



A Glance at Pants

16 October 2024 to 26 January 2025
Weltmuseum Wien

From 16 October, *A Glance at Pants* at the Weltmuseum Wien will put the spotlight on a garment that everyone knows intimately but which is usually overshadowed by other items of clothing. The small special presentation in the participatory area *zam* juxtaposes trousers from the collections of the museum with new creations: in collaboration with young creatives from three Viennese fashion schools, we explore and stage this fascinating piece of apparel.

Young co-curators

The exhibition is the result of a series of workshops with students from Vienna's famous fashion schools Herbststraße, Hetzendorf, and Michelbeuern. In the show, the students present their final-year projects. The topics range from historical textile processing and reinterpretations of various pants designs to a critical examination of production conditions in the fashion industry in countries of the Global South.

Ten of the participants in these workshops were actively involved in the process of creating the exhibition *A Glance at Pants*. The young co-curators are responsible for the installation of one of the show's three display cases: here, the focus is on a giant trouser object from Sierra Leone, which is surrounded by imagined people sporting pants from different periods and parts of the world. The students also designed the labelling concept for the object texts. A series of photos and text modules document the workshops.



Children's trousers from all over the world

Another display case in the presentation focuses on 'Children and Trousers'. We explore and fact check expectations inherent in male or female (children's) clothing traditions, and examine childhood memories of different generations and countries – what stories do children's trousers from Japan, Indonesia, or Guatemala tell? And to what extent are our memories shaped by picture books we knew as children?

Why pants of all things?

About 500 of the circa 15,000 objects in the Weltmuseum Wien's 'Textiles and Clothing' collection are pants. Some of them belong to costume ensembles, others are individual pieces lacking precise information on their cultural context or the circumstances of their acquisition. Only very few have been inventoried with detailed information. Reflecting recent research, the Weltmuseum Wien's upcoming special exhibition *Who's Wearing the Pants?* will explore 3,000 years of trousers history and their stories from around the world. The presentation *A Glimpse at Pants* was created as part of the preparations for the big show, which opens in February 2025.

An exhibition at the *zam* of the Weltmuseum Wien

A Glimpse at Pants opens on 16 October 2024 in the *zam* gallery of the Weltmuseum Wien. This participatory area of the museum, which is open to the public free of charge, is dedicated to developing, exploring, and presenting relevant contemporary issues in various formats in partnership with communities and visitors.

The show was curated by Barbara Pönighaus-Matuella, Julia Zeindl, and Bettina Zorn from the Weltmuseum Wien, together with Shelter Ahinful-Abass, Evelyn Blanda, Mirjam Buchas, Lieselotte Heimerl, Daniela Kokic, Estella Prinz, Rosa Rathmanner, Felix Rosenberger, Anika Tahödl, and Tobias Ungar, all of them students at the fashion schools Herbststraße, Hetzendorf and Michelbeuern.

Check our homepage for more details on our special presentation:

https://bit.ly/WMW_AGlimpseAtPants

Press photos

Go to the press section on our website to download free press releases and photos if you want to write about special exhibitions and projects at the Weltmuseum Wien:

<https://www.weltmuseumwien.at/en/press>

Leather pants

Dakota (USA)

late 19th century

suede, glass pearls

Weltmuseum Wien

© KHM-Museumsverband



Hakama pants

Part of a traditional *hitatare* costume

Japan

Mid-19th century

Silk damask and silk decorations

© KHM-Museumsverband



Páweri pants

Iran

c.1990

printed cotton and gold lurex

Weltmuseum Wien

© KHM-Museumsverband



Sokoto pants

Nigeria

c. 1970

cotton fabric with industrial eyelet embroidery

Weltmuseum Wien

© KHM-Museumsverband



View of the exhibition

A Glance at Pants

© KHM-Museumsverband



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Opening times, tickets, entrance fees

www.weltmuseumwien.at/en/information

Additional information regarding your visit

Guided tours, bookings, and reservations for events

+43 1 534 30 - 5150

kulturvermittlung@weltmuseumwien.at

Information, questions and suggestions

+43 1 534 30 - 5052

info@weltmuseumwien.at

Exhibition programme and events

All events are listed online in the [event calendar](#) of the Weltmuseum Wien.

Social Media

Follow the Weltmuseum Wien on Facebook and Instagram.

#WeltmuseumWien #AGlanceAtPants

Journalist accreditation

Journalists visiting the KHM-Museumsverband for professional purposes are entitled to free admission to its exhibitions and locations. You need to register at presse@weltmuseumwien.at at least two working days in advance.

Please identify your medium, specify the date of your visit and attach a scan of your valid press pass. Thank you!

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