



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

Indah Arsyad. The Ultimate Breath

22 October 2025 – 25 May 2026

SPOTLIGHTS:

***Lunar New Year, Black History Month, Pride Month,
Día de Muertos, and more***



Who's Wearing the Pants?

25 March 2025 to 1 February 2026

Weltmuseum Wien

In its new special exhibition, opening on 25 March 2025, Weltmuseum Wien will sally through three millennia of global legwear history. Treasures and quite a few oddities from all collections of Weltmuseum Wien, Theatermuseum, and Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna will be brought together with loans from other Austrian museums and international collections. The exhibits tell a tale of perfected functionality as well as craftsmanship and design. They bear witness to the conditions of human existence – in luxury or poverty, during daily routines, and in finery.

The narrative spans from the Bronze Age and the oldest kinds of trousers to the mythical Amazons and it takes us from ancient Greece to the rebel women of recent history. The exhibition further tells the story of the development of trousers in European men's fashion, in which sporting competition, the need for representation, and advances in war technology were the driving forces. The Habsburg trouser collections will also be on view: next to well-known military uniform trousers for daily use and Loden breeches for hunting, Emperor Franz Joseph's wardrobe also boasts surprising riding legwear made of goat fur – a present from his brother in Mexico.

Last but not least, undergarments are granted their place in the sun: from the oldest extant 'braies' from the fifteenth century via Japanese wound cloth models (and the art of putting them on) to contemporary models, there is lots to explore. We conclude our journey by casting a look at current challenges in legwear production.

Weltmuseum Wien visitors can expect to see historical objects in dialogue with key positions of contemporary art in the exhibition *Who's Wearing the Pants?* Several interactive stations invite visitors to design their own 'pants of the future' and offer the opportunity to engage with legwear and its history in a very personal way. In addition to regular themed tours and workshops for all age groups, events are organized around the topic of legwear, such as a 'fun lecture' by art historian Abigail Susik, a comedy performance by comedian David Stockenreitner and an event in cooperation with Vienna Fashion Week.



Find advance information about the exhibition here:

<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.



Spotlights

2025

Weltmuseum Wien

In addition to educational formats and supporting programmes for the special exhibitions and the permanent collection at the Weltmuseum Wien, visitors can expect regular themed spotlights in 2025.

Starting with a **spring festival** with a focus on Filipino culture and a programme for the **Lunar New Year** at the beginning of February, the Weltmuseum Wien will dedicate the same month to **Black History** with workshops for children and adults, themed tours on colonialism and the diversity of the African continent, as well as a performance by African choreographer Nicholas Denzel Sambou. March offers include a programme for **International Women's Day** around the question 'Who are the female collectors of the Weltmuseum Wien?', but also for **Nouruz**, the New Year and spring festival originating from the Persian cultural sphere. In the **Pride month** of June, visitors can look forward to museum tours of the major special exhibition *Who's Wearing the Pants?* with a focus on legwear in connection with queerness, as well as of the permanent collection with the theme of *Desire, Lust, and Fertility*.

October 2025 offers an extensive programme full of workshops and guided tours around the Mexican Day of the Dead, the **Día de Muertos**. The highlight of this celebration will be the big Day of the Dead festival at the Weltmuseum Wien for young and old.

Information and details about the programme will be kept up to date on our website:

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

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>

Trousers sokoto

Nigeria

c.1970

Viscose, synthetic fibres, and cotton

© KHM-Museumsverband, Weltmuseum Wien



Día de Muertos

Weltmuseum Wien

2023 © Eva Puella



**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

+43 1 534 30 - 5052

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Exhibition programme and events

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

Social Media

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Journalist accreditation

Journalists visiting the KHM-Museumsverband for professional purposes are entitled to free admission to its exhibitions and locations. Please 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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