

Exhibition
as of 25 October 2014

STRAW GOLD

CULTURAL
TRANSFORMATIONS
RENDERED VISIBLE

Why is a Bavarian dirndl tailored from African waxprint cloths? Moreover, what is African about these cloths? Can it be that in southern Asia and the Himalayan region the Bodhisattva Avalokiteshvara is represented by a male being, while in Japan the same bodhisattva is worshipped in female form named Kannon Bosatsu? The second permanent exhibition titled *StrawGold* focuses on cultural appropriation and transformation processes. Items of everyday use, technologies, materials, political ideas as well as