

Press Release

BRAFA 2026 | FLORIAN KOLHAMMER – art since the turn of the 20th century **Stand 147**

Vienna 1900 – From the Secession to the Salon

For BRAFA 2026, **FLORIAN KOLHAMMER – art since the turn of the 20th century** presents a curated selection of rare design objects from the golden era of **Vienna 1900** – with a special focus on original works that were exhibited at the seminal exhibitions of the **Vienna Secession**. The presentation brings together furniture and decorative objects that embody the intellectual and artistic energy of this period, where art, design, and architecture were reimagined as a unified whole.

HIGHLIGHTS ON VIEW

1. Pair of Armchairs from the II. Secession Exhibition (1898)

Design: Joseph Maria Olbrich | **Execution:** Friedrich Otto Schmidt, Vienna, ca. 1898

Material/Technique: solid oak, brass, textile (“Abimelech”, design by Koloman Moser, Vienna, 1899)

These extraordinary armchairs were part of the “Kunstgewerbezimmer” at the **second exhibition of the Vienna Secession**, inaugurated on 12 November 1898 in the newly opened Secession building. Their design – strict in form, tectonic in structure, and uncompromisingly modern – exemplifies Olbrich’s radical vision.

The upholstery fabric is Koloman Moser’s “Abimelech” (1899), created for Backhausen & Söhne and exhibited at the 1900 Paris Exposition Universelle. The pairing of Olbrich’s sculptural furniture with Moser’s expressive textile perfectly embodies the collaborative ethos of the Secession.

This remarkable pair was discovered and carefully researched in partnership with the Vienna-based **GALERIE TRAUDES KINDER** – a collaboration that reflects the same spirit of exchange and shared expertise that defined the movement itself. More than exceedingly important design objects, these unique pieces stand as a powerful manifesto of the Secession’s ideals.

Price on request



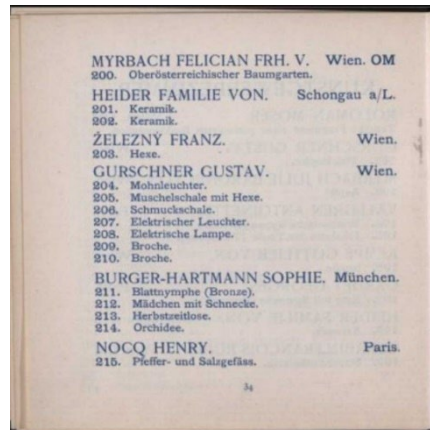
2. Poppy candlestick (ca.1898)

Design & Execution: Gustav Gurschner K.K. Kunst-Erzgießerei Wien

Material/Technique: Bronze, cast and patinated, marked "Gurschner" and "G 111"

An early example of Viennese Art Nouveau bronze, this poetic candlestick features a reclining figure gently curled around the candleholder, a poppy flower resting in one hand. Symbolism, introspection, and subtle eroticism converge in a piece that reflects the dreamlike, introspective world of Jugendstil. This extraordinary object was presented at the **second exhibition of the Vienna Secession**.

Price: €7.000



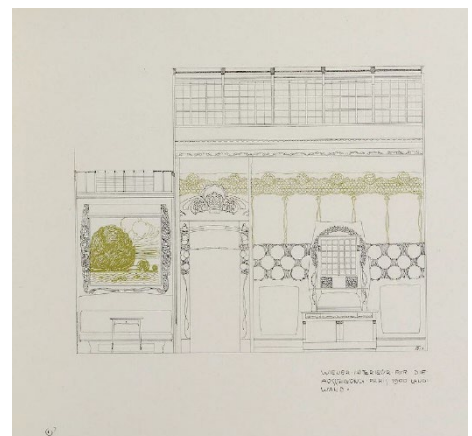
3. Secessionist side table (ca. 1900)

Design: Joseph Maria Olbrich & Josef Hoffmann | **Execution:** attributed to Portois & Fix, Vienna

Material/Technique: Solid maple frame, stained solid cherry wood top, reddish brown and dark brown ornamental stain, curved frame finish at the bottom

This elegant Secessionist side table was created around 1900 through the collaboration of two influential artists of Viennese Modernism: Joseph Maria Olbrich and Josef Hoffmann. The design of the table's body by Olbrich was first published in 1899 in "Ideen von Olbrich". The characteristic ornament was originally conceived by Hoffmann as a decorative frieze for the **fifth Secession Exhibition** and documented in the magazine "Ver Sacrum" (1900). It is highly probable that this furniture piece was specially created for this exhibition – and in fact, it was presented there as part of the Secession's ambitious showcase of modern design. Particularly noteworthy are the original design drawing by Olbrich and the ornament by Hoffmann. The exceptional quality and distinctive fittings strongly suggest production by the renowned Viennese art furniture workshop Portois & Fix, known for numerous designs associated with the Vienna Secession, predominantly by Hoffmann.

Price: €25.000



4. A Gentlemen's Room by Hans Bolek, school of Josef Hoffman (1913)

Design: Hans Bolek | **Execution:** August Ungethüm, Vienna

Materials Book Cabinet: Spruce body, outside swamp oak veneer, stained black and semi-matt polished; inside mahogany veneer; brass fittings; glass

Materials Display Table: Spruce; swamp oak veneer, stained and semi-matt polished

Materials Desk: spruce body, swamp oak veneer, stained black and semi-matt polished

Materials chair: solid swamp oak, stained black and semi-matt polished; new fabric upholstery; applications and doorfronts partially renewed

Hans Bolek, a student of Josef Hoffmann, created these remarkable furniture objects for the Winter Exhibition 1913/14 at the Museum of Art and Industry (now MAK, Vienna). The furniture was acquired by Ottokar Trnka von Laberon, Minister for Public Works, in November 1913 – a testament to its cultural importance. The **Gentlemen's room** shows a masterful fusion of geometric structure and refined decoration, with original keys marked "A. Ungethüm". There is an original photograph preserved in the MAK collection, and the pieces were widely published at the time, gaining international recognition.

Display table: €35.000

Bookcase: Price on request

Chair + Desk: sold



Raum III.
Ungethüm August,
Wien, V., Obere Amtshausgasse 27.
Wohn- und Herrenzimmer aus halbmattpoliertem Sumpfeichenholz mit getriebenen und patinierten Messingbeschlägen und reichen Schnitzereien. Nach Entwurf von Architekt Hans Bolek.
Kamin von Josef Stojan, Marmorindustrie, Wien, V., Sonnenhofgasse 8.
Feuerbock von Ignaz Navratil, Wien, XII., Oswaldgasse 26.

These objects are not only design rarities of exceptional provenance and condition – they are artistic statements from an era when Vienna was the vibrant nucleus of modern design.

FLORIAN KOLHAMMER is proud to present these works and their remarkable stories to an international audience at **BRAFA 2026**. For further details – including high-resolution images, provenance documentation, or additional background information – please feel free to contact us at any time.

Contact

FLORIAN KOLHAMMER – art since the turn of the 20th century

Plankengasse 5, 1010 Vienna

Phone: +43 1 513 32 69

Email: info@floriankolhammer.com

Website: <https://floriankolhammer.com/en/>