

The Albertina palace in Vienna houses one of the largest and most valuable graphic collections in the world. "Mirogard Protect" offers safe protection against UV rays and vandalism.

The Albertina currently houses around 65,000 drawings and almost one million prints from all the important artistic periods, ranging from the late Gothic to the contemporary modern. After a long period of hibernation, an effort is under way to revitalize and restructure the entire collection. The palace of the Albertina, located in the historical heart of Vienna and home to these artistic treasures, is currently being renovated in order to expand and convert it to a modern exhibition and research center.

The palace itself will be converted according to a totally new and spacious room concept. Once construction is final, the Albertina together with a new

PROTECTION

By the end of 2002, the renovation of the Albertina should be complete with its totally new exhibition concept.



temporary exhibit hall, will boast a total of about 2,400 square yards (2,000 square meters) of exhibition space.

Art database

In addition, a deep storage vault will serve as a safe place to store the collection. Fully automated high-shelf storage will provide ample space for the 10,000 masterpieces, stored in cassettes. A computer-controlled storage administration system delivers items within 90 seconds. Since February 1999, and as part of the construction project, Albertina employees have been digitally capturing the pictorial data of

all drawings and watercolors for inclusion in a huge database. This project has the support of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs.

Once the deep storage vault is completed, a research building furnished with state-of-the-art equipment, reading rooms, digital studios, a library and records office, and a reproduction and restoration department will be built. This building will function as the nerve center of the Albertina's collection activities.

*The Albertina has switched to "Mirogard Protect" for picture glazing.
Below: Klimt's sketches for the portrait of Margaret Stonborough-Wittgenstein.*



with True Rendition

Construction will conclude in the fall of 2002. Then, with its deep storage vault, research building, new exhibition hall and a totally new exhibition concept, the Albertina will once again regain the importance it once had in Austrian and international artistic circles.

Protection with quality glass

The conservation of priceless works of art will increasingly demand special precautions, especially when works are sent out as part of a larger temporary exhibition. This unavoidably exposes the art works to all kinds of dangers, above all to the "ravages of time", which in conservation circles simply means ultraviolet rays. Practically all materials that the artist used to create the work of art are slowly but surely damaged by UV rays with the passage of time: colors, canvases, wood or paper – all suffer. Most of these materials lose their original brilliance: colors become pale and matte, losing their power; paper and wood gradually turn darker. This is one reason why so many works of art are displayed only under very low light.

The Albertina has now decided to glaze pictures with "Mirogard Protect" before sending them to temporary exhibits. Aside from protection from UV rays, "Mirogard Protect" safety glass offers color neutrality, high brilliance, freedom from reflection and mechanical protection – in more than one way. The UV protection foil glued between the glass panes prevents the formation of damaging splinters in case the glass breaks. When transporting the pictures, it is therefore no longer necessary to remove and replace the conventional glass panes, saving valuable time. The laminated safety glass used for the pictures and showcases also protects them against theft and vandalism.

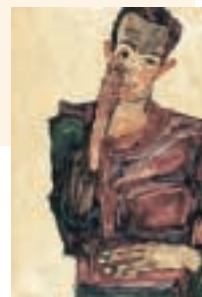
The Albertina has already signaled to the Schott Austria Sales & Distribution Co. that after its reopening it will use "Mirogard Protect" for all artworks displayed in its permanent exhibition rooms ■

Graphic Collection ALBERTINA

The founder of this world-renowned collection is Duke Albert von Sachsen-Teschen (1738–1822). During the course of his almost 50-year career as an art collector and with the support of his wife Marie Christine, one of Empress Maria Theresa's daughters, he established the basis of the present collection. After his death, his descendants kept expanding his artistic legacy. When the Hapsburg monarchy collapsed, the new owner of the priceless collection became the newly founded Austrian Republic. In 1920 it was united with the print collection housed in the former imperial Court Library. Since 1921, both collections have been known by their present name: Albertina.



The collection encompasses outstanding masterpieces by the top names of Western art: Michelangelo, Raphael, Leonardo da Vinci, Albrecht Dürer, Rembrandt van Rijn, Peter Paul Rubens, as well as more recent works by Claude Lorrain, Eugène Delacroix, Edouard Manet and Paul Cézanne. In the 20th century, the Albertina acquired many works by Austrian artists Egon Schiele, Gustav Klimt and Oskar Kokoschka and by international artists such as Pablo Picasso, Robert Rauschenberg and Anselm Kiefer. The collection undergoes permanent expansion through continuous acquisitions; the main focus nowadays is the acquisition of top contemporary works of art.



Functional Glass with Added Advantages

"Mirogard" compared to conventional glass:

	"Mirogard"/"Mirogard Protect"	Window glass
Degree of reflection	0.9 %	approx. 8 %
Degree of transmission	99 %	approx. 91 %
Perceived color rendition	outstanding, true	limited
Splinter protection	high with "Mirogard Protect"	none
Mechanical protection	medium to high with "Mirogard Protect", depending on glass thickness	low
UV protection (300–380 nm)	99 %, with "Mirogard Protect" Standard 3/2	low

Advantages of "Mirogard Protect":

- True color rendition
- No distracting reflections
- Practically invisible
- Protection against prohibited access against splinters in case of breakage
- Protection against substance damage caused by UV rays



"Mirogard" compared to conventional glass. The non-reflective glass (left) allows a clear view of Rembrandt's 'Golden Helmet' which can be seen in the 'Gemäldegalerie' in Berlin.

Structure of a "Mirogard Protect" pane

