



EXHIBITIONS 2020/21



THE AZTECS
Until April 13, 2021

Stories of Traumatic Pasts
Counter-Archives for Future Memories
Until April 3, 2021

RE:PRESENT – Racism and Society
June – August 2021

Alma Karlin
September 16, 2021 - January 18, 2022

Treasures from the Forbidden City - From the Ming to the Qing Dynasty
October 21, 2021 – February 1, 2022



AZTECS

Until April 13, 2021

The Weltmuseum Wien is hosting an exhibition that showcases the legendary art and culture of the Aztecs. This comprehensive show offers visitors the first-ever chance to get to know the Aztecs in their cultural context.

In the early sixteenth century, at the time of the Spanish conquest, the Aztecs who called themselves Mexica ruled large parts of Mesoamerica. A nomadic people now named after Aztlán, their mythical place of origin, they eventually settled on a number of small islands in Lake Texcoco, where around 1325 they founded the city of Tenochtilan, today's Mexico City. In the fifteenth century the Aztecs ruled over a large and powerful empire, and in the sixteenth century they are among the best-documented Mesoamerican civilizations.

The exhibition begins with the periphery of the Aztec Empire (c.1430–1521) and Mexico's natural and cultural riches, from where it moves to the heart of the Aztec Empire and its capital Tenochtitlan, which functioned as both its economic hub and its religious and cultural centre. After walking through the imperial palace of Emperor Moctezuma, visitors enter the empire's centrepiece: the sacred precinct, home to the most important temple, the Templo Mayor.

On show are over 200 artefacts and loans from Mexican and European museums, among them the Museo del Templo Mayor, the Museo Nacional de Antropología in Mexico-City, the Musées Royaux d'Art et de Histoire (Brussels), the National Museum of Denmark (Copenhagen), the Tropenmuseum (Amsterdam), the Museum Volkenkunde (Leiden), the Museum der Kulturen Basel, and the Museum am Rothenbaum (Hamburg), as well as artefacts from the collections of the Weltmuseum Wien and the Imperial Armoury of the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna.



Conceived in close collaboration with Mexican archaeologists and scholars, the exhibition presents the results and findings of recent research and excavations.

Also incorporated into the exhibition is the renowned ancient Mexican feather headdress on show in the permanent collection of the Weltmuseum Wien, which comprises hundreds of long quetzal feathers and over a thousand small gold plates. This precious headdress is the only one of its kind to have survived. Between 2010 and 2012 a collaborative project brought together Mexican and Austrian scientists and scholars who carried out comprehensive research on its history and a thorough cleaning and restoration of the artefact.

The special exhibition The Aztecs was conceived and curated by the Linden-Museum Stuttgart in collaboration with the Nationaal Museum van Wereldculturen in the Netherlands and the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (INAH) in Mexico. Its first stop was Stuttgart (2019/20), and in June 2021 it will move from Vienna to the Museum Volkenkunde in Leiden.

www.weltmuseumwien.at/en/exhibitions/the-aztecs/

Press Release: www.weltmuseumwien.at/en/press/the-aztecs/



Stories of Traumatic Pasts

Counter-Archives for Future Memories
October 8, 2020 - April 3, 2021

The exhibition *Stories of Traumatic Pasts: Counter-Archives for Future Memories* focuses on three European regions, their stories, and their current experiences of collective amnesia in relation to traumatic events from the past: Belgian colonial rule in the Congo, Austria after the "Anschluss" in 1938, and the denial of war crimes since 1990 after the breakup of Yugoslavia.

These three historic lines of violence and annihilation (re)enforced a process of oblivion that to this day prevents a processing of the genocides they caused. Today involuntary or performed amnesia again threatens to destroy what has already come to a point of possible coexistence. We go back to these traumatic events in history and the recent past, which had such a violent impact on communities and people, states and territories, and confront them with a system of interventions. The scars that remain after atrocities, although hidden and obliterated, are recovered through artistic, scientific, and political reflections.

The exhibition takes a critical look at three European regions, their histories, and their current experiences of collective amnesia in relation to traumatic pasts. The positions shown are interventions aimed at the present and the future and form counter-narratives against forgetting.

Stories of Traumatic Pasts is the result of the FWF research project (AR 439) *Genealogy of Amnesia* at the Academy of Fine Arts.

Participating artists

Valerie Wolf Gang, Monique Mbeka Phoba, Nicolas Pommier, Anja Salomonowitz, Joëlle Sambi Nzeba, Martin Krenn, Adela Jušić, Arye Wachsmuth, Lana Čmajčanin, Elisabeth Bakambamba Tambwe, Bojan Djordjev, Sinisa Ilic, Dani Gal



Cooperation Weltmuseum Wien and Calle Libre 2020

RE:PRESENT – Racism and Society

June – August 2021

An exhibition at Weltmuseum Wien in cooperation with Calle Libre

Re:Present is the theme of the Calle Libre Streetart Festival 2021. Against the backdrop of the Weltmuseum Wien, Calle Libre aims to provide a platform for artistic discourse on the cultural legacy of colonialism and the consequences of controlling a country to exploit its (human) resources. With this exhibition project, Calle Libre and the Weltmuseum Wien want to build bridges to close the gaps that divide our society. We invite representatives of social movements such as activists, critical voices and female empowerment initiatives to participate in the exhibition.

