



Press release, July 2025

Contemporary perspectives in autumn 2025 at the Weltmuseum Wien

From autumn 2025, the Weltmuseum Wien will demonstrate once again that an ethnological museum is a lively space for contemporary artistic debate and thus much more than an exhibition venue for historical artefacts with the new exhibition format **WMW Contemporary**.

This series brings the Weltmuseum Wien's historical collections into dialogue with current social and cultural issues. The focus is on international actors – especially from the Global South and the diaspora – who open up new perspectives, make marginalised voices visible and critically question existing narratives.

The three high-calibre exhibitions '*Tabita Rezaire. Calabash Nebula: Cosmological Tales of Connection*', '*The Colours of the Earth. Modern Textile Art in Mexico*' and '*Indah Arsyad. The Ultimate Breath*' will kick off the series in autumn 2025.

In their works, the invited artists reflect on global environmental issues, neo-colonialism, identity and the relationships between Western science, indigenous knowledge and mythology. **WMW Contemporary** is thus sending a clear signal of the social relevance and topicality of an ethnological museum: as a place of debate, exchange and polyphonic memory.

At a glance: Exhibitions in the WMW Contemporary series

Tabita Rezaire.

Calabash Nebula: Cosmological Tales of Connection

17 September 2025 to 11 January 2026

The Weltmuseum Wien presents the first solo exhibition in Austria of the multidisciplinary artist and activist who lives in French Guyana.

In her artistic practice, Tabita Rezaire (*1989) explores healing as a decolonial strategy and questions how persistent neo-colonial power structures dominate our understanding of the cosmos. She combines digital technologies with spiritual and indigenous knowledge. Three of Rezaire's visionary installations will be shown: *OMI: Yemoja Temple*, an immersive spatial sculpture created in collaboration with Yussef Agbo-Ola; *Omo Elu*, a textile homage to the many manifestations of the deity Yemoja, and the symbolic power of indigo; and *Des/astres*, a walk-through poetic video installation that explores the astronomical traditions of the Amazon region and French Guiana's geopolitically strategic position as a central location for the European space programme.



Tabita Rezaire, who lives in French Guyana, has already had exhibitions at the Centre Pompidou, Paris; the Tate Modern, London; the MoMa, New York and the Gropius Bau, Berlin. The show at the Weltmuseum Wien was created in collaboration with the participating artists and as a result of three exhibitions shown at the TBA21 Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary in Madrid, the Fondation Louis Vuitton in Paris and the Schering Stiftung in Berlin. The exhibition will be re-adapted for the Weltmuseum Wien.

[Exhibition information](#)

The Colours of the Earth.

Modern Textile Art in Mexico

22 October 2025 to 6 April 2026

The colourful textile heritage of indigenous communities in Mexico will be visually and sensually honoured in this exhibition from 22 October. Over a period of seventeen years, curator Carlos Barrera Reyes organised community dyeing workshops in indigenous communities with weavers in thirty communities in Oaxaca and Chiapas, Mexico.

The project emphasises the interplay between traditional and contemporary dyeing practices, ecological awareness and artistic collaboration. On display are, among other objects, unique contemporary traditional huipiles – garments used for weddings, ceremonies, religious festivals, competitions and even to dress statues of saints – and traditional looms on which these garments are made. The exhibition also explores current fashion trends and the impact of social media on trade within these communities.

[Exhibition information](#)

Indah Arsyad.

The Ultimate Breath

26 November 2025 to 25 May 2026

Indah Arsyad's (*1965) first solo exhibition in Vienna brings together art, science, technology and culture. The show deals with global issues such as environmental pollution and climate change and explores the links between mythology and technology.

In her works, Arsyad breathes new life into the symbols of ancient Javanese mythology and culture – wayang, gamelan and traditional songs. The basis for this is scientific data, which she compiles using state-of-the-art technologies. The results are compositions of light, sound and movement that incorporate and reinforce the knowledge of local traditions. For Arsyad, this knowledge is the driving force behind harmony and ecological sustainability.

[Exhibition information](#)

Press photos

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Tabita Rezaire.

***Calabash Nebula: Cosmological Tales
of Connection***

Des/astres, 2024

Installation view: Tabita Rezaire. Calabash

Nebula, 2024, Museo Nacional Thyssen-

Bornemisza, Madrid. Photo: Roberto Ruiz, TBA21



The Colours of the Earth.

Modern Textile Art in Mexico

Victoria Villaseñor from the community of

San Mateo del Mar weaves on a backstrap loom

Photo: © Carlos Barrera Reyes



Indah Arsyad.

The Ultimate Breath

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Press Contact

Weltmuseum Wien

T +43 1 525 24 – 4025 / - 4019

presse@weltmuseumwien.at