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Press kit for the exhibition

‘The Seruya Archive. Studies of the Wafuranki’

13 November 2026 – 14 February 2027

CONTENTS

Press release: ‘The Seruya Archive’

Short biography of Jordan Rita Seruya Awori

Accompanying programme for ‘The Seruya Archive’

Further events in November

Outlook and preview

Terms of use for press photographs and film footage

Flyer: ‘The Seruya Archive’

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PRESS RELEASE



The Seruya Archive Photo: Jordan Rita Seruya Awori

‘The Seruya Archive. Studies of the Wafuranki’
Press preview: Thursday, 12 November 2026, 10 am
Opening: Thursday, 12 November 2026, 7 pm

13 November 2026 to 14 February 2027

With the artistic research project ‘The Seruya Archive. Studies of the Wafuranki’ by Jordan Rita Seruya Awori, the Weltkulturen Museum invites visitors to explore an unusual archive from 13 November 2026 to 14 February 2027.
The Seruya Archive brings together materials collected by the ethnographer Seruya as part of her long-term study of the Wafuranki people. The archive comprises field notes, artefacts, photographs, audio recordings and institutional documents, and is presented as an active research site rather than a finished exhibition.

Seruya, the founder and Director-General, lead ethnographer and lead Wafuranki researcher at the Seruya Institute of Wafuranki Studies, describes her research:

“Karibu, I have been living amongst the Wafuranki for some time now. They are a curious people. At first, I thought that much of what I observed were isolated, unrelated customs. But the longer I stayed, the more clearly certain patterns began to repeat themselves. The way they eat, the

way they dress, the way they mark their territory, the way they gather, the way they interact with one another, and the various ways in which they organise their daily lives. Throughout this time, I have kept a running record. Most of what I have compiled is contained here. I thought it might be helpful if someone else were to take a look at it."

Visitors are invited to explore the collection, make their own connections and discover a world in which the boundaries between documentation, interpretation and imagination are deliberately left open.

Jordan Rita Seruya Awori, the Kenyan interdisciplinary artist based in Frankfurt am Main, works with collage, installation, video, sound and performance. In her artistic practice, she explores belonging, memory and the systems through which people, places and history are understood, organised and represented.

In collaboration with the Seruya Institute of Wafuranki Studies (SIWS)

Weltkulturen Labor, Schaumainkai 37, 60594 Frankfurt am Main
Free admission
Opening hours: Wednesday 11 am – 8 pm, Tuesday, Thursday–Sunday 11 am–6 pm.
Further information at www.jordanawori.com

Artefacts and glossary:
www.seruyainstitute.com

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SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF JORDAN RITA SERUYA AWORI

Jordan Rita Seruya Awori (JRSA), born in Nairobi, Kenya, and based in Frankfurt, Germany since 2020, creates interdisplinary works exploring memory, identity, and space. Her practice spans collage, installation, video, sound, and performance, often involving intuitive collaborations with materials like water, thread, hair and soil.

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2026
Solo:
To You Who Shall Remain Unborn - Synnika, Frankfurt (04.09 - 30.10.2026)

Group:
First Cut – Eisfabrik Offenbach, veranstaltet vom Club Collega (22.–25. Oktober 2026).
Care Machines • Vulnerable Systems - Atlierfrankfurt Frankfurt by Frauenreferat Frankfurt (04.09-30.10.26)
Always and Forever - Strategies and Perspectives on Care by Gedok Frankfurt Rhein Main e.V. - Frankfurt, Alte Schmelze (12-28.06.2026)
Postcards From The Edge 2026 (Visual AIDS) – New York, Berry Campbell Gallery

2025
Solo:
Ethionya - Frankfurt, Moya Frankfurt (24.09 - 24.10.2025) Wafuranki: The Findings of Seruya (Part 1) - Frankfurt, Basis e.V. Projektraum (03 - 06.07.2025)

Group:
Hope is The Thing With Feathers - Frankfurt, Sakhile&me (20.11 - 24.12.2025)
Fixing Futures - Frankfurt, Museum Giersch der Goethe Universität (05.05 - 31.08.2025)
Southern Lights Festival - Frankfurt, Deutsches Filminstitut & Filmmuseum (01 - 31.03.2025)
Postcards From The Edge 2025 (Visual AIDS) – New York, Berry Campbell Gallery

2024:
Solo:
Chini ya Maji solo exhibition - Frankfurt, Basis Projektraum (02 - 08.08.2024)

Group:
Code virtual exhibition - The Holy Art Gallery (23.10 - 23.11.2024)
Crémant. Cava. Booty Bounce (ccbb) community hangout - Frankfurt Basis (21.09.2024) - watu collective
Basis Frankfurt Sommerschau art market (07.09 - 10.11.2024)
Goddess II' virtual group exhibition (23.02.24 – 31.03.24)
Postcards From The Edge 2023 (Visual AIDS) – Newyork, Berry Campbell Gallery

2023:
Solo:
The Women of Firsts – Frankfurt, Roseli Cafe And Bar Remembering and shaping democracy (Frankfurt Post Colonial) – Frankfurt, Medico international e.V.

