

Media Release 19 September 2017

New exhibition at the Historisches Museum Basel, Museum of History “Resurfaced. Basel’s Mysterious Sunken Treasures”

What do a mammoth tooth, a 3000-year-old helmet, and a USB stick have in common? They were all found in the River Rhine. For the first time ever, finds from Basel’s watercourses are to be exhibited in a dedicated show of their own at the Historisches Museum Basel. “Resurfaced. Basel’s Mysterious Sunken Treasures” at the Museum of History in the Barfüsser Church in Basel will run from 21 September 2017 until 4 March 2018.

The finds exhibited not only give us an unusual glimpse of Basel’s history, but they also attest to the multiple meanings the Rhine had, and still has, for humans, animals, and the natural world. The range is remarkable, extending from prehistoric fossils and Alemannic jewellery to modern weapons and even some of the items salvaged in this year’s clean-up or “Ryybutzete,” which will be integrated in the show as soon as they have dried out. They all tell of lives lived on the Rhine, of commerce and consumption, of faith and violence, of remembering and forgetting.

The Rhine has moulded the landscape; it separates countries but is also a major transport artery. Vivid river charts will show how the Rhine has changed its course over the centuries and how its engineering by humans has had consequences for both the lay of the land and the ecosystem.

How does the Rhine sound? The artist Christina Kubisch has created an installation that allows us to immerse ourselves in the sounds of the Rhine at Basel. In addition, personal accounts provided by ordinary people reveal how the Rhine has remained a kind of wishing well to this day. Not only is it still the chosen setting for solemn pledges and declarations of love, but many a relationship is laid to rest on the riverbed – then, as now.

This exhibition is supported by the Stiftung für das Historische Museum Basel, the Sulger-Stiftung, Ernst Göhner Stiftung, and Singenberg-Stiftung

Exhibition venue: Historisches Museum Basel – Museum of History, Barfüsserplatz 7, 4051 Basel
Exhibition dates: 21 September 2017 to 4 March 2018
Opening hours: Tu–Sun 10 am–5 pm. Closed: 24 and 25 December 2017, 1 January 2018, 19–21 February 2018 (Fasnacht)
Admission: Free admission for holders of a Museums-PASS-Musée and the Swiss Museums Pass
Free admission for children aged up to 13
Reduced rate: CHF 5.- (Young people under 20 and/or up to 30 if still in education or training)
Normal admission: CHF 17.-
Press information: www.hmb.ch/medien.html. Photos can be supplied by e-mail on request.

Further information:

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