

Department of Roman Law
and Antique Legal History
Department of Civil Procedure



THE WORLD OF »WOHLLEBENGASSE«: THE STORY OF A CHAIR WITH NO SEAT

Public Lecture by Tim Bonyhady
Wednesday, 2 December 2015, 19:00
Top floor in the Juridicum, Schottenbastei 10-16, 1010 Vienna



TIM BONYHADY

Tim Bonyhady is a cultural historian and environmental lawyer and the director of the Australian National University's Centre for Environmental Law. His many books include *Good Living Street*, which tells the story of his mother's family, the Gallias, who were major patrons of the arts in fin-de-siècle Vienna and fled to Australia following the Nazis' annexation of Austria.

When Tim Bonyhady's grandmother and great-aunt fled Vienna in 1938, they succeeded in escaping with much of the family collection of art and design, including Klimt's portrait of Hermine Gallia, now on loan to the Klimt/Schiele/Kokoschka exhibition at the Belvedere. Yet, some of the Gallia collection remained in the family apartment in the Wohllebengasse, and much more disappeared in transit to Australia. The first of these works of art which reappeared was a Hoffmann chair, devoid of a seat, which came on to the international art market in 2006. In his lecture, Tim Bonyhady will tell the story of this chair, reflect on lessons that might be learned from the claim to it by Gallia heirs and the significance of being portrayed on it by the Australian artist Andrew Sayers considering that it is a chair on which he has never sat.

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