheim-based **Langeloh Porcelain**, HIGHLIGHTS has two of the world's leading dealers in early works of Meissen porcelain. Röbbig is proud to present the only known existing version of a 1765 statuette glorifying the Electorate of Saxony, a piece that unites royal patronage, a talented sculptor, and rich allegorical imagery. According to the current state of research, the counterpart with the portrait of August III. no longer exists. Made by Johann Joachim Kaendler at the behest of Prince Francis Xavier of Saxony and Poland and his wife, it has, on its left-hand side, Chronos holding an oval medallion bearing a portrait of Maria Josepha of Austria, wife of August III, and to his right, Fortuna standing on a winged globe and clasping a billowing pink cloak. Meissen porcelain was already very much en vogue in 18th-century society. Indeed Paris's Madame de Pompadour herself owned a set of the quirky Meissen figurines from 1750, a pair of highly animated Malabar musicians, that features among Langeloh Porcelain's standout exhibits. This year's highlight from **Kunst und Antiquitäten Almut Wager**, a firm whose selection of historic jewellery is testament to their expertise, is a slider chain by court jewellers Child & Child of London. Adorned with faceted amethysts, it sparkles in shades of violet and green.

The elaborately decorated rococo ironwork chest from 1750 recently acquired by Pocking's **Kunsthandel Peter Mühlbauer** is not only a collector's item but also an important piece of cultural heritage, having originally been commissioned and owned by no lesser figure than Frederick II of Prussia. A box fit for a king, it features silver and gold plate and was made by Berlin's finest gunsmiths and watchmakers of the day, as indicated by the signatures "C. Fecht" and "Peter Formery". On the outside, the lid is flanked by four soldiers from the regiment known as the Potsdam Giants, while inside is a sophisticated music-box mechanism and an inlaid miniature of Frederick himself. In a period echo, **Christian Eduard Franke**

Kunsthandel of Bamberg is presenting an elegant, dainty-legged chest of drawers made at the Spindler brothers' workshop in Potsdam. Brought to Prussia from Bayreuth by Frederick II to create furnishings for the latter's palaces, these talented cabinetmakers are known as the stars of Frederician rococo furniture, and you can see why from the front's floral bouquet inlaid with exotic rosewood and tulipwood. After a lengthy absence, Basel-based antiquities dealer **Jean-David Cahn** is this year returning to HIGHLIGHTS. With its athletic but gently curved form, Cahn's marble torso of an epeheus, which he dates to 200 BC, is of superlative quality and a rare find on today's art market. Manfred Ehrl of **Ehrl Fine Art & Antiques**, on the other hand, is making his HIGHLIGHTS debut. Renowned for the aplomb with which he brings together antiques, design and interiors, he is offering a celestial, futuristic-looking "Sputnik" chandelier created by Viennese firm Lobmeyr for the Tyrolean State Theatre in 1966, an example of how the space race also shaped design back on Earth.

Exciting, intriguing, contemporary

With their carefully chosen HIGHLIGHTS exhibits, Düsseldorf's **Beck & Eggeling** are juxtaposing abstract works by groundbreaking contemporary artists. Gerhard Richter's associative and complex squeegee painting *Fuji*, number 42 in a series of one-off paintings created in 1969 for fundraising purposes, will thus be showing alongside an early "light relief" by Heinz Mack dating from 1958, while Kwang Young Chun's textural relief *Aggregation 001-A107* exemplifies the gallery's international approach. With their crystalline surfaces, the Korean artist's works offer an aesthetic representation of order in chaos. Another Korean enjoying success in Europe is the painter Minjung Kim. **Galerie Commeter**, a long-established Hamburg-based firm making its HIGHLIGHTS debut, is dedicating a solo show to the painter's work, which spans the representational and the abstract and is characterised by harmony, balanced colour and a distinctly Oriental aesthetic. Born in 1962, Minjung Kim is reinvigorating Korean ink painting and could, for many visitors, be the big discovery of this year's fair. Another newcomer to Munich, though familiar to many collectors from the TEFAF works on paper section, is London's **Patrick Heide Contemporary Art**, who will be bringing a dash of Brit art to HIGHLIGHTS. Among Heide's current favourites is UK artist Andy Harper. Born in 1971, Harper mixes flora and fauna influences with a modern, abstract vocabulary, creating jungle-like tableaux that resemble a counterpoint to our highly industrialised world.

