



Rautenstrauch-Joest-Museum
Kulturen der Welt



**RAUTENSTRAUCH-JOEST MUSEUM
CULTURES OF THE WORLD**

VISITORS PLAN

GROUND FLOOR



Theme-based Exhibition RJM

1 Emblem: Rice Barn

2 Prologue

3 Creating the Right Mood: Music

Service Area

- Info desk, Cash desk
- Café
- Shop
- Cloakroom, Lockers, Toilets and Nappy-changing room

Event Hall Forum VHS

Museum Schnütgen

Art of the Middle Ages

□ Lift

||||| Staircase

P Car park

WELCOME TO THE RAUTENSTRAUCH-JOEST MUSEUM CULTURES OF THE WORLD (RJM)

In the spacious foyer, which is bathed in light, a historic rice barn from the island of Sulawesi, Indonesia – the largest exhibit and emblem of the museum – prepares the visitors for their museum experience.

Start here with your voyage of discovery through the 'Cultures of the World'. This orientation plan shows you the way through 3,600 square metres of exhibition space over three floors.

You can borrow an audioguide for the theme-based exhibition at the information desk. In the shop you can obtain specialities from various regions of the world, a select choice of books and the museum's exhibition catalogues. The museum café offers refreshments and snacks. Cloakroom, lockers and WCs can be found on the basement floor. The glass elevator and main staircase link the different levels for visitors.

THEME-BASED EXHIBITION PEOPLE IN THEIR WORLDS

1 Emblem of the Museum: Rice Barn

The magnificently decorated historic rice barn from the Indonesian island of Sulawesi addresses all the topics of the new theme-based exhibition 'People in Their Worlds' and thus can be taken as pars pro toto for the whole museum.

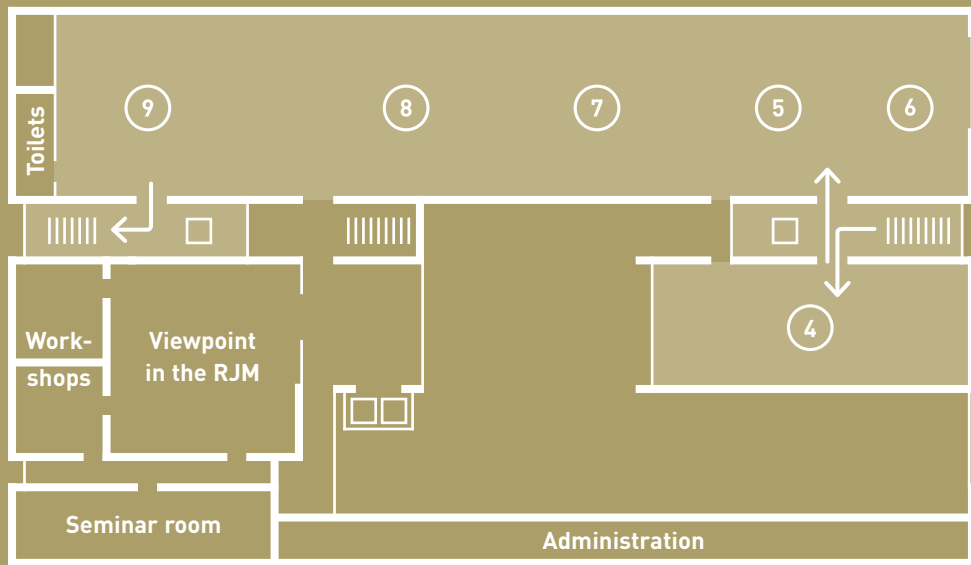
2 Prologue

The theme-based exhibition starts with a media installation of people from all over the world welcoming the visitor with their special forms of greeting.

3 Creating the Right Mood: Music

Music is the common language of humanity. In many cultures guests are welcomed with music – this is also true for Indonesia. A historic gamelan orchestra from Central Java is a feast for the eyes and ears.

FIRST FLOOR



- 4 Encounter and Appropriation: Crossing Borders
- 5 The Distorted View: Prejudices
- 6 The World in a Showcase: Museum
- 7 A Matter of Perception and Opinion!?: Art
- 8 Transition: Doors
- 9 Living Spaces - Ways of Living: Living Places

Viewpoint in the RJM

- Lift
- ▨ Staircase

The first overarching theme complex **COMPREHENDING THE WORLD** is devoted to four different levels of encounter with different cultures from a European point of view:

4 Encounter and Appropriation: Crossing Borders

19th century travellers embodied the desire of the educated cosmopolitan citizen to broaden his horizons through cultural encounters far from his home country.

5 The Distorted View: Prejudices

Prejudices serve to integrate the 'other' into one's own world view and dissociate oneself from the 'other'. Prejudices are often aimed at reevaluating oneself.

6 The World in a Showcase: Museum

Anthropological museums reflect the encounter with other cultures in their collections; they preserve and research the artefacts of societies from all over the world and convey ways of looking at cultures through exhibitions.

7 A Matter of Perception and Opinion?: Art

The purely aesthetic perception of artefacts is one of the possible ways of approaching 'foreign' cultures; in this view, influenced by the European concept of art, the original functional context of the work recedes into the background.

