

Vienna, May 2011

**Wien Museum Karlsplatz, Karlsplatz, 1040 Vienna**

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**VANISHED WITHOUT TRACE IN THE MUSEUM  
THE ARTIST KARL WIENER**

**Opening:** Wednesday, May 4, 2011, 6.30 p.m.  
**Exhibition venue:** Wien Museum Karlsplatz, 1040 Vienna, 2nd floor  
**Exhibition duration:** May 5 to August 28, 2011  
**Opening times:** Tuesday to Sunday and public holidays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
**Press photos:** [www.wienmuseum.at/de/presse](http://www.wienmuseum.at/de/presse)

This is a case study of a largely unknown artist, whose works “vanished” in the museum’s storage depot over decades. Karl Wiener was born in Graz in 1901 and moved to Vienna in the 1930s. He was never able to establish himself on the art market, and so made his living as a teacher and graphic designer, mainly for the Social Democratic media. During the Nazi period Wiener taught at the Kunstgewerbeschule (School of Applied Arts), committing suicide in 1949. After 1960, the bequeathal of his estate resulted in a wooden box containing Wiener’s graphic oeuvres being donated to the Museum of the City of Vienna.

The assets are heterogeneous both in terms of style and subject matter: we find agit-prop graphics critical of society and the time, as well as portrait drawings or nightmarish works that document psychological distress. In 2001 a selection of the estate in Graz was put on show, and since then the assets have been renovated. Yet why do some artists “vanish” in the museum? What determines the fate of artworks? And what role is played in this by factors such as quality, personal circumstances, chance and the political context of the period?

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- Entrance Fees:** Entrance: 6 €. Reduced Rates 4 € (pensioners, Wien-Card holders, Ö1-Club members, groups of more than 10 people) or 3 € (apprentices, students up to 27, military and civilian service conscripts); schoolchildren and youths under 19: entrance free of charge!  
Every first Sunday in the month for all visitors: entrance free of charge!
- Visitor Information:** Tel (+43 1) 505 87 47-0, [www.wienmuseum.at](http://www.wienmuseum.at);  
e-mail: [service@wienmuseum.at](mailto:service@wienmuseum.at)
- Curators:** Marion Krammer, Lisa Wögenstein (Idea and concept)
- Graphic Design:** Toledo i Dertschei
- Exhibition Design:** Thomas Hamann
- Accompanying magazine:** *Vanished without trace in the museum. The artist Karl Wiener.* Lisa Wögenstein and Marion Krammer (eds.). 8 pages / € 4,80.
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Tel (+43 1) 505 87 47 - 84019, Fax (+43 1) 505 87 47 - 7201  
e-mail: [peter.stuibler@wienmuseum.at](mailto:peter.stuibler@wienmuseum.at)
- Barbara Wieser**, Wien Museum  
Tel (+43 1) 505 87 47 - 84068, Fax (+43 1) 505 87 47 - 7201  
e-mail: [barbara.wieser@wienmuseum.at](mailto:barbara.wieser@wienmuseum.at)