

International Conference 12 – 15 April 2023  
Museum Rietberg / University of Zurich

museum rietberg



Universität  
Zürich <sup>UN</sup>



Schweizerischer  
Nationalfonds

REWORKING THE ARCHIVE

*Reworking the Archives. Hans Himmelheber and African Art/ists*

# *International Conference: Reworking the Archives. Hans Himmelheber and African Art/ists*

12 – 15 April 2023

Museum Rietberg / University of Zurich

The research project undertaken jointly by the Museum Rietberg and the University of Zurich with funding from the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) is drawing to a close after four and a half years. To mark its conclusion, an international conference is to be held with a focus on objects, images, and papers from the archive of the art anthropologist Hans Himmelheber. Academics and artists from Europe, Africa, and the United States will consider current topics ranging from the significance of African art within global art history, the restitution of cultural heritage to the (im)possibility of decolonization.

# *Wednesday 12.4.2023*

## *Provenance Day & Conference*

15:30 – 16:30

### **Visite guidée de l'exposition "Itinéraires de l'art. Comment les objets arrivent au musée"**

avec Esther Tisa

Museum Rietberg

Rendez-vous dans l'exposition (Villa Wesendonck)

en français

16:30 – 17:30

### **Guided tour in the exhibition "Look Closer. African Art in the Himmelheber Archive"**

Museum Rietberg

Meeting point: in the exhibition (Smaragd)

in English

# *Wednesday 12.4.2023*

## *Provenance Day & Conference*

18 – 19:15

Museum Rietberg, Auditorium (Park-Villa Rieter)

### **Welcome**

Annette Bhagwati, Esther Tisa Francini, Gesine Krüger

### **Contemporary Kasala and Lukasa: Towards a Reconfiguration of Identity and Geopolitics**

Keynote lecture by Sammy Baloji

Introduction: Michaela Oberhofer

In his keynote address at the opening of the three-day international conference “Reworking the Archives. Hans Himmelheber and African Art/ists” internationally renowned artist Sammy Baloji will provide insight into his art-making and his engagement with colonial collections and archives. For his cycle *Kasala*, Baloji was inspired by Himmelheber's journey to the Belgian colony of Congo in 1938/39 and asked himself the questions: What happens to objects from Africa that have been robbed of their cultural context and ended up in museums in the Global North? How can the objects regain their voice? What alternative forms of memory exist?

# *Thursday 13.4.2023*

9 – 10:30

Museum Rietberg, Auditorium (Park-Villa Rieter)

## **Panel 1: Introducing the SNF-Project “Hans Himmelheber – African Art and Entangled Knowledge Production”**

Gesine Krüger and Michaela Oberhofer:

How to Rework an Archive: Research – African Art/ists – Curating

Anja Soldat:

Power, Wealth and Beauty – On the Traces of a Baoulé Himmelheber Crate

Esther Tisa:

The Ethnographer as Art Trader and Collector

Sina Jenny:

Alaska (Photography) in the Archive

Daniela Müller:

Women Researchers and Women's Art in the Himmelheber Archive

11 – 12:30

Museum Rietberg, Auditorium (Park-Villa Rieter)

## **Panel 2: Museum, Collections, Art History and Archives**

Chair: Gesine Krüger

Peter Probst:

Under Suspicion: The Case of Hans Himmelheber

Ciraj Rassool:

Rethinking the Museum and Reimagining Museumness

# *Thursday 13.4.2023*

12:30 – 14:00

## **Lunch Break**

Visit the exhibition “Look Closer. African Art in the Himmelheber Archive”

14 – 16:00

Museum Rietberg, Auditorium (Park-Villa Rieter)

## **Panel 3: In the Spirit of the Experiment: New Approaches in African Art History**

Chair: Michaela Oberhofer

Eberhard Fischer:

African Artists: 1935 and Thereafter

Zoë Strother:

The Himmelheber Archive and the Museum Rietberg: Second Lives

Till Förster:

The Rise and Fall of Senufo Art – A Decolonial Perspective

Tobias Wendl:

Hans Himmelheber and the Appearance of New Styles in West African Sculpture in mid-20th Century

