

Accumulation: The greed for «more»



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Second sequence of the exhibition:

Saturday, 14 June to Sunday, 27 July 2025

The exhibition «Accumulation» is about collecting, growth and excess.

«Accumulation» means gathering things or piling things up. «Excess» means having too much.

The exhibition has two parts. The parts are called «sequences».

We are showing works of art made by 10 artists:

- Bare Minimum Collective
- Wang Bing
- Anne-Lise Coste (Uruk)
- Rhea Dillon
- Rindon Johnson
- Nils Amadeus Lange
- Mimi Onuoha
- Sandra Poulson
- Daniel Arnan Quarshie
- Raqs Media Collective

We are also showing works by artists from our collection:

- Art & Language
- Clegg & Guttmann
- Joana Hadjithomas & Khalil Joreige
- Gianni Motti
- Yuri Pattison
- Mierle Laderman Ukeles

Tasnim Baghdadi and Nadia Schneider Willen have organised the exhibition, Paula Thomaka, Linda Addae and Mirta Gianocca have helped with the organisation.

What is the exhibition about?

People collect things: They accumulate money, houses, clothes or technical equipment. But we also collect things we cannot see, for example: We accumulate power and knowledge. These things control us, and they control our lives.

This is what happens when we collect

Accumulating things has an effect on the entire world. For example:

- When we accumulate things, other people do not have enough. As a result, many people need to go somewhere else to have enough to live.
- We always want to have more. But we want things to be cheap. For example: In other countries, things are cheap to make. We ask those countries to make things for us. This way, we exploit people in those countries.
- We use many things and then throw them away. In doing so, we destroy nature.
- Museums collect art. They also collect possession, in other words: They accumulate things that belong to them.

The artists

The artists in this exhibition show other ways, for example:

- We can take care of others.

- We can protect nature.
- We can make the world a fairer place.

The Artwork

Here is some information on a few works of art. They are just examples. We are not describing every work of art here.

Gianni Motti

The first room of the exhibition looks empty. But it is not empty. In the room, you can see an installation called «**Moneybox**» made by Gianni Motti.

Thousands of one-dollar banknotes are hanging from the ceiling. The artist shows: Business and art are connected. Art costs money, too. And people collect art to become rich. But what is money anyway? Basically, money is just an agreement. Money only has the value that we give it.

The installation was made in 2009.

Daniel Arnan Quarshie

The installation «**Kwatserakwa Mpaboa**» shows things we throw away, for example: old clothing or an old-time TV set. We do not use these things anymore. Technology is developing fast. Therefore, we always buy new things, modern things.

The installation shows: We use too many things and produce too much waste. This destroys our planet.

The installation was made in 2024.

Mimi Onuoha

The video «**These Networks in Our Skin**» shows what networks can do. People connect through networks, for example: They communicate via the internet. The internet sends information across the entire world. For this, internet cables are needed. But these cables are in the ground. We cannot see them.

In her video, the artist shows how to create a different network: Four women fill the internet cables with dust, hair and spices. They are Igbo women. The Igbo people live in Nigeria. Dust, hair and spices are important in their religion.

Now, these internet cables cannot send information anymore. But the cables connect people with each other. Now, it is a network of love and help.

The video was made in 2021.

Bare Minimum Collective

The «Bare Minimum Collective» is a group of artists. They made their installation especially for this exhibition. The room looks like an altar. We see material, fabrics and objects, videos and audio recordings. This shows how the artists work with each other.

The artists are saying: People do not always have to gather more and more stuff.

Accumulation can also mean a gathering of people. People take care of each other and help each other.

The installation was made in 2025.