Photography has long been a key theme at HIGHLIGHTS and remains so in 2020. **Galerie Stephen Hoffman** is bringing a contemporary master of nature photography to this year's fair, namely Sebastião Salgado's Brooks Range, *Alaska*, an almost biblical-looking landscape that was created in 2009 as a call to action. **Ira Stehmann Fine Art** is presenting icons of fashion photography as well as innovative

positions of contemporary photographers. The romantic-morbid XL polaroid “Flat iron” by Christopher Thomas will attract attention. This unique piece is the 2001 master for his internationally extremely successful series “New York Sleeps”. The photo book of the same name has already been published in its eighth edition. Further motives of this project will be offered at HIGHLIGHTS. Now on the radar of major museums, Vera Mercer’s work brings the language of things and the suggestive power of still lifes into the present day. Examples of the German photo artist’s opulent compositions, among them 2013’s subtly arranged *Mushrooms*, can be admired at the stand of Munich-based first-time exhibitor **Galerie Jordanow**.

Young dealers, fresh ideas

Returning for 2020, the Young Dealers section provides a platform for enthusiastic newcomers, who, in return, bring fresh energy and new perspectives to the fair. This year, design specialist Felicitas Boos (née Vogdt) of **Galerie Vogdt** is celebrating Finnish furniture pioneer Alvar Aalto with a vintage ensemble of desk, drawer unit and chair from around 1930. All-round expert for silverware Christopher Kende of Tübingen’s **Kunsthhaus Kende** is bringing formally experimental, technically brilliant work by young UK silversmiths such as Olivia Lowe, Ane Christensen, Nan Nan Lui and rising star Yusuke Yamamoto to Munich. Maximilian Hemmerle is following in the footsteps of his forefathers, who established Hemmerle as jewellers to the Bavarian court, albeit with his own business **MXHM**, which is offering own-design creations alongside pieces by famous jewellers, such as a 1955 aquamarine melange brooch by recently re-discovered designer Suzanne Belperron. And **Benedikt von Griebenbeck**, son of Munich-based Asiatica dealer Georg Hartl, is aiming to breathe new life into Germany’s Asiatica trade. At HIGHLIGHTS, he is crowning his art fair debut with a bronze censer made for the Qianlong Emperor of China around 300 years ago. Part of a set of twelve, it is the only one now available on the market.

Digital catalogue

“We are delighted that, even in this year’s altered circumstances, HIGHLIGHTS is able to present an impressive and inspiring offering that not only underlines Germany’s importance as a key art market location, but also demonstrates the significance of art fairs as part of our rich culture”, says the event’s coordinator Juana Schwan. In order to bring the fair and its participating dealers, galleries and partners to a wider audience, HIGHLIGHTS is this year introducing a new online viewing room. From 14th October to 8th November 2020, many of the exhibits will be shown on Artsy (<https://www.artsy.net/highlights-munich>). Adopted by a good many dealers during lockdown, the success of such forms of presentation demonstrates how effective a shop window the internet can be. Given the ongoing challenges, HIGHLIGHTS is pleased to be offering an additional, digital means of following the exhibits and business of the fair.

Thanks to our partners

The backing of our esteemed partners and sponsors is key to making HIGHLIGHTS happen. Since 2013, the **Bavarian Department of State-Owned Palaces, Gardens and Lakes**, the organisation responsible for Munich's Residenz, has been a reliable and high-profile host. We are also grateful for the support of international art insurers **Liberty Insurance**, champagne producers **Perrier Jouët**, jewellery and luxury goods makers **Tiffany & Co.** and Munich-based fashion label **Talbot Runhof**. Hospitality partners are the **Platzl Hotel** in Munich and the **Bachmair Weissach** in Tegernsee. Online media partner is the internet platform **Artsy**. **Bahlmann** is once again providing the flower arrangements.

