

PRESS INFORMATION



Volkskundemuseum Wien

The Austrian Museum of Folk Life and Folk Art

Museum

The Volkskundemuseum Wien/Austrian Museum of Folk Life and Folk Art is a museum dedicated to cultural history and historical and present everyday culture in Europe. As platform for the interaction of various academic disciplines and fields of arts, the museum provides an open space for researching and negotiating discourses in society.

Engaging with culture and its material manifestations, the museum is interested in everyday life and life styles, images of the self and the alien, identities and imaginations, heterogeneity and hybridity, sovereignty of interpretation and the formation of elites, power relations and political constellations, social spaces and societal processes.

The museum collections originate from the former Habsburg crown lands and are continuously extended, today counting more than 100.000 threedimensional objects and more than 200.000 photographies and graphics.

Established in 1896 Michael by Michael Haberlandt und Wilhelm Hein, the museum is situated in the Schönborn Garden Palace in the Josefstadt district of Vienna since 1917. As a cultural institution with roots in the 19th century, the museum has been under constant development and reorientation according to the respective academic, political and societal turns of the 20th century.

The permanent exhibition of 1994 shows objects of pre-industrial life in the former Habsburg monarchy. Various interventions create intriguing linkages between past and present. Special exhibitions deal with historical and present themes of everyday life in a constantly changing Europe. Working together with external curators or taking part in international collaborations and projects, the museum experiments with forms of display and communication.

The museum offers an extensive cultural education programme for adults and children. It is further a place for film screenings, performances, academic conferences and much more. With its evolving formats the museum provides a public communication forum and invites its users to discover, to participate, to discuss, to relax, to read and to drink coffee.

#useum

Nutze dein Museum – use your museum

Exhibitions

Die Küsten Österreichs. Die neue Schausammlung des Volkskundemuseum Wien

The Shores of Austria

The Latest Display Collection of the Austrian Museum of Folk Life and Folk Art

„¡Hola Banana!“ is printed on a brown cardboard box – inside it is children’s clothing sized 80 to 86. A transit relic of refugees in Austria in the year 2015. In the course of WIENWOCHE 2018, this story becomes a fixed part of the exhibition at the Austrian Museum of Folk Life and Folk Art.

Revised permanent exhibitions are currently a must in Europe’s ethnological museums. In the museum in Vienna’s Laudongasse, a group of external curators – all currently undergoing the asylum process – have not only updated the existing collection but also incorporated a new collection of objects. Right next to traditional wardrobes from Tyrolean farmhouses, packed travel bags that had to be left behind while crossing the Mediterranean become relevant artefacts of Austrian cultural anthropology. The new exhibits bear witness to how Europe and Austria function at the beginning of the 21st century.

A broken life jacket as a museum piece? To a large extent, collection objects of ethnology are “genuinely worthless”, the curatorial team explains. “An object gets its collectible value only through interpretation and contextualisation.” Perhaps these collection pieces found on the coasts of Europe will be the ones that bring museums their desired European identity. For where governments and border patrols want to batten down the hatches, Europe has such clear contours as nowhere else.

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For publications, press materials and photos see: www.volkskundemuseum.at/presse

Opening hours Tue–Sun, 10am –5pm; Thu, 10am–8pm
Mondays closed except for public holidays

Closing days 25. December, 1. January, Easter Sunday, 1. May, 1. November

Library Tue–Fri, 9am–4pm, closed on public holidays

Visitors information www.volkskundemuseum.at, Facebook, Instagram
T +43 1 406 89 05.15

Guided tours Every Sunday, 15.00 Uhr

Guided tours upon request kulturvermittlung@volkskundemuseum.at
T +43 1 406 89 05.26

Hildebrandt Café Tue–Sun, 10am–6pm; Thu, 10am–8pm
Summer: Tue and Sun, 10am–6pm; Wed–Sat, 10am–11pm