

Museum der Kulturen Basel

CONFERENCE

(Un)known Creators from the Americas — The Role of Indigenous Authorship in Anthropological Museums

28. – 29. November 2025, 13.00–18.00 Uhr

28. November 2025, 13.00 – 20.00

29. November 2025, 09.30 – 18.00

From small earrings to boats and houses, from light feather works to heavy stone blocks: The collections of Anthropological Museums contain an enormous quantity of things that invite us to engage with archives of human creativity. But who are the people who made them? Established practices of collecting and presenting things have often overlooked their creators. Conversely, Indigenous actors carefully and consciously chose what information about authorship to share with collectors, researchers, and museums.

This conference takes a closer look at the narratives about the artists, creators, makers (their lives, biographies and skills) of items of daily use, things of ritual significance, sound, photography, and movies preserved in museums. It also aims to shed light on the Indigenous impact on museum collections and the practice of collecting in general. The conference challenges the knowledge production of Anthropological Museums and provenance research practices.

Presentations will be in English, Spanish and Portuguese

Registration and Information:

jago.steidle@bs.ch and alexander.brust@bs.ch

Inscription Fees: CHF 30.00 (2 days); CHF 20.00 (1 Day); Students, Indigenous community members CHF 0.00.

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