

# WELTKULTUREN MUSEUM

**Press kit of the press conference**

**Repatriation -  
Weltkulturen Museum Frankfurt am Main returns Lakota  
leather shirt to Chief Duane Hollow Horn Bear in  
Rosebud, South Dakota, USA**

**Thursday, 8th July, 11 am  
Weltkulturen Museum, Schaumainkai 37, 60594 Frankfurt**

## **CONTENT**

Press invitation

Press release

Overview press photos

Terms of use for press photos and film material

Mission statement

Exhibition preview

# WELTKULTUREN MUSEUM

## PRESS INVITATION

**PRESS CONFERENCE: Thursday, 8th July, 11 am**  
**Weltkulturen Museum, Schaumainkai 37, 60594 Frankfurt**

**Repatriation - Weltkulturen Museum Frankfurt am Main returns Lakota leather shirt to Chief Duane Hollow Horn Bear in Rosebud, South Dakota, USA**

The focus of the debate about the decolonization of museums is the demand for repatriation of collection objects.

The Department of Culture and Science of the City of Frankfurt am Main and the Weltkulturen Museum of the City of Frankfurt are taking on this challenge and are now responding to the request for repatriation in a very special case: On June 12, 2021, the historic leather shirt of the well-known leader of the Teton Lakota, Chief Daniel Hollow Horn Bear († 1913 in Washington, DC) to the great-grandson and successor to Chief Duane Hollow Horn Bear in Rosebud, South Dakota, USA.

Deputy Mayor in charge of Culture and Science for the City of Frankfurt/Main Dr. Ina Hartwig, Director of the Weltkulturen Museum Dr. Eva Ch. Raabe, Consul General of the U.S. Consulate Frankfurt am Main Patricia Lacina and Dr. Mona Suhrbier, curator of the Americas Collection of the Weltkulturen Museum, report on this extraordinary and transnational collaboration.

We would like to invite you to this press conference.

Participation is only possible with registration. Interested press representatives can apply for accreditation at [weltkulturen.presse@stadt-frankfurt.de](mailto:weltkulturen.presse@stadt-frankfurt.de).

The press conference will be broadcast live on Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/weltkulturen.museum/>

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# WELTKULTUREN MUSEUM

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Repatriation - The Weltkulturen Museum, Frankfurt am Main returns Lakota leather shirt to Chief Duane Hollow Horn Bear for moral and ethical reasons**

The demands for restitution of collection objects continue to be at the center of recent debates surrounding the decolonization of museums. The Weltkulturen Museum is facing this challenge and is now responding to the request for repatriation in a very special case: On June 12, 2021 the historic leather shirt of the renowned leader of the Teton Lakota, Chief Daniel Hollow Horn Bear (†1913 in Washington, D.C.) was handed over to the great-grandson and successor Chief Duane Hollow Horn Bear in Rosebud, South Dakota, USA.

The Weltkulturen Museum acquired the shirt in 1908 in an exchange with the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) in New York. The AMNH had received it in 1906 as part of a large collection from New York millionaire, socialist and philanthropist James Graham Phelps Stokes (1872-1960). The circumstances under which the shirt previously came into the possession of J.G. Phelps could not be reconstructed. The shirt was then in the possession of the Weltkulturen Museum for 113 years and was on show in the context of a permanent loan to the German Leather Museum in Offenbach for the duration of 30 years.

During a visit to the Weltkulturen Museum in 2019, Chief Duane Hollow Horn Bear viewed the shirt and issued a request for its return. He presented a historic portrait photograph by photographer John Alvin Anderson from 1900 showing Chief Daniel Hollow Horn Bear (Mato He Oklogeca) wearing the shirt in question. As an experienced leader and politician, he was repeatedly negotiating with the U.S. government in Washington, D.C. for improvements for Indigenous communities on reservations at the time. He and his entire Indigenous community suffered the oppressive colonial-era conditions that prevailed at the time.

In addition, the Chief's shirt is a culturally specific, identity-forming object of religious significance to the Teton Lakota Indigenous community. It bears special patterns of brightly colored glass beads and human hair, which are undoubtedly attributable to the Hollow Horn Bear family and prove personal possession prior to 1906.

Although an illegitimacy of the object's acquisition could not be ascertained, the Weltkulturen Museum and the Deputy Mayor in charge of Culture and Science for the City of Frankfurt/Main decided to repatriate the shirt for moral and ethical reasons. For Chief Duane Hollow Horn Bear and his family, the return of the shirt is like the return of the great-grandfather himself.

