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On and around the Ringturm: 200 Years of Best Ingredients

The focus of this year's Ringturm wrapping is on the celebrations of the Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein's 200th anniversary. The renowned artist Johanna Kandl is staging the insurance group's factors of success on 4,000 square meters.

The Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein's cultural flagship project has a special significance this year: December 24, 2024 marks the bicentenary of its founding. To highlight this milestone anniversary, the Versicherungsverein and the insurance group's companies reflect upon their historical roots and the values that have guaranteed their many years of success: courage, solidarity, and mutuality define the group's corporate culture. *"Inviting all of the city's inhabitants and visitors to join us, we wish to celebrate this special birthday with an extraordinary Ringturm wrapping. The work created by Johanna Kandl symbolizes impressively that our group's success story is based on more than just financial ratios, namely on stable values that have formed our basis for 200 years,"* says **Robert Lasshofer**, chairman of the managing board of the Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein, main shareholder of Vienna Insurance Group (VIG).

Leitmotifs and Values

For her painting "With the Best Ingredients," renowned Austrian artist Johanna Kandl has drawn her inspiration from everyday life. The work, commissioned to mark our company's anniversary, shows a collection of colorful storage containers—food storage jars and boxes—on a total area of 4,000 square meters. In various typographic fonts and occasionally also in handwriting, expressions can be found on them that point to essential immaterial contents. Reflecting the insurance group's guiding principles, they convey encouragement and are of a reassuring character: qualities that are indispensable both professionally and privately. *"The inspiration for my 'motivating image' came from the song 'Keine Angst' (1982), which is German and means something like 'Don't Be Afraid,' by Austrian pop legend Hansi Lang. His music was formative for our generation in Vienna. Lang's sound continues to have a powerful and cheerful impact—and what could be more fitting for an insurance group celebrating its 200th anniversary this year? In addition, my picture speaks in the languages of the market in which the company operates, including some that are also frequently spoken in Vienna but which can rarely be seen in writing—such as Hungarian, Slovakian, Polish or Turkish,"* **Johanna Kandl** says about her work.

With her colorful and unifying symbol of the kitchen, which can be deciphered in many different civilizations and cultures, Kandl particularly addresses the people in the countries in which the Vienna Insurance Group operates. She sees her wrapping of the Ringturm as an inspiring signal directed at the various societies in Central and Eastern Europe, while at the same time recognizing and thanking the numerous employees who have contributed to the group's many years of success. The different languages of the motif also express the diversity the VIG upholds.

The Artist Johanna Kandl

Kandl is committed to an artistic practice based on research and documentation. Starting out from fundamental issues inherent to the medium of painting, she refers to overarching thematic complexes of a social nature, which she has explored together with her husband, Helmut Kandl, since 1997. For research as part of her ongoing project on the origin of materials, she often visits distant places that, despite their apparent remoteness, tell us a lot about global economies. Johanna and Helmut Kandl's various work projects, which have often been documented in videos, have taken them to Georgia, Azerbaijan, Ukraine, Yakutia, Poland, Romania, Lithuania, former Yugoslavia, the Czech Republic, Iran, and Sudan. Between 2005 and 2013, Johanna Kandl held a professorship for painting at the

University of Applied Arts Vienna. Important stages of her exhibition activities include the Kunsthalle Basel, the Hayward Gallery in London, and the Belvedere in Vienna.

(Artistic) Commitment in Austria and Eastern Europe

In addition to its broad social commitment, the Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein promotes cultural exchange across national boundaries. Promoting a wide variety of art projects and supporting young artists are central concerns of the Vienna Insurance Group's main shareholder. The Ringturm wrapping is a highly visible sign of this sponsorship philosophy. In addition to renowned Austrian artists, including Gottfried Helnwein, Arnulf Rainer, Christian Ludwig Attersee, and Xenia Hausner, since 2012 artists from Eastern Europe have also been invited to design the Ringturm wrapping.

Ringturm Wrappings 2006–2024

2024	Johanna Kandl	“With the Best Ingredients”	Austria
2023	Gottfried Helnwein	“My Sister”	Austria
2023	Vanja Bućan	“Wandering Icebergs”	Slovenia
2022	Dóra Maurer	“Together”	Hungary
2019	Daniela Kostova	“Dreams of the Future”	Bulgaria
2018	Gottfried Helnwein	„I Saw This“	Austria
2017	Mihael Milunović	“Vision”	Serbia
2016	Ivan Exner	“Carefree”	Czechia
2015	Tanja Deman	“Summer Pleasures”	Croatia
2014	Arnulf Rainer	“The Veil of Agnes”	Austria
2013	Dorota Sadovská	“Connectivity”	Slovakia
2012	László Fehér	“Society”	Hungary
2011	Xenia Hausner	“Sense of Family”	Austria
2008	Hubert Schmalix	“Tower in Bloom”	Austria
2007	Robert Hammerstiel	“Tower of Life”	Austria
2006	Christian Ludwig Attersee	“Don Giovanni”	Austria

The Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein is the principal shareholder of Vienna Insurance Group AG (VIG), the holding company of our internationally operating insurance group. The Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein supports the VIG in cultural and social matters. It attaches great importance to cross-border exchange with the countries in Central and Eastern Europe in which the VIG operates. Within the framework of cooperation agreements and initiatives, targeted support is provided for the activities of social organizations that, among other things, create space and freedom for personal and cultural development.

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