

Korewori. Magic Art from the Rainforest

– The Museum der Kulturen Basel presents a unique collection of spectacular wood sculptures from Papua New Guinea

Approximately 40 years ago, fascinating wood sculptures from the area of the Korewori river in Papua New Guinea first became widely known: carved creator-beings and demons with great ritualistic importance as helpful hunting spirits. Even when they were found, protected by protruding rocks, these cult figures were considered the "last witnesses of a lost culture". The 200- to 400-year-old objects testify to the exceptional creative power of a group of people living in the hidden depths of the rainforest. Artistic imagination and radiant power make them a touching artistic testimony.

In 1971, the Museum der Kulturen succeeded in acquiring 86 of these figures with the support of numerous benefactors and a spectacular fund-raising charity, which made headlines far beyond Basel: a present from Basel citizens to their city. Today the Museum owns more than half of the 200 figures existing worldwide. Now, for the first time, this unique cultural heritage can be presented in a modern setting: "Korewori. Magic Art from the Rainforest".

Korewori. Magic Art from the Rainforest

28 March 2003 to 18 January 2004

Hours of opening / prices of admission: Tuesday - Sunday 10 am to 5 pm, closed on Mondays. Open on Easter Monday and Whit Monday; closed on 1 August, 24, 25 and 31 December and 1 January. Admission to the exhibition is included with the general admission ticket (CHF 7.-/5.-).

A catalogue of the exhibition documents the history and significance of the sculptures. The programme is supplemented by guided tours, lectures, exhibition discussions and teaching opportunities for schools.

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