**Through the generous support** of the Weltkulturen Museum Friends, the funding for the transportation was made possible. In the process of repatriation, the Museum was supported by the U.S. Consulate General in Frankfurt, the National NAGPRA Program (Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act) of the U.S. Department of the Interior and the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.

**QUOTES:**

"Provenance research is one of the great challenges facing museums in the 21st century. The Frankfurt museum landscape has been taking this challenge very seriously for years and is subjecting its collections to a systematic revision. Even if it represents a loss for the collection and the object was legally acquired by the Weltkulturen Museum: I see the return of the leather shirt to Chief Duane Hollow Horn Bear as an obligation that outweighs the formal legal situation." (Dr. Ina Hartwig, Deputy Mayor in charge of Culture and Science for the City of Frankfurt/Main)

"In the debate about restitution and repatriation of ethnological collections, the term cultural property from a colonial context keeps coming up. But colonial entanglements and cultural backgrounds are very different from case to case. It is important that every decision is preceded by an honest, equitable exchange between all those involved." (Dr. Eva Ch. Raabe, Director, Weltkulturen Museum)

"This return is an opportunity for a new beginning in the relationship between the Museum and the community of its origin. Because in the current debate on who speaks for whom, a change of perspective is urgently needed!" (Dr. Mona Suhrbier, Curator, Americas, Weltkulturen Museum)

The Weltkulturen Museum is one of the signatories of **The Heidelberg Statement** "Decolonising requires dialogue, expertise and support" of May 6, 2019. Statement approved on the occasion of the 2019 Annual Conference of the Directors of Ethnographic Museums in German Speaking Countries, in Heidelberg:  
[www.weltkulturenmuseum.de/en/museum/news/?news=the-heidelberg-statement-3](http://www.weltkulturenmuseum.de/en/museum/news/?news=the-heidelberg-statement-3)

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# WELTKULTUREN MUSEUM

## PRESS PHOTOS

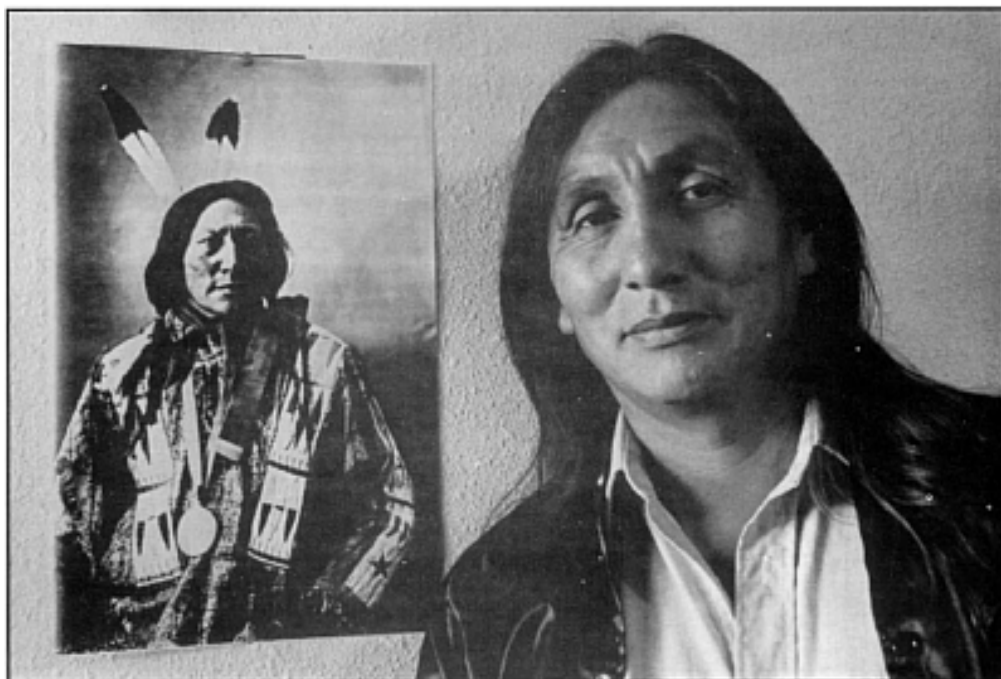
Repatriation - Weltkulturen Museum Frankfurt am Main returns Lakota leather shirt to Chief Duane Hollow Horn Bear in Rosebud, South Dakota, USA