Group:
Berlin Art Institute Artspring open house exhibition – Berlin, Berlin Art Institute (03 - 04.06)
Postcards From The Edge 2023 (Visual AIDS) – New York, Berry Campbell Gallery
Action against Hate: Diversity & Religion – London, University Of Westminster

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ACCOMPANYING PROGRAMME FOR THE EXHIBITION
'The Seruya Archive. Studies of the Wafuranki'

Wednesday, 18 November 2026, 7 pm
'The exhibition as an active space for research'
A visit to the exhibition 'The Seruya Archive' followed by a conversation between Jordan Rita Seruya Awori, artist, and Stephanie Endter, Head of Education and Deputy Director
In an interactive guided tour, the artist Jordan R. S. Awori talks about her motivation behind the work 'The Seruya Archive. Studies of the Wafuranki'. What are the underlying principles of the archive, what role do visitors play, and what does it mean to exhibit this work at the Weltkulturen Museum?
In English
Free admission
Weltkulturen Labor, Schaumainkai 37

Thursday, 11 February 2027, 5 pm to 7 pm
'A Change of Direction:
Regimes of Vision, Interpretative Authority and the Power of Naming'
Workshop
What happens when we look back? When we break with expected narratives? This workshop explores how regimes of gaze are practised and what happens when the authority to interpret and the power of naming no longer emanate from a Western institution, but rather when a mirror is held up to it. Let the reflection take you by surprise.
The event is part of the series 'Decolonising Practice at the Weltkulturen Museum', organised in collaboration with the Frankfurt am Main Adult Education Centre.
9 euros; register via www.vhs.frankfurt.de, booking number 0108-24
Venue: Weltkulturen Museum, Schaumainkai 37

Public guided tours:

Sunday, 15 November 2026, 3 pm

Sunday, 22 November 2026, 3 pm

Sunday, 6 December 2026, 3 pm

Sunday, 13 December 2026, 3 pm

Sunday, 20 December 2026, 3 pm

Sunday, 27 December 2026, 3 pm

Sunday, 3 January 2027, 3 pm

Sunday, 10 January 2027, 3 pm

Sunday, 17 January 2027, 3 pm

Sunday, 24 January 2027, 3 pm

Sunday, 31 January 2027, 3 pm

Sunday, 7 February 2027, 3 pm

Sunday, 14 February 2027, 3 pm

Further events at www.weltkulturenmuseum.de

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FURTHER EVENTS IN NOVEMBER

Thursday 19 November, 7 pm
Beams & Bumps: Asuna and Yasushi Yamashita (live) & Dana (DJ)
Social Hub with concerts and DJ sets
ASUNA is a Japanese sound artist who has been creating experimental music and sound installations since the 1990s, becoming a key figure in Tokyo's experimental music scene. Alongside his sound installation 'Each Organ', which sheds new light on the concept of etymology, he has produced performative installations such as '100 Toys or 100 Keyboards', in which numerous tiny toys or keyboards give rise to a multi-layered, sculptural universe of drones, loops, sonic moiré effects and occasional bursts of pop.
Yasushi Yamashita is a Japanese musician, composer and co-founder of Inoyama Land – a pioneering project in Japanese electronic music that has spanned almost four decades and remains active to this day.
The evening will be accompanied by Dana – DJ, producer and member of Spirax e.V. In her sets, she moves between delicate ambient and club-oriented sounds.

The new 'Beams & Bumps' series of events brings unheard sounds into the spotlight, challenges our listening habits and opens up new perspectives. It invites you to come together regularly, linger and engage in spontaneous exchanges. Over drinks at a cosy bar, the Weltkulturen Museum presents a programme featuring unconventional, trans-traditional musical and sound practices, performances and DJ sets – free from the boundaries between genres, cultures or time periods.
The exhibition 'The Seruya Archive. Studies of the Wafuranki' at Schaumainkai 37 is open during 'Beams & Bumps' from 7 pm to 9 pm.
Admission: 5 euros
Weltkulturen Labor, Schaumainkai 37

Saturday, 28 November, 3–5 pm
'The Play of Light and Shadow'
Saturday Family Workshop
With arts educator Clara Rutjes
A light source, figures and a screen – that's all the participating families with children aged 6 and over need. They'll explore various shadow play figures from the museum's hands-on collection and create their own characters, who will embark on great adventures on the screen.
Free of charge, booking required at weltkulturen.bildung@stadt-frankfurt.de

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OUTLOOK: A MUSEUM WITH TWO LOCATIONS

The Weltkulturen Museum on Schaumainkai is a laboratory, a workshop and a space for connection. Here, the museum can be experienced as a process: open, experimental, collaborative and a work in progress. The focus is on collection management, provenance research, residencies, collaborations, outreach, research, encounters and participation. The museum showcases not only results, but also working methods, questions, conflicts and negotiations. Schaumainkai is a vibrant space situated between the museum and urban society.

