

Media release, September 11, 2019

Gold & Glory – Gifts for Eternity

This major exhibition presents the brilliant period of the last Ottonian Emperor Henry II (ruled 1002–1024 CE). Marking 1000 years since the consecration of the Basel Minster, it combines outstanding loans from Europe and the USA. Precious goldsmith's works, textiles, illuminated manuscripts, and ivory carvings form a unique panorama of medieval culture. Rare documents, coins, and archaeological treasures offer multifaceted insights into the world as lived around 1000 CE.

The star of the exhibition is the Golden Altarpiece, which came to Basel in 1019 as an imperial gift. Sold abroad in the 19th century, it now returns to Basel from Paris after many decades. Loans from Cleveland, Munich, Cologne, Berlin, Rome and New York set in context for the first time the gift from Henry II, and together with other exquisite exhibits offer insights into the endowment activity of the Ottonian ruler. The latter had illuminated manuscripts mounted in precious book covers which ensured his lasting fame. The golden gifts made by Henry II and his wife Kunigunde led to the veneration of the imperial couple, leaving numerous traces in Basel and elsewhere.

The exhibition is accompanied by a lavishly illustrated scholarly catalogue in German, titled *Gold & Ruhm – Kunst und Macht unter Kaiser Heinrich II.*, Hirmer Verlag, Munich.

An exhibition by the Basel Historical Museum at the Kunstmuseum Basel
October 11, 2019 – January 19, 2020, Kunstmuseum Basel | Neubau

Media Conference

Thursday, October 10, 2019, 11 am

Kunstmuseum Basel | Neubau, St. Alban-Graben 20, 4052 Basel

Opening Reception

Thursday, October 10, 2019, 18.30 Uhr

Kunstmuseum Basel | Neubau, St. Alban-Graben 20, 4052 Basel

Imagery and information on the exhibition

www.hmb.ch/service/presse und www.kunstmuseumbasel.ch/medien

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