# *Thursday 13.4.2023*

16:30 – 18:00

Museum Rietberg, Auditorium (Park-Villa Rieter)

## **Panel 4: Les routes de la restitution et de la coopération**

Chair: Yacouba Konaté

Film “Lumène” de David Shongo

Conversation avec David Shongo et Anja Soldat:

Suivre des traces, laisser des traces – Réflexions sur les recherches en Côte d'Ivoire

18:00

Museum Rietberg

## **Dialogue des cultures et générations**

## **Dialogue of Cultures and Generations**

Performance by Désiré Amani

18:30

Museum Rietberg, Café (Villa Wesendonck)

## **Apéro Riche**

# *Friday 14.4.2023*

9 – 10:30

University of Zurich, K02-F-152

## **Panel 5: Le marché et les musées – stratégies de valorisations des collections**

Chair: Esther Tisa

Yaëlle Biro:

Ethnographie, avant-gardes, et la formation du marché des arts de l'Afrique, 1905-1914

Francis Tagro:

De la collecte coloniale à la diplomatie muséale: Le Musée des civilisations de Côte d'Ivoire

Christopher Steiner

African Art in Transit 30 Years Later: Reflections on the Art Market in Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia

El Hadji Malik Ndiaye:

Le musée Théodore Monod entre création contemporaine et patrimoine historique



# *Friday 14.4.2023*

11 – 12:30

University of Zurich, K02-F-152

## **Panel 6: Object Knowledge – Knowing the Object**

Chair: Clara Himmelheber

Floriane Morin:

Histoires d'un adulte

Fiona Siegenthaler:

„Der Wunsch nach einem Maskenkostüm der Guro ist offenbar nicht leicht zu erfüllen“: Collecting as an Assemblage

Alexander Brust:

A Yupik Story-Knife in the Himmelheber Collection from Alaska in Basel

Stefan Eisenhofer & Karen Guggeis:

The Second Life of a Spirit Spouse

Alexis Malefakis:

Forgeries and Deviations – Two Interpretations

12:30 – 14:00

## **Lunch Break**

# *Friday 14.4.2023*

14 – 16:00

University of Zurich, K02-F-152

## **Panel 7: Artist Research – the Art of Research**

Chair: Bärbel Küster

Andrea Stultiens: Reframing PJU or the Art of Intervention (as Research)

Sinzo Aanza: Itinéraire des échos

Désiré Amani: Conservation et conversation

Angelika Boeck: The Portrait as a Multi-Sensory Cultural Practice

16:30 – 18:00

University of Zurich, K02-F-152

## **Panel 8: Colonial Heritage of the Archive / “the Archive”**

Chair: Gesine Krüger

Paul Basu:

Archival Affordances: Epistemic Objects, Coloniality and Decoloniality

Vitjitua Ndjiharine:

Artistic Interventions in the Colonial Archive

Dag Henrichsen:

Seeing Whilst Listening. Acoustic Archival Positions

*Friday 14.4.2023*

18 – 19:30

University of Zurich, KOL-G-217

**Whose Memories? Artistic Approaches to Archives**

Introduction by Ann Mbuti

**Recontrer les archives: entre immatérialité et narrativité**

Keynote lecture by Michèle Magma

## *Saturday 15.4.2023*

10:15 – 12:00

Museum Rietberg, exhibition “Look Closer” (Smaragd)

**Table Ronde: Trésor caché – Héritage retrouvé:  
Chances et défi des archives (post)coloniales  
pour les musées, les universités et l'art  
contemporain en Afrique francophone**

Chair: Mahamat Abba Ousman

avec Mamadou Kamara, Yacouba Konaté, Adack Kouassi,  
Michaela Oberhofer, Francis Tagro

# Participants

Dr. Désiré Amani  
Performance Artist and Head of Visual Arts  
University UFHB, Abidjan

Sammy Baloji  
Artist and PhD Artistic Research at Sint  
Lucas, Antwerpen

Prof. Dr. Paul Basu  
Professor Global Heritage and Chair Present  
Past at the University of Bonn

