

Media release, 25 October 2023

Special exhibition: Rausch – Extase – Rush

From 26 October, the Basel Historical Museum is showing the special exhibition «Rausch - Extase – Rush». Why do we strive for feelings of ecstasy? What does this stage of euphoria trigger in our bodies? What risks does it entail? These and other questions are answered by the interactive exhibition, which can be seen in the Barfüsserkirche until 30 June 2024.

The need to become intoxicated seems to be a primeval human need. This is shown, among other things, by a look at the evolution of homo sapiens and the history of all peoples and societies. Even children occasionally put themselves into an ecstatic state during play. Later, people seek intoxication in tests of courage and in sport, in music and dance, in love, spirituality, art or in the consumption of alcohol, tobacco or psychoactive substances. For young people, experiences of intoxication are particularly appealing, but dealing with risks or seductive tobacco and alcohol advertisements is also an enormous challenge. What exactly is a rush? Why do we strive for ecstatic feelings and what is it that fascinates us so much? The exhibition explores the phenomenon of the "rush" and its effects. On a multimedia journey, the visitors encounter historical backgrounds as well as the possibilities and risks of a rush. The big question is why our society deals with this phenomenon in such a contradictory way.

Expoforum's touring exhibition was developed in cooperation with the Bernisches Historisches Museum, the Tobacco Prevention Fund, the Federal Office of Public Health and «Jugend und Medien», a sounding board of 40 proven experts and with the involvement of young people so that their topics, concerns and preferences are taken on board. Basel is the second stop after the first presentation at the Bernisches Historisches Museum. The exhibition is aimed in particular at young people aged 13 to 25, but also at their parents, teachers, specialists and other interested parties.

«Rausch - Extase – Rush» encourages people to deal with the contradictory way society deals with states of rush and to reflect on their own behaviour in the process. Simon Haller, curator and managing director of Expoforum, explains: «The inspiration for the exhibition was a very personal challenge, namely: How do I approach the topic of intoxication with my children in an uninhibited way?» He soon realised that this was not only difficult for him, but also for many parents and teachers. The seven individually staged experience rooms allow different approaches and thus offer the chance to educate without glorifying or demonising.

The rich educational programme is mainly aimed at a young audience. The vernissage on 25 October with a performance by the content creator Aditotoro kicks things off, followed by offers for school classes and youth groups. Interactive tours, guided by a mediator, invite visitors to explore the exhibition and perhaps get into a state of intoxication.

In cooperation with the Swiss Working Group of Youth Associations, the workshop «Developing risk competences» for youth group leaders will take place on 13 April 2024. And in the format «Museumsrausch am Abend», young people regularly exchange views on the topic of intoxication or ecstasy in informal discussions with experts and peers.

A related format «Rausch am Abend – Was Sie schon immer fragen wollten» addresses adults. In collaboration with experts from research and practice, the topic of «intoxication» is comprehensively illuminated every first Thursday of the month by means of open discussion rounds, short inputs, spontaneous conversations and case studies. Classic guided tours and interactive tours for adults through the exhibition complete the programme.

The vernissage will take place on 25.10. from 18.00 in the Barfüsserkirche.

Basel Historical Museum - Barfüsserkirche

Barfüsserplatz 7, 4051 Basel

Tue - Sun 10 am - 5 pm

hmb.ch/rush

Project website: rausch-extase.ch/

Images and information about the exhibition and the publication:

www.hmb.ch/service/presse

For more information:

Andreas Mante, Head of Communications, andreas.mante@bs.ch, Tel. +41 61 205 86 25.

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