Exceptional is the processual character of the exhibition. Step by step, the artists create the exhibition through their work. The artwork is created directly on the museum's walls while also connecting to different works in public space.



Alma Karlin

September 16, 2021 – January 18, 2022

The writer Alma M. Karlin was born in 1889. Her birth town, Celje in modern-day Slovenia, was then dominated by the rift between Slovenian and German speakers and nationalism movements in the Habsburg Empire of the time, engendering a political narrow-mindedness that Karlin spent her entire life trying to escape. She studied several languages in London and embarked on a world tour in 1919. While most travellers at the time would have had access to funds for their travels, Karlin had to work in various positions in order to finance her nine-year journey. The objects she collected on her travels, which are now housed in the Regional Museum in Celje, reflect her changing financial means. After her return, she remained in her birth town until her death in 1950. She was a celebrated author, and her books, which frequently dealt with her journey around the world, were translated into numerous languages. Her works were banned under the Nazi regime. After 1945, she faced hostility as a German language author in the Yugoslav context, and was subsequently forgotten. Her works have only recently been rediscovered in Slovenia and abroad.

The Weltmuseum Wien together with the Regional Museum Celje will show her ethnographical collection as well as her drawings, which are kept in the Slovenian National Library, in an exhibition that aims to introduce a wider public to the biography of an unconventional traveller.



Treasures from the Forbidden City - From the Ming to the Qing Dynasty

October 21, 2021 - February 1, 2022

Selected treasures from the Forbidden City in Beijing are finally on show once more in Austria. The Forbidden City was the imperial palace to fourteen emperors from the Ming dynasty (1368 to 1644) and ten emperors from the Qing Dynasty (1644 to 1911). This fascinating palace complex recently celebrated six hundred years of existence. Approximately 120 objects will cast a light on palace life as led by the Chinese rulers and will mark its political, religious and cultural significance. The show will include official courtly portraits, historical archive material, scroll pictures and albums, furniture and musical instruments, selected porcelain, bronze and jade objects. One section will be dedicated to the significance of Esoteric Buddhism as a joint and unifying element within the multinational empire at the time of the Qing dynasty. Technological achievements, such as elaborately worked mechanical clocks from Europe, were increasingly introduced to Chinese imperial palace culture from the seventeenth century onwards.

Some months before this exhibition, the Kunsthistorisches Museum show 600 Years of Imperial Collecting. Treasures from the Habsburg Dynasty will open at the Palace Museum in Beijing. It provides an insight into Habsburg collectors from Emperor Maximilian I to Emperor Franz Joseph I.

Both exhibitions are taking place on the occasion of the fifty year anniversary of the adoption of diplomatic relations between the two states.



PRESS PHOTOGRAPHS

Press photographs are available in the press section of our website free of charge, for your topical reporting: <https://www.weltmuseumwien.at/en/press/>

Weltmuseum Wien
© KHM-Museumsverband

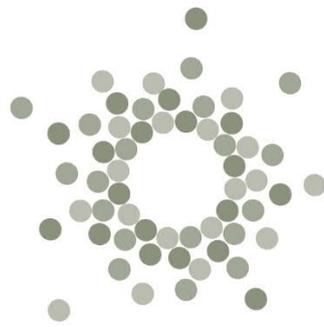


Exhibition view „Aztecs“
© KHM-Museumsverband



Exhibition view „Stories of Traumatic Pasts“
© KHM-Museumsverband





welt
museum
wien

Alma Karlin
© The Manuscript Collection of the National and
University Library (Slovenija)



Portrait of Emperor Qianlong (1711 – 1799) at the age
of eighty years
©The Palace Museum





OPENING TIMES, TICKETS, ENTRANCE FEES

www.weltmuseumwien.at/en/information/

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING YOUR VISIT

Guided tours, bookings and reservations for events

+43 1 534 30-5150

kulturvermittlung@weltmuseumwien.at

INFORMATION, QUESTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

+43 1 534 30-5052

info@weltmuseumwien.at

SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow the Weltmuseum Wien on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

JOURNALIST ACCREDITATION

Journalists visiting the KHM-Museumsverband for professional purposes are entitled to free admission to its exhibitions and locations. For this purpose, you need to register via info.pr@weltmuseumwien.at at least two working days in advance.

We request that, in addition to mentioning your medium, you also specify the date of your visit and attach a scan of your valid press pass. Many thanks for your understanding!

PRESS OFFICE

Nina Auinger-Sutterlüty, MAS (head)

Mag. Sarah Aistleitner

KHM-Museumsverband

T +43 1 525 24 –4021 /–4025

info.pr@weltmuseumwien.at