In future, the building on the Museumsufer will be presented in two distinct parts, moving away from the previous exhibition concept: the lower floor of the museum will remain permanently accessible as a consumption-free space — a place to linger, meet, read, listen and discuss.

On the upper floor of the museum, the formats are constantly evolving: exhibitions, artistic projects, collaborations and research initiatives continually revisit current social issues and global perspectives. Visitors are invited to contribute to these changes through their feedback and to help shape future directions.

From 2029, the Weltkulturen Museum is set to open an additional venue: located in the new Central Business Tower in the heart of Frankfurt's banking district, it will have an exhibition space of around 500 square metres.

The Weltkulturen Museum in the city centre serves as the public stage for the Weltkulturen Museum. Here, themes, perspectives and social debates come together in exhibitions, events, music, performance and discussion formats.

The museum's new location makes global power relations, political conflicts and counter-narratives visible and audible within the urban space. The focus is on: interconnections, colonialism, property, migration, diaspora, inequality, geopolitics and perspectives from the Global South. Here, the Weltkulturen Museum sees itself as a public space for reflection on contemporary social issues.

EXHIBITION PREVIEW

The building at Schaumainkai 29 will be closed whilst a new lighting system is installed and fire safety measures are carried out September 2026 to spring 2027

'Museum Inside Out. What a museum is and can be'
11 March to 15 August 2027 at Schaumainkai 29
Press conference: Wednesday, 10 March 2027, 11 am
Opening: Wednesday, 10 March 2027, 7 pm
A museum is more than just its exhibitions: it is a place where collections are curated, research is conducted, knowledge is created and debated, and the taken-for-granted is questioned. With the 'Museum Inside Out' exhibition, the Weltkulturen Museum is offering a glimpse into its work, its history, and the people connected with it. The exhibition reveals what goes on behind the

scenes, the issues shaping museum work today, and how the museum is charting its course into the future.

Developed together with external curators and artists, ‘Museum Inside Out’ offers insights into the museum’s diverse activities, provides an introduction to restoration and the archives, and examines the colonial entanglements of the museum’s founder, Bernhard Hagen. The exhibition looks at relationships with partners from the countries of origin of the cultural heritage in the collections, and shows how young people from Frankfurt and Offenbach are making the museum’s historic spaces their own. These diverse perspectives reveal how knowledge is created, what decisions are made, and what has received little attention until now. The exhibition invites visitors to take a closer look, to ask questions, and to contribute their own perspectives.

The Weltkulturen Museum is also opening up to new perspectives spatially. The villa on Schaumainkai will henceforth also be accessible via the Metzlerpark. And on the ground floor, a space is being created to linger, relax, and exchange ideas. In this way, the villa is becoming an open space for experimentation and encounter.

In 2029, the museum will open a second location in Frankfurt’s banking district, thereby establishing a presence both on the Museumsufer and in the city centre. The additional location will not only enable new exhibition formats, but also transform the museum’s work as a whole. Against this backdrop, the ‘Museum Inside Out’ exhibition invites us to come together to reflect on what kind of place the Weltkulturen Museum can be, both today and into the future, and whom it may serve.

‘Music Matters. Between Power and Resistance’
25 September 2027 – 27 August 2028 | Schaumainkai 29
Press conference: Thursday, 23 September 2027, 11 am
Opening: Friday, 24 September 2027, 7 pm

Music moves people and is far more than mere entertainment. It can reinforce political power or challenge it. The exhibition *Music Matters* explores how music conveys political messages, gives expression to protest and accompanies social change.

Drawing on a diverse range of examples from different regions of the world, the exhibition explores the political dimensions of music: from Congolese rumba and court music from Borno in north-eastern Nigeria to the work of Peter Ury, a composer of Jewish heritage from Ulm, Germany. Along the way, it raises a number of questions: What does political music sound like in Chile? What role did the singer-songwriter movement play in Germany? How was music censored in the analogue era, and how does censorship operate in the digital age?

Alongside selected objects from the collection, listening and looking are at the heart of the exhibition. A programme of concerts complements the exhibition and expands on its many audio examples, offering further opportunities to engage with the themes explored. Through concerts and lecture-concerts, ‘Music Matters’ becomes a multi-sensory experience.

The exhibition has been developed in collaboration with the research project „Kontrahegemoniale Stimmen in Musikarchiven“ (Counter-Hegemonic Voices in Music Archives) at the Universities of Mainz, Hildesheim and Hanover.

The events are part of the „Sommer der Musik Vol. 2“ programme, organised jointly by the Weltkulturen Museum and the Historisches Museum to mark the 100th anniversary of the „Sommer der Musik of 1927“.

‘THE FUTURE IS NOW: Negotiating the Future in the Present’ (working title)
Spring 2029 at the new venue

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EXHIBITION
'The Seruya Archive. Studies of the Wafuranki'

13 November 2026 – 14 February 2027

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