

## Exhibitions 2019

Special Exhibition

### **Sound Pictures – Musical Treasures from 16th-Century Basel**

Open from 24 May 2019 – 02 February 2020

Musikmuseum

They sang Parisian chansons, played Polish lute music or collected musical instruments: for Basel's Renaissance burghers, polymaths like Bonifacius and Basilius Amerbach, Felix Platter and Ludwig Iselin, music was essential to the cultural life of the city. This is the story told by some remarkable prints and manuscripts of the period that for many years Basel University Library has been hoarding like a treasure. The public will be given their first glimpse of these "sound pictures" in next year's show of that name. The manuscripts on show may not be masterpieces of illumination, but they are certainly impressive testimony to the musical life of the city in the age of Humanism.

The exhibition is a co-production with the Schola Cantorum Basiliensis (FHNW), the Musikwissenschaftliche Seminar of the University of Basel, and Basel University Library.

New Permanent Exhibition

### **Leaps in Time – A Brief History of Basel**

Open from 22 June 2019

Barfüsserkirche

This exhibition will provide a brief history of Basel from the earliest evidence of human activity here right up to the present. Some ninety exhibits, including crucial testimony to momentous developments of the past, will pilot visitors through 100,000 years of history. These will be flanked by six short films offering a historical perspective on contemporary issues such as relations between town and country (Basel-Stadt and Basel-Landschaft), migration and integration, the importance of the pharmaceutical industry, and land and nature conservation. There will also be a large interactive installation combining plans and images with facts about the city's development. The focus will not be exclusively on political and economic developments, therefore, but will extend to more general matters such as Basel's relations with the world at large, religious pluralism, and the development of civic society.

Special Exhibition

### **Gold & Glory – Gifts for Eternity**

Open from 11 October 2019 – 19 January 2020

An exhibition by the Basel Historical Museum at the Kunstmuseum Basel

To celebrate the millennium of the consecration of Basel Cathedral in the presence of Emperor Henry II in the autumn of 1019 the Basel Historical Museum will be staging a special exhibition called "Gold & Glory – Gifts for Eternity" at the Kunstmuseum Basel.

This major show will unfurl a panoramic cultural history of the reign of the last Ottonian emperor viewed from multiple perspectives. Exquisite works on loan from private and public collections in Paris, New York, Cleveland, the Vatican, and numerous German museums will visualize the central importance of Emperor Henry II and his "golden gifts" both for the city of Basel and indeed for the entire region. The highlight of the exhibition will be the Golden Altar Frontal, which for the first time in decades is to leave Paris and temporarily return to the place for which it was originally intended.

Special Exhibition

**Superman – Friedrich Nietzsche and the Consequences**

Open from 16 October 2019 – 8 March 2020

Barfüsserkirche

“God is dead!” Thus spake Nietzsche as early as 1882, whereupon he had to grapple with the questions to which his prophetic declaration gave rise, specifically that of a new morality and how life might still be made meaningful even without religion. Nietzsche’s controversial ideas are more topical than ever at a time when 45 per cent of all residents of Canton Basel-Stadt have no religious affiliations at all.

This exhibition in honour of the 175th anniversary of his birth and the 150th anniversary of his appointment to the Chair of Classical Philology at Basel University will offer visitors an insight into the turbulent life and ground-breaking ideas of the most influential and most radical philosopher of modernity. The repercussions of his thinking on philosophy, science and pop culture can be felt to this day, as this exhibition will demonstrate.

Special Exhibition

**Psyche**

From 2022

Barfüsserkirche

The Basel Historical Museum took over the Historical Collection of the Universitäre Psychiatrische Kliniken Basel in June 2018. Comprising some 250 objects, the collection is a poignant reflection of how psychiatry in Basel has developed over the past 150 years. An exhibition on the psyche based on this collection is therefore planned for the year 2022. The show will explore changing attitudes to mental illness in the larger context of the societal norms and scientific developments affecting it.

Cabinet exhibition

**Public Enemy – Bruno Manser and the Rainforest**

From 6 September 2019 – 1 March 2020

Barfüsserkirche

Bruno Manser (1954–2005) was Switzerland’s best known environmentalist and human rights activist during his own lifetime. He ventured to Borneo in Malaysia to study the language and culture of the Penan, one of the last nomadic peoples on earth. As an activist he was committed to exposing the fate of indigenous peoples living in the rainforest, the machinations of the logging industry, and the human rights situation in Malaysia. The Malaysian government declared Manser an enemy of the people and refused to grant him another entry permit. Undeterred, he again embarked on a journey to the Penan in May 2000 – and has not been seen since.

This presentation developed in collaboration with the Bruno Manser Fonds and the Museum der Kulturen Basel sets out to paint a portrait of this influential Basel native, who through his actions heightened our awareness of environmental issues and human rights with lasting effect.