MEDIA RELEASE FROM THE PRINCELY HOUSE

Change in Leadership at the Princely Collections

10 November 2026 – After many years of successful leadership of the Princely Collections, both in Austria and internationally, Dr Stephan Koja has decided to devote the next phase of his professional career entirely to scholarly research and to hand over the operational responsibility for the Princely Collections to Robert Wald. This step will allow him to engage more intensively in international art-historical discourse and in the study of phenomena that transcend national borders and historical periods.

The Board of Trustees of the Princely Collections, which remains deeply grateful to Dr Koja for his achievements, supports his wish to focus, among other projects, on the extensive œuvre of Ferdinand Georg Waldmüller within the Princely Collections and its place within the broader international history of art.

Robert Wald has been a member of the Princely Collections for more than twenty years and has headed the Conservation Department since 2002. An internationally recognised expert in the study and conservation of European Renaissance and Baroque masterpieces, he previously worked at the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna. Numerous publications and conservation projects testify to his outstanding expertise in painting techniques, conservation, and technical art history.

Under Dr Koja's leadership, the Princely Collections have undergone significant further development. His scholarly and curatorial work has shaped the institution through exceptional expertise, intellectual curiosity and remarkable creative vision. With a particular talent for making art accessible through compelling narratives while maintaining the highest academic standards, he and his team conceived and realised a series of widely acclaimed exhibitions, including Hercules of the Arts: Johann Adam Andreas and Vienna around 1600, Wonder and Science: Porcelain and Collecting in Baroque Vienna, Bodies of Power: Giambologna's Mars, and Noble Desires: A History of the European Art Market. These achievements are complemented by exhibition catalogues and other publications that have become important scholarly reference works.

Dr Koja has also advanced provenance research and assigned a new and central role to the scholarly library, a role that will soon become visible in its own dedicated building. To meet the high standards of this distinguished art collection, he further strengthened the organisation by expanding the team with key specialist disciplines and valuable expertise.

These initiatives, together with the institution's landmark exhibition projects, have significantly enhanced the reputation of the collection and brought it closer to the public.

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to the development of the Princely Collections, the Board of Trustees extends its sincere gratitude and appreciation to Dr Koja. At the same time, it wishes Robert Wald every success and fulfilment in his new role.

Photo caption: Robert Wald, new Director of the Princely Collections.

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