Dr. Annette Bhagwati  
Director Museum Rietberg, Zurich

Dr. Yaëlle Biro  
Art Historian and Curator

Dr. Angelika Boeck  
Artist and Artist Research

Alexander Brust  
Curator Museum der Kulturen, Basel

Dr. Stefan Eisenhofer  
Head Africa and North America Museum  
Fünf Kontinente, München

Dr. Eberhard Fischer  
Former Director Museum Rietberg, Zurich

Prof. Dr. em. Till Förster  
Professor Universität Basel

Dr. Karen Guggeis  
Head of Provenance Research Museum Fünf  
Kontinente, München

Dr. Dag Henriksen  
Head of Academic Relations and Special  
Projects, Basler Afrika Bibliografien

Dr. Clara Himmelheber  
Curator Rautenstrauch-Joest-Museum Köln

Lorenz Homberger  
Former Curator Museum Rietberg, Zurich

Sina Jenny  
Curator and Researcher Vögele  
Kulturzentrum, Zurich

Dr. Mamadou Kamara  
Secretary-General Chambre des Rois and  
President Fondation Koblé in Man

Prof. Dr. Yacouba Konaté  
Director Rotonde des Arts and Professor  
University UFHB, Abidjan

Prof. Dr. Adack Gilbert Kouassi  
Associate Dean and Head of the  
Department University UFHB, Abidjan

Prof. Dr. Bärbel Küster  
Professor University of Zurich

Prof. Dr. Gesine Krüger  
Professor University of Zurich and Head of  
SNF Project Himmelheber, Zurich

Ann Mbuti  
Author and Art Critic

Michèle Magema  
Artist and Visiting Professor University  
UQAM, Montréal

Prof. Dr. Mahamat Abba Ousman  
Expert on Cultural Heritage and Museums  
ICESCO, Rabat

Dr. Alexis Malefakis  
Curator Ethnographic Museum University  
of Zurich

Floriane Morin  
Curator Musée d'ethnographie de Genève

François Mottas  
Professor and Collector

Dr. El Hadji Malick Ndiaye  
Curator Musée Théodore Monod d'art  
africain, Dakar

Dr. Michaela Oberhofer  
Curator Museum Rietberg and Head of SNF  
Project Himmelheber, Zurich

Tia Pascal Oulai  
Chief, Journalist and Manager Fondation  
Koblé des Mandé Sud in Man

Prof. Dr. Peter Probst  
Professor Tufts University, Boston

Prof. Dr. Ciraj Rassool  
Professor, University of the Western Cape,  
Cape Town

David Shongo  
Composer and Visual Artist, Artist Research  
SNF Project Himmelheber

Dr. Fiona Siegenthaler  
Curator Linden-Museum, Stuttgart

Anja Soldat  
Curator Kulturmuseum, St. Gallen, and  
Researcher SNF-Project Himmelheber,  
Zurich

Prof. Dr. Christopher Steiner  
Professor Connecticut College, Connecticut

Prof. Dr. Zoë Strother  
Professor Columbia University, New York

Dr. Andrea Stultiens  
Artist, Photographer and Lecturer at KABK  
Photography, The Hague

Dr. Gnoleba Francis Tagro  
Director Musée des Civilisations de Côte  
d'Ivoire, Abidjan

Esther Tisa Francini  
Head of Archives and Provenance Research,  
Researcher SNF-Projet Himmelheber,  
Museum Rietberg, Zurich

Prof. Dr. Tobias Wendl  
Professor Freie Universität Berlin

# *Team SNF Project Himmelheber*

## **Project Lead**

Prof. Dr. Gesine Krüger  
Dr. Michaela Oberhofer

## **Researchers**

Dr. Nanina Guyer  
Sina Jenny  
Daniela Müller  
Lisa Roulet  
Anja Soldat  
Esther Tisa Francini

