



Ringturm adorned with László Fehér's "Society"

Unveiling ceremony attended by Hungarian PM Viktor Orbán and Austrian Chancellor Werner Faymann

The transformation of the Ringturm into an "Art Tower" was celebrated on the 20th floor of the tower on Tuesday, 12 June. **Federal Chancellor Werner Faymann** and **Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán** visited the Vienna Insurance Group's headquarters to acclaim the official unveiling of **László Fehér's** work, "Society", which envelops the tower.

Austrian Chancellor Werner Faymann highlighted the importance of economic cooperation and the long tradition of close ties between the two neighbouring countries, and thanked Hungarian artist László Fehér for his contribution to continued cultural exchange in creating the latest artwork to cover the Ringturm.

A large number of guests from the worlds of culture, business and politics attended the celebration alongside the two heads of government, at the invitation of **Günter Geyer, Chairman of the Managing Board** of **Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein**, the main shareholder of Vienna Insurance Group. These included: H.E. Vince Szalay-Bobrovniczky (Ambassador of the Republic of Hungary to Austria), H.E. Balázs Csuday (Permanent Representative of the Republic of Hungary to the United Nations and other international organisations in Vienna), H.E. Michael Zimmermann (Ambassador of the Republic of Austria to Hungary), Prof. Harry Kopietz (First President of the Vienna Provincial Parliament), Gerhard Steier (President of the Burgenland Provincial Parliament), State Secretary Josef Ostermayer, Maria Rauch-Kallat (former Federal Minister), Wilhelm Kraetschmer (Deputy General Secretary of the Austrian Savings Banks Association), Prof. Robert Hammerstiel (painter), Xenia Hausner (painter), Elisabeth Leopold (Leopold Museum), Peter Weinhäupl (Commerical Director, Leopold Museum), the Managing Boards of Hungarian VIG companies Union Biztosító and Erste Biztosító including CEO Gabor Lehel and Managing Board members Istvan Toth and Michael Waiss (Union Biztosító), Robert Takacs and Zsolt Raveczky (Erste Biztosító), as well as Juraj Lelkes (CEO, Kooperativa pojišťovna, Slovakia), Johanna Stefan (General Manager, Donau Versicherung), Franz Kosyna (Deputy CEO, Vienna Insurance Group), Martin Simhandl and Peter Höfingner (Members of the Managing Board, Vienna Insurance Group) and Judit Havasi (Member of the Managing Board, Wiener Städtische Versicherung).

Cross-border cultural exchange

"Fehér's commission is a reflection of the Group's dedication to promoting cross-border cultural exchange. It is also intended to underline our close links with the whole of Central and Eastern Europe. His work is an expression of friendship and togetherness – values that are central to us as insurers," commented **Günter Geyer, Chairman of the Managing Board** of **Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein**.

This is the fifth time that the Ringturm has been artistically decorated, and the first time that an artist from one of Austria's neighbouring countries has been commissioned to produce an exclusive work for the tower's transformation. László Fehér is one of the most important exponents of Hungarian contemporary art.

László Fehér on his work: *“The Ringturm seems to embody the history of the last 60 years. In creating the work, I have attempted to find an abstract formal system that could characterise any decade from the 1950s to the 1990s and is also relevant to the present day. The figures represented in “Society” are permeated by light, air and the historical background – chiefly of Central and Eastern Europe – in which they exist. The robust architecture of the Ringturm provides the geometric foundation for this motif. My feeling is that this dreamlike, but nonetheless real composition complements the aura of calm projected by the Ringturm.”*

Print quality pictures of the Ringturm in its latest artistic incarnation, and from the event, can be downloaded free of charge at: <http://www.vig.com/ringturm>

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