Further details on the HIGHLIGHTS International Art Fair are available at www.munichhighlights.com. You'll find press information along with print-quality photos in the press section of the HIGHLIGHTS website: <http://www.munichhighlights.com/presse/pressebilder/>

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DATES

Press tour: 20th October 2020, 11am – 1pm

VIP preview: 20th October 2020, 1pm – 8pm

Vernissage: 21st October 2020, 11am – 8pm

OPENING TIMES

22nd to 25th October 2020, 10am – 7pm

Late-night opening: 22nd October 2020, to 10 pm

HIGHLIGHTS CONTACTS

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Participants HIGHLIGHTS 2020

Stand: September 2020

Beck & Eggeling International Fine Art, *Düsseldorf/Vienna*

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Kunkel Fine Art, *Munich*

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Kunst und Antiquitäten Almut **Wager**, *Munich*



HIGHLIGHTS directors:
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HIGHLIGHTS working circle:
Georg Laue, Ira Stehmann, Thole Rotermund

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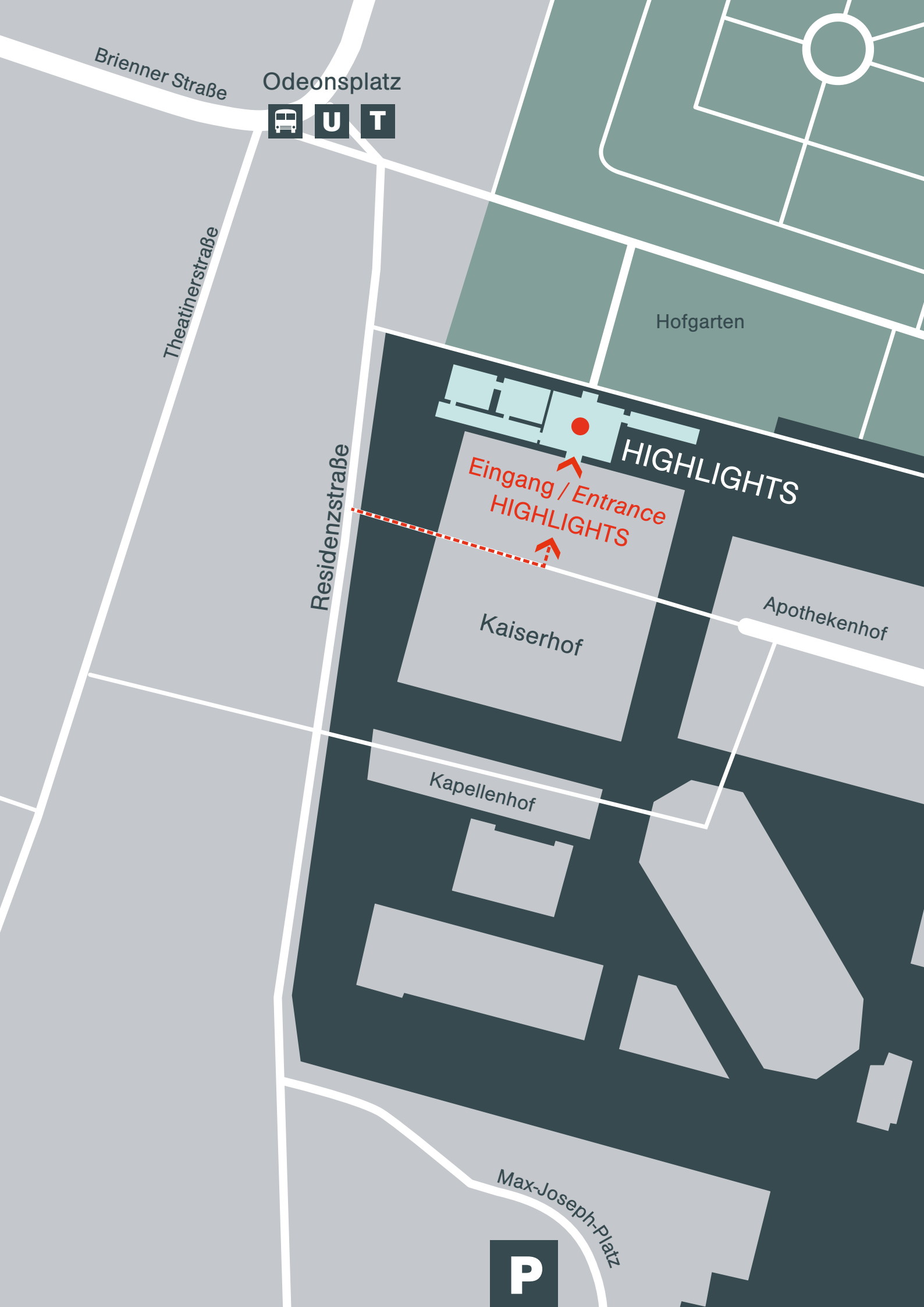
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