## **Coordinators**

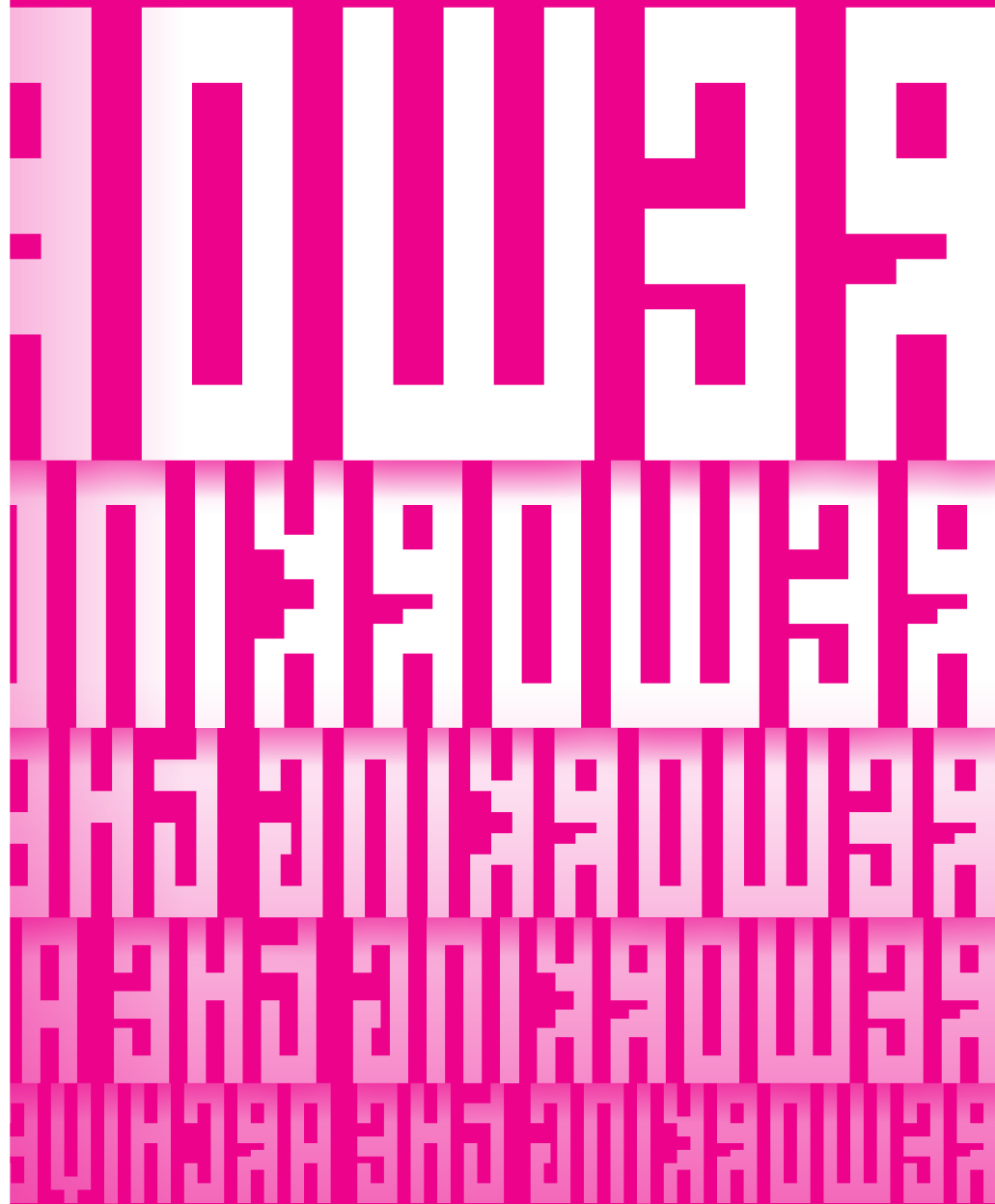
Jonas Lendenmann  
Niklaus Schneider  
Nadja Schorno  
Dr. Frank Schubert

## **Contact**

Dr. Michaela Oberhofer  
[michaela.oberhofer@zuerich.ch](mailto:michaela.oberhofer@zuerich.ch)

Jonas Lendenmann  
[jonas.lendenmann@zuerich.ch](mailto:jonas.lendenmann@zuerich.ch)

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