



EXHIBITIONS 2024

On the Backs of Camels

27 February 2024 to 26 January 2025

Zeinab Alhashemi

Theseus Temple, Volksgarten Wien

18 April to 13 October 2024

(Un)Known Artists of the Amazon

24 April 2024 to 21 April 2025

A Little Bit of Everything

24 April to 22 September 2024

The Qur'an in Europe

18 September 2024 to 24 August 2025

A Glance at Pants

16 October 2024 to 26 January 2025



On the Backs of Camels
27 February 2024 to 26 January 2025

Weltmuseum Wien

From February 2024, the Weltmuseum Wien presents the major special exhibition *On the Backs of Camels* and will explore the many aspects of life with dromedaries, Bactrian camels, llamas, and alpacas. The aim is to show what effect these animals, broadly called camelids, have on the societies of which they are a part.

Living together with camels and their close relatives is a source of livelihood for people around the world and shapes their cultural identity. The exhibition in six galleries narrates encounters with the animals past, present, and future. Films, photographs, artworks as well as artefacts of the Weltmuseum, several of which will be on public view for the first time, and numerous loans from international institutions will be featured.

The exhibition's thematic arc extends from the first camels – which evolved in North America –, how they were domesticated, and spread across the world. It focuses on how they are kept today and are seen as universal livestock that not only provide milk, wool, meat, fertiliser, and fuel, but that are also used as pack animals, mounts, and draught animals.

All of the above have contributed to human survival. The achievements of major empires as the Inca Empire, Rome, and the Ottoman Empire were also linked to the capabilities of camels and their relatives. Camelids are central to cultural festivals such as Tinka de Alpaka in the Andes and the Bikaner Festival in India. They are the subjects of traditional and contemporary knowledge. Camel songs in Mongolia and on the Arabian Peninsula belong to UNESCO World Cultural Heritage.



Colonialism altered the relationship between humans and camelids. In South America, llamas and alpacas were replaced by cows and horses, guanacos were hunted by the conquistadores, whereas dromedaries were employed for the conquest of new territories, such as in Australia and Namibia. One of the exhibition's featured sculptures commemorates Napoleon, presumably the first European general of the Modern era to have ridden a camel during his Egyptian campaign of 1799. Including orientalist paintings by Carl Heinrich Müller, the exhibition explores romantic notions that are entwined with this colonial heritage, as well as woodcuts and drawings from China and Japan.

The opportunities afforded by the extensive use of products derived from camelids establish a bridge to the present and also point to the future: to address climate change, camelids have emerged as a bearer of hope in medicine, nutrition, and the textile industry.

The United Nations General Assembly is dedicated to the use of alpacas, llamas, Bactrian camels, and dromedaries for the alleviation of extreme poverty and hunger, for safeguarding the world's ecosystems, and for raising the income of women – many of whom keep alpacas. To this end, the UN has declared 2024 to be the International Year of the Camelid. The Weltmuseum Wien presents the exhibition *On the Backs of Camels* as part of Austria's international commitment to the above initiatives.



(Un)Known Artists of the Amazon

24 April 2024 to 21 April 2025

zam, Weltmuseum Wien

Centred on Indigenous art from Brazil, the exhibition traces how public perception of this art has changed. Its makers have been considered rather as mere bearers of their respective communities and traditions, void of any kind of individuality. Their names were considered unimportant, not worthy of documentation.

It is remarkable that the wide variety of objects in the exhibition show that Brazilian Indigenous art – then as now – is informed by a principle of aesthetics running throughout the human world, thereby linking to the ecological and spiritual environment.

(Un)Known Artists of the Amazon is a project jointly undertaken by the Weltmuseum Wien and the private Museu de Arte Indígena in Curitiba, Brazil. From April 2024, the collections of the two museums will be placed in a dialogue that shows how autonomous works of art have evolved from utilitarian and ritual objects.



A Little Bit of Everything

24 April to 22 September 2024

zam, Weltmuseum Wien

A special feature of the collections at the Weltmuseum Wien is their great variety of materials. Recognizing them is sometimes very easy: a boat is made of wood, a plate of ceramic. Other materials, however, must first be examined under a microscope or with chemical analyses.

From April 2024, the exhibition *A Little Bit of Everything* is dedicated to this material diversity of our collection objects on the one hand and its documentation on the other.

The aim of the presentation is to function as a walk-in materials science encyclopedia in which the key words important for the documentation are presented together with a matching exhibit.



The Qu'ran in Europe

18 September 2024 to 24 August 2025

Weltmuseum Wien

What role does the Holy Scripture of Islam, the Qu'ran, play in the history of European thought? How has it been read and understood in Europe since the first translations in the Middle Ages?

A special exhibition at the Weltmuseum Wien will be dedicated to these questions from September 2024. It illustrates the countless ways in which the Qu'ran has been experienced and interpreted in Europe. Original historical artefacts, contemporary works of art, and media installations will highlight the significance of the Qu'ran in European life.

The exhibition, which was developed in collaboration with the research network *The European Qur'an. The Qu'ran in Europe* and partly financed by it, encourages people to reflect on the many ways in which the Qu'ran can be dealt with in today's European societies.



A Glance at Pants

16 October 2024 to 26 January 2025

zam, Weltmuseum Wien

Trousers are a common item of clothing, but what do you really *know* about them? From October 2024, the Weltmuseum Wien will put the spotlight on one piece of attire that everyone knows intimately, yet which is usually overshadowed by other items of clothing.

Pants from the collections of the Weltmuseum Wien will be juxtaposed with new creations: In collaboration with young creatives from three Viennese fashion schools, the literal fabric of flaunted or well-covered lower halves of the body is explored and staged.

A varied series of workshops and hands-on activities will encourage visitors of all ages to get involved and hopefully fuel the anticipation of more pants to come – because *A Glance at Pants* sees itself as an *hors d'œuvre* to the major 2025 special exhibition at the Weltmuseum Wien: *Who's Wearing the Pants?*

PRESS PHOTOGRAPHS

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

Super Taus
Super Taus and a Camel Yasha
2017
Photography: Imam Guseinov
Special thanks to Dzhamilya Dagirowa, Naida
Omarova
Commissioned by R&D Magazine

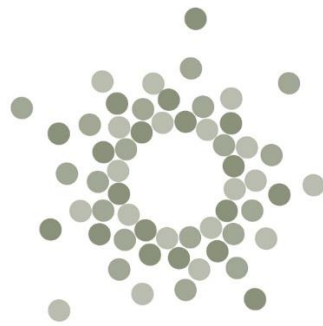


Manoel Martins Neto
Preparation for body painting (detail)
2018
Museu de Arte Indígena, Curitiba



Ostrich egg with incised drawing
San (Southern Africa)
c.1908
Rudolf Pöch collection
Weltmuseum Wien
© KHM-Museumsverband





welt
museum
wien

Qu'ran

Collection North Africa, Near and
Central Asia, Siberia
Leather, paper
Weltmuseum Wien
© KHM-Museumsverband



Men's trousers Sokoto

Nigeria
Cotton fabric with industrial eyelet embroidery
early 1970s
Barbara Plankensteiner collection
Weltmuseum Wien
© KHM-Museumsverband





OPENING TIMES, TICKETS, ENTRANCE FEES

www.weltmuseumwien.at/en/information/

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING YOUR VISIT

Guided tours, bookings and reservations for events

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Information, questions and suggestions

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EXHIBITION PROGRAMMES AND EVENTS

All events can be found online in the [event calendar](#) of the Weltmuseum Wien.

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 presse@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!

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