8 Transition: Doors

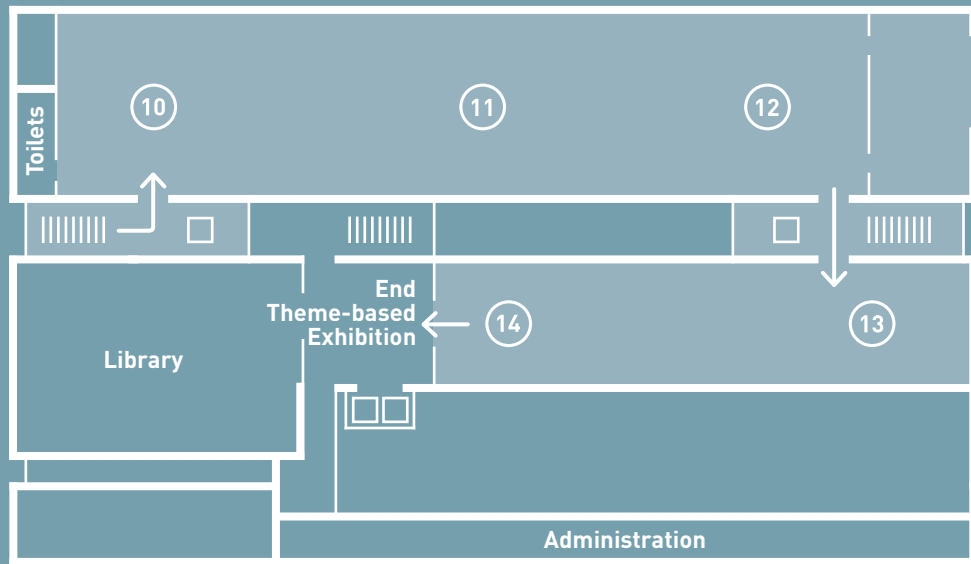
Doors separate and link inside and outside, the private and the public sphere. They are also transitions – such as here between the two overarching theme complexes of the exhibition 'Comprehending the World' and 'Shaping the World'.

The second large theme complex **SHAPING THE WORLD** conveys with five sections a multitude of insights into forms of organising life across space and time:

9 Living Spaces – Ways of Living: Living Places

Different environments bring about different ways of living; a dwelling profoundly influences our identity.

SECOND FLOOR



- 10 The Body as a Stage:
Clothes and Adornment
- 11 The Staged Farewell:
Death and the Afterlife
- 12 Diversity of Belief: Religions
- 13 Intermediary Worlds: Rituals
- 14 Epilogue

Library

- Lift
- ||||| Staircase

The next four sections of the second large theme complex **SHAPING THE WORLD** are divided into:

10 The Body as a Stage: Clothes and Adornment

Individuals use clothes and ornaments to position themselves in the community; this mise en scène can convey a wide variety of messages.

11 The Staged Farewell: Death and the Afterlife

Death affects everyone. It is a rupture in the life of the community, a crisis that people all over the world try to overcome with culture-specific rituals.

12 Diversity of Belief: Religions

Religion is the fundamental expression of world views; since time immemorial people have attempted to find answers to existential questions.

13 Intermediary Worlds: Rituals

People carry out rituals of a religious nature in order to propitiate supernatural powers; here masks often play a central role.

14 Epilogue

At the end of the theme-based exhibition 'People in Their Worlds' the protagonists from the prologue say goodbye to the visitors of the exhibition. Pay attention to the information regarding the protagonists. You will be surprised!

After the theme-based exhibition visit the library with its beautiful reading room or enjoy the sight of the spacious foyer from above from the gallery next to the lift.

Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum Cultures of the World

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www.museenkoeln.de/rjm

www.facebook.com/rjmkoeln

Opening hours

Tuesday to Sunday 10 am to 6 pm

Thursday 10 am to 8 pm

For public holidays and special openings
see website.

Admission

The prices for single and combined tickets
can be found on our website.

Audioguide (including induction loop)

Theme-based exhibition, Highlights and
Junior audio tours are available for € 2.

Accessibility

The museum is accessible for wheelchairs.

Transport links

Tram/underground stop: Neumarkt

Trains 1, 3, 4, 7, 9, 16, 18

Buses 136, 146

Parking directly under the museum: entrance
to underground car park: Cäcilienstraße

Booking guided tours and workshops offered by the Museum Service

+49 221 221 23468/27380/24077

service.museumsdienst@stadt-koeln.de

Public guided tours (max. 25 people)

- by the Museum Society RJM e.V.:
at the weekend and on the 1st Thursday
of the month

- by the Museum Service: Wednesdays

For times and topics of all the tours see
website.

Events

You can find our current programme on our
website where you can also subscribe to our
newsletter.

Museum Society RJM e.V.

In good company!

As a friend and supporter of the
Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum you will
experience all the variety of a modern
museum:

- free entry tickets to the exhibitions of
the Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum
- invitations to all events of the society
- invitations to all special exhibition previews
- excursions and cultural trips
- the possibility of volunteer work
- annual fee € 48, concession € 28

www.rjmkoeln.de

