

Press release

HIDDEN TREASURES

A glimpse into the photographic archives

27 October 2015 – 31 January 2016

The UNESCO World Day for Audiovisual Heritage on 27 October aims to raise awareness of the unique value and fragility of image and sound documents. To mark the occasion, the Museum Rietberg will show unretrieved treasures from its photographic archives. At various points in the collection visitors will be able to view previously unpublished photographs and films.

Photographic Archives

The Museum Rietberg's holdings include not only non-European artworks but also films and an estimated 80,000 photographs. While some of these document the objects in the museum, the archives also contain nineteenth- and twentieth-century photographs from Africa, Asia, America and Europe collected from the estates of travellers, diplomats, researchers, collectors and former curators. The Museum Rietberg's photographic archives are still a work in progress, so most of the photographs stored in it have not yet been catalogued. Two projects already running are the Archives Alice Boner and Hans Himmelheber. Some of the photographs already catalogued can be viewed online under: www.rietberg.ch/onlinesammlung.

Exhibition

To mark the UNESCO World Day for Audiovisual Heritage, the Museum Rietberg will show a selection of photographs and films from the relatively unknown holdings of its photographic archives, some of them exhibited for the first time.

At eleven points in the rooms housing the collection visitors will be able to view digitised photographs and films from Gabon, Japan, Iran, Peru, Alaska and India taken between 1875 and 1970. The intervention highlights how the photographs provide important background information on the objects displayed in the museum and raise exciting questions about our own and foreign cultures.

Exhibition website: www.rietberg.ch/ungehobenerschatz_en

Current projects

Alice Boner

The Swiss artist, collector and scholar Alice Boner (1889–1981) was a highly active and dedicated woman with a fascinating biography. The Museum Rietberg houses not only her collection of Indian miniatures and sculptures but also her estate. Work on processing and cataloguing the archives, which began in 2009, has focused mainly on her photographic estate, comprising around 30,000 photographs taken by herself and others as well as a small amount of film material.

Hans Himmelheber

The ethnologist Hans Himmelheber (1908–2003) undertook fourteen research trips to Africa and America between 1933 and 1976, always documenting his travels with his Leica camera. In 2012, the Museum Rietberg set about archiving and cataloguing the almost 15,000 black-and-white negatives that he produced.

The photographic archives are supported by the Verein Memoriav, the Boner Stiftung für Kunst und Kultur, the Sophie und Karl Binding Stiftung and by Barbara and Eberhard Fischer.

Memoriav website: www.memoriav.ch

Tours during the exhibition

Opening tour: Tues, 27 October 2015, 12 pm (assembly point in Smaragd)

Public tours (assembly point in Smaragd)

Free tours (entrance ticket required) in German:

Tues, 27 October 2015, 12 pm | Wed, 18 November 2015, 6 pm | Wed, 9 December 2015, 12 pm | Wed, 13 January 2016, 12 pm

Private tours available in German and English

For further information and online booking please go to www.rietberg.ch/fuehrungen

Information and contact

Information, text and images can be downloaded from www.rietberg.ch/medien

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Opening hours: Tues to Sun 10 am – 5 pm | Wed 10 am – 8 pm

Entrance: Adults CHF 18 | concessions CHF 14 | visitors under the age of 16 free

How to get there: Take Tram 7 in the direction of Wollishofen and alight at “Museum Rietberg” (4 stops from Paradeplatz). No parking facilities except for disabled.