

Knowledge is a Garden

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The exhibition lasts from Saturday, 28 September 2024, to Sunday, 19 January 2025.

The exhibition «Knowledge is a Garden» is about what we know and what we don't know.

«Knowledge is a Garden» comes from a West African saying: «Knowledge is like a garden: if it's not cultivated, it cannot be harvested.»

The exhibition shows that we need to care for our knowledge like a garden. If we do, our knowledge can grow.

We are showing works of art made by 18 artists:

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| • Basel Abbas & | • Dani Gal | • Teresa Margolles |
| Ruanne Abou-Rahme | • General Idea | • Senga Nengudi |
| • Sammy Baloji | • Kiluanji Kia Henda | • Uriel Orlow |
| • Lothar Baumgarten | • Eva Kot'átková | • Elodie Pong |
| • Teresa Burga | • Susan Hiller | • Ed Ruscha |
| • Maria Eichhorn | • Zahra Malkani | • Munem Wasif |

What is the exhibition about?

The exhibition looks at what we know and what we don't know. For example:

What does «knowledge» mean? We can never be sure if some information is true. The world around us influences what we know. For example:

- The place we live in.
- The times we live in.
- The school we went to.

What are we allowed to know? Often, others want us to forget things. Or we are given incorrect information.

What do we want to know? Sometimes, we don't like the truth. We prefer to look away.

What do we forget? If we don't care for our knowledge, we lose part of ourselves.

Who is allowed to inform? Often, those in power are allowed to inform. Everyone else must keep quiet. The powerful countries in the world decide what we are allowed to know and what we are not allowed to know.

Which knowledge do we own? The powerful countries often use the knowledge of poor countries to make money.

This is what the exhibition shows: If we care for our knowledge, it grows like plants in a garden. Our knowledge then makes us independent and free.

The Artwork

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

Uriel Orlow

«**Learning from Artemisia**» refers to a plant called «Artemisia afra». The Indigenous people know well that this plant protects you from malaria. But in our medicine, this plant is not welcome as a cure. Why not? Because the pharmaceutical companies want to sell their own drugs to make money. This example shows that knowledge is power. Some information is held back from us, so that those in power can make money.

Uriel Orlow made the artwork in 2019.

Sammy Baloji

Many indoor plants in Europe are plants from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Some of these plants can be seen in the installation «**Untitled**». Sammy Baloji shows that Africa's colonial history also influences us today.

Sammy Baloji produced the installation in 2018.

Susan Hiller

«**Lost and Found**» is a video projection. It is about languages which are about to die out. If a language is no longer spoken by anyone, much knowledge will be lost.

Susan Hiller created the artwork in 2016.

Teresa Margolles

Teresa Margolles cares for women who are missing. The women have probably been killed. But the politicians in Mexico chose to look away. They didn't try hard enough to find the killers. Teresa Margolles shows that in Mexico, women have no power. This is why they are forgotten.

Dani Gal

«**Historical Records, Part I**» includes 246 vinyl records with important events of the 20th century. Dani Gal asks himself: Who decides what the people of a country should remember? Which events do we record? Which ones not? If people forget important events, a country loses part of its history.

Dani Gal made this installation between 2005 and 2018.

General Idea

«**White AIDS (Wallpaper)**» is about AIDS. «General Idea» is a Canadian group of artists. They ask: What are the people of a country allowed to know? In the 1980s and 1990s, very little information about AIDS was published. This was to make the disease invisible.

«General Idea» created the artwork in 1991.