Leather shirt, Weltkulturen Museum's collection, N.S. 8683. Photo: Wolfgang Günzel



Daniel Hollow Horn Bear 1900 in the shirt of the Weltkulturen Museum's collection. Photo: John Alvin Anderson. Source: <https://www.firstpeople.us/>



Duane Hollow Horn Bear at a younger age in front of a photo of his great-grandfather Daniel. Photographer unknown



Visiting the Weltkulturen Museum's collection on 06.06.2019: Duane Hollow Horn Bear with his wife Elsie. Photo: Mona Suhrbier



Daniel Hollow Horn Bear in Washington D.C. 1913  
Photos: Harris & Ewing. Source:  
<https://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/hec/item/2016865264/>



# WELTKULTUREN MUSEUM

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### **Press conference**

### **Repatriation -**

### **Weltkulturen Museum Frankfurt am Main returns Lakota leather shirt to Chief Duane Hollow Horn Bear in Rosebud, South Dakota, USA**

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# WELTKULTUREN MUSEUM

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Weltkulturen Museum is an ethnological museum which is committed to interdisciplinary cooperation. It operates at the intersection of ethnology and art.

As a museum of the city of Frankfurt, it connects the local and global levels. It is engaged in an active process of international exchange with partners from indigenous cultures and non-European societies.

As a forum for transcultural exchange we promote the diverse spectrum of worldviews, historiographies, religions and aesthetics, as well as an acceptance and appreciation of the same.

We are committed to preserving, looking after and researching the collections in dialogue with their societies of origin, and with artists and scholars.

A key goal is researching provenance and critically reappraising colonial contexts.

The Weltkulturen Museum stands against any kind of exclusion or stigmatisation and seeks to contribute to processes of decolonisation.

We work together as a team to bring our projects to fruition and value the wishes and needs of our visitors.

# WELTKULTUREN MUSEUM

## **EXHIBITION PREVIEW 2021-2022**

### **GREEN SKY, BLUE GRASS. Colour Coding Worlds Extended until 29th August 2022**

Our world(s) are full of colours, but not every culture sees things in the same way. While the biological capacity for perception is identical all over the world, the meanings and associations thereby evoked can sometimes differ greatly. Featuring exhibits in the museum's collection from locations such as New Guinea, the Amazon, Tibet and Java, this exhibition explores the material nature of colours and examines research from the perspectives of language and symbolism.

Weltkulturen Museum, Schaumainkai 29, 60594 Frankfurt am Main  
Admission: € 7 / concessions € 3.50  
Free admission for children and teenagers under the age of 18!  
Opening times: Tue-Sun 11am - 6pm, Wed 11am - 8pm

### **HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT**

#### **From Being Rendered Invisible and Becoming Visible Extended until 5th September 2021**

Museums store, manage and transmit knowledge. But what knowledge is stored and communicated - and by whom? What is excluded or overridden?

"Hidden in Plain Sight" examines how through multiple perspectives and approaches a space in the museum can be created, that allows for critically dealing with colonialism and its aftermaths up to the present day. The exhibition shows how a decolonial education practice can open up new points of view within the museum.

Weltkulturen Labor, Schaumainkai 37, 60594 Frankfurt am Main  
Admission: € 3 / concessions € 1.50  
Free admission for children and teenagers under the age of 18!  
Opening times: Tue-Sun 11am - 6pm, Wed 11am - 8pm

**INVISIBLE INVENTORIES. Questioning Kenyan Collections in Western Museums**

6th October 2021 to 9th January 2022

How can we make Kenyan cultural assets that are possessed by institutions in the Global North accessible to present-day Kenyan society? This question is addressed by the International Inventories Programme, which brings together Kenyan and European artists and scholars.

The core aim of the project is to develop a database of all Kenyan objects in European and North American museums. A visualisation of this database will now be presented along with further scholarly and artistic contributions to the project in the exhibition "Invisible Inventories", held at the three participating museums.

Nairobi National Museum: From March 17, 2021

[www.museums.or.ke](http://www.museums.or.ke); Rautenstrauch-Joest-Museum Köln: From May 27, 2021 [www.rautenstrauch-joest-museum.de](http://www.rautenstrauch-joest-museum.de)

Weltkulturen Labor, Schaumainkai 37, 60594 Frankfurt am Main

Admission: € 3 / concessions € 1.50

Free admission for children and teenagers under the age of 18!

Opening times: Tue-Sun 11am - 6pm, Wed 11am - 8pm