



Preview 2025

EXHIBITIONS:

Who's Wearing the Pants?

25 March 2025 – 1 February 2026

Shannon Alonzo. Washerwoman

Theseus Temple, Volksgarten

16 May – 5 October 2025

Colonialism on the Window Sill

28 May 2025 – 25 May 2026

Tabita Rezaire.

Calabash Nebula: Cosmological Tales of Connection

17 September 2025 – 11 January 2026

The Colours of the Earth. Modern Textile Art in Mexico

22 October 2025 – 6 April 2026

Indah Arsyad. The Ultimate Breath

26 November 2025 – 25 May 2026



Who's Wearing the Pants?

25 March 2025 to 1 February 2026
Weltmuseum Wien

In its major special exhibition 2025, the Weltmuseum Wien takes a journey through 3,000 years of trouser history from all over the world and uses this symbolic item of clothing to pose the question: Who wears the trousers? Treasures and many a quirky find from the collections of the Weltmuseum Wien, the Kunsthistorisches Museum and the Theaternmuseum meet loans from Austrian museums and international collections.

A total of 120 exhibits, including around 60 pairs of trousers of different origins and materials, tell of perfected functionality as well as craftsmanship and design. They bear witness to people's living conditions - in luxury and poverty, in everyday working life and in festive attire.

The exhibition extends over five rooms, in which historical objects enter into a dialogue with contemporary art. It explores the construction and de-construction of trousers - on the one hand, in concrete terms, by means of cuts and wearing habits, and on the other, in a figurative sense, by means of the linguistic and symbolic meanings that have been attributed to this item of clothing at different times and in different cultures. The focus is on trouser roles and trouser words as well as trousers as a symbol of male entitlement to power and female emancipation.

<https://www.weltmuseumwien.at/en/exhibitions/whos-wearing-the-pants/>



Shannon Alonzo. Washerwoman

16 May to 5 October 2025
Theseus Temple, Volksgarten

'The piece has a life of its own. It ages over time.' This is how Trinidad-born interdisciplinary artist Shannon Alonzo (b.1988) describes her mixed-media sculpture *Washerwoman*. The artist explores themes such as collective belonging and a sense of place. The organic materials of this striking, slightly grotesque artwork – resin, beeswax, and brown cotton – are intended to age before the viewers' eyes in the Theseus Temple.

Washerwoman highlights the invisible labour of women, specifically the historically and contemporarily gendered activity of washing textiles. Above all, it pays homage to the work of Caribbean women and their contribution to our cultural heritage. To 'reactivate' this transatlantic legacy, Shannon Alonzo will present a performance at the exhibition's opening.



Colonialism on the Window Sill

28 May 2025 to 25 May 2026

Weltmuseum Wien

This exhibition shines a spotlight on ten plants that have been favourites of European living rooms and balconies for centuries, though their natural habitats are outside the continent. These plants share a history with our ethnographic collections; some of them joined the objects on long naval voyages to reach Europe and the museums.

Beyond the demand for medicinal plants and crops (nowadays 'cash crops' that are cultivated on a grand scale for export), the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries saw a new hunger, even a quest for foreign flora amid deliberations about the potential benefits of plant imports to Europe.

Among the plants presented in the exhibition is the Norfolk Pine (*Araucaria*), which had been discovered on Norfolk Island during James Cook's second voyage in 1774. The history of the African violet is intertwined with a German colonial expedition in 1886, an object from which is now in the Weltmuseum Wien collection. Geraniums (*Pelargonium*), a popular choice for our flower boxes, hail from South Africa, where they are used for medicinal purposes. This example illustrates the exploitation of the countries of origin, which do not profit from the commercialization of their domestic flora. International agreements such as the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) are meant to establish safeguards and rules for including nations of origin in Western profits and to broach the issue of biopiracy, also in light of climate change.

The exhibition takes place in the participative space *zam* and provides free and easy access, offering a playful approach to complex matters.



Tabita Rezaire.

Calabash Nebula: Cosmological Tales of Connection

17 September 2025 – 11 January 2026

Weltmuseum Wien

With *Tabita Rezaire. Calabash Nebula: Cosmological Tales of Connection*, Weltmuseum Wien presents the first solo exhibition of Tabita Rezaire (*1989) in Austria. In her work, the multidisciplinary artist, activist, and healer combines digital technologies with spiritual, non-Western, and indigenous knowledge systems. Through her artistic practice, she explores healing as a decolonial strategy and exposes how neo-colonial power structures continue to dominate our understanding of the cosmos. Rezaire uses video works, installations, and performances to establish connections between the past and present, science and mysticism, technology and nature and thus creates spaces for collective memory and transformation.

The exhibition is a manifestation of Rezaire's philosophy of life and brings together three installations from the year 2024; *OMI: Yemoja Temple* and *Omu Elu* are dedicated to Orisha Yemoja, the mother spirit of rivers and oceans worshipped by the Yoruba in West Africa and the diaspora. The installation *Des/astres* deals with the astronomical traditions of the Amazon region and the strategic position of French-Guyana as a central location of the European space programme.

The exhibition *Tabita Rezaire. Calabash Nebula* was curated and shown by TBA 21 at the Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza, Madrid. It will be re-adapted for the Weltmuseum Wien.



The Colours of the Earth.
Modern Textile Art in Mexico

22 October 2025 – 6 April 2026
Weltmuseum Wien

For fifteen years, dyeing workshops were organized with weavers from thirty Indigenous communities in Oaxaca and Chiapas, Mexico. During this period, traditional dyeing techniques were revitalized, and new methods were introduced.

The knowledge of natural dyes transcended community boundaries, creating a space where art serves as a vehicle for cultural identity and collective expression. The vibrant colours of the woven textiles in this exhibition reflect years of research, collaboration, exchange, and experimentation.

The project stands as a visual and sensory tribute to the rich textile heritage of Indigenous communities, while the raw materials themselves testify to the natural abundance and diversity of the region. It highlights the interplay between traditional and contemporary dyeing practices, ecological awareness, and artistic collaboration.

Additionally, the exhibition touches on the influence of current fashion trends and the impact of social media on trade within these communities.



Indah Arsyad.
The Ultimate Breath

26 November 2025 to 25 May 2026
Weltmuseum Wien

The Ultimate Breath, a solo exhibition by Indah Arsyad, emerges from a profound concern for environmental degradation – climate change and pollution that threaten the essence of life itself. In her works, Indah breathes new life into the symbols of ancient

Javanese mythology and culture – wayang, gamelan, and traditional songs – blending them with scientific data derived from cutting-edge technology. The result is an orchestration of light, sound, and kinetic compositions that amplify the wisdom of local traditions as a driving force for harmony and environmental sustainability.

This project also serves as a poignant reminder that maintaining balance between humanity and nature is essential for collective survival, weaving tradition and innovation into a sustainable equilibrium. Though rooted in the environmental realities of Indonesia, the issues Indah explores transcend geographical boundaries, delivering a universal message profoundly relevant to the world today.

Press photos

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

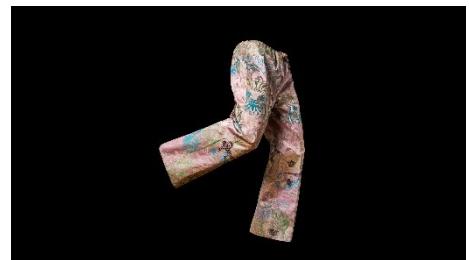
Trousers sokoto

Nigeria

c.1970

Viscose, synthetic fibres, and cotton

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Weltmuseum Wien

Außenansicht

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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

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Information, questions, and suggestions

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Exhibition programme and events

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

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