

Puppets 4.0

Museum without Walls

The German Forum for Puppetry Arts (dfp) brings the diverse world of puppet theatre to life in an interactive exhibition:

Equipped with virtual reality headsets, visitors of "Puppets 4.0 – Museum without walls" immerse themselves in five digital rooms and learn about Fritz Wortelmann's puppet collection.

The former founder of the German Institute for Puppetry is part of the virtual exhibition himself: as an animated figure, he provides useful information and introduces visitors to the virtual environment. Visitors learn interesting facts about the history, development and forms of puppetry and experience fascinating exhibits from different countries in action.

"With Puppets 4.0, we are opening up our collection in the most modern and extraordinary way. The fascination of German, European and Asian puppetry becomes an immersive experience that opens new worlds," says director Annette Dabs.

What to discover?

A virtual curtain falls: Welcome to the forest! You meet puppets from Fritz Wortelmann's lifetime here. Starting with his own hand puppet theatre, followed by the propaganda puppet theatre of the Nazi era and ending with the artistically designed hand puppets of Lore Lafin, which are experimental and far ahead of their time.

Next, the path leads from nature to the city: In the second room, visitors find themselves amidst a medieval market. Here they learn about the different ways in which the comic figure is played all over Europe. Kasper and his international relatives from Italy, England and Turkey invite visitors to linger and enjoy the atmosphere.

Under a starry night sky in the third room, visitors stroll through an Indonesian bazaar in front of a temple. Here they learn all about wayang, the traditional shadow, puppet and mask play of Indonesia.

The fourth room continues with a visit to a temple. The sacred atmosphere underlines the importance of religious contexts for numerous puppetry traditions of Japan, China and Myanmar. At the same time, a spiritual dimension is opened which contrasts with the previous rooms and exhibits.

The last room is in the research center of the German Forum for Puppetry Arts in Bochum, to familiarize visitors with our institution and gradually return to the real world. But before they do, they can meet here the spectacular shadow figures of the Australian artist Richard Bradshaw, or the knights of the Sicilian Opera dei Pupi.

Press Reviews:

„This imaginary museum seduces. We are pulled along on a playful-atmospheric world trip through puppet theatre.“ – Double. Magazin für Puppen-, Figuren- und Objekttheater

Development and further information:

For Puppets 4.0, the German Forum for Puppetry Arts is collaborating with DIGIFACTURA - a start-up that specializes in the 3D digitization of art and cultural assets and has designed the virtual reality world exclusively for the exhibition.

Information on the terms of use and frequent questions and answers can be found at www.fidena.de. For further questions: doku@fidena.de

Funding:

The project is supported by the Bundesbeauftragte für Kultur und Medien and the City of Bochum.

The English version was made possible thanks to the support of Kultur.Gemeinschaften a collaborative funding strategy by Bundesbeauftragte für Kultur und Medien, Neustart Kultur and Kulturstiftung der Länder.

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