

Curator Guided Tours

The exhibition is shown from 30 April to 31 October 2025. The following guided tours by the curator are planned:

- Tue, 13 May, 17:00
- Tue, 10 June, 17:00
- Tue, 01 July, 17:00
- Tue, 30 September, 17:00
- Tue, 14 October, 17:00
- Tue, 28 October, 17:00



Please check the website for possible changes to the dates:
bibliothek.univie.ac.at/events/008288.html

Cooperations

Vienna University Library

City of Vienna. Culture and History

Federal Ministry, Republic of Austria. Arts, Culture, Civil Service and Sport

Future Fund of the Republic of Austria

Jewish Welcome Service Vienna

National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism

Jewish Welcome Service Vienna

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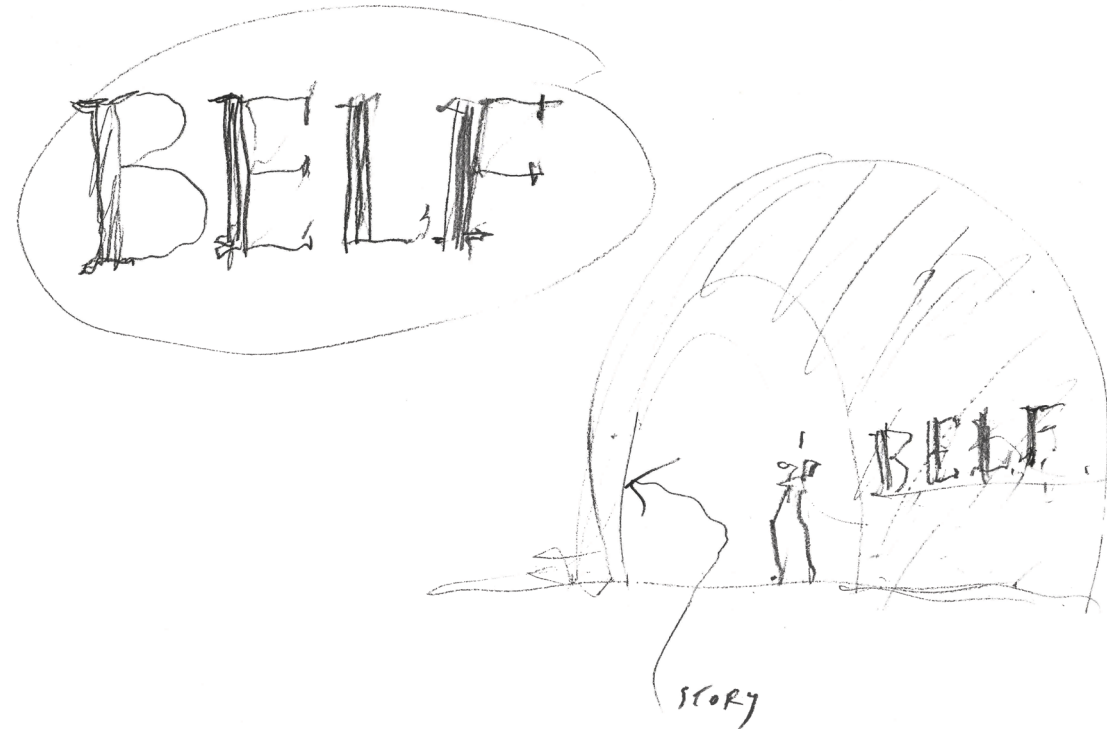
Bundesministerium
Kunst, Kultur,
öffentlicher Dienst und Sport



Exhibition: BELF. History of a Viennese Jewish Bookstore

Exhibition Opening | Tuesday, April 29th | 18:30

Aula at the Vienna University Campus, Spitalgasse 2–4, Yard 1.11, 1090 Vienna



Titelbild: © Architekt Martin Kohlbauer

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About the Exhibition

March 1938: In the wake of the National Socialist seizure of power, members of the Jewish Belf family, who operate a publishing house and a bookstore, are subjected to violent abuse by Nazi paramilitaries and the Gestapo. During the pogrom in November 1938, also known as "Kristallnacht", Nazi troops loot the business at 3 Rabensteig Street in Vienna's First District and deport its owner, Josef Belf, to the Dachau concentration camp.

These harrowing events, repeated hundreds of times in Vienna alone, marked the end of a company which, for decades, had supplied the Viennese Jewish community with traditional literature and objects for religious practice, thus enabling and strengthening Jewish self-determination and identity.

The exhibition, which will be on display at the Contemporary History Library from April 29 to October 31, illustrates the history of this Jewish family business with historical photographs and a collection of books published or sold by the firm. The fate of the Belf bookstore encapsulates the systematic eradication of religious, cultural, intellectual, and ultimately physical, Jewish life in Vienna.

----- *Exhibition from 29 April to 31 October 2025* -----

About the Presentation

Adam Krupnick, the spouse of a Belf family member, will discuss his remarkable experience researching the Belf family and recovering looted items from the Belf bookstore.

Program

Tuesday, 29 April, 18:30

Aula at the Vienna University Campus (AAKH)
Spitalgasse 2–4, Yard 1.11, 1090 Vienna

Welcome and Introduction

[Andreas Brandtner](#)

Director, Vienna University Library

[Monika Schreiber](#)

Jewish Studies Library, Vienna University Library

[Felicitas Heimann-Jelinek](#)

Exhibition curator

[Martin Kohlbauer](#)

Exhibition architect

Presentation:

Stolen Books – Recovering Our Family's Legacy

[Adam Krupnick](#)

Spouse of a Belf family member

Followed by a visit to the exhibition

Vegetarian reception