

Museum der
Kulturen Basel

22 march
2019
– 19 january
2020

Thirst for Knowledge meets Collecting Mania

mkb.ch



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Museums face challenging times: what may have seemed invaluable to an ethnographic museum in the past – for instance, a collection of skulls – is now a sensitive issue. The exhibition explores the conditions of collecting in former times and poses questions as to the appropriate handling of sensitive objects today.

What did collectors gain in terms of knowledge by removing human remains, masks, and sculptures from their original context and transferring them to a museum? Why this enthusiasm for weapons such as arrows, which came to museums by the score? What is it about rare and precious materials such as ivory that triggers desires?

The exhibition provides lively insight into the history of collecting, ordering, categorizing, and research. It shows where thirst for knowledge in conjunction with collecting mania previously led to, how museums were forced to adapt their strategies, and how they today exploit the potentials of their vast holdings.

For information on guided tours and events, go to www.mkb.ch

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Opening hours
Tue–Sun 10.00–17.00
First Wednesday of the month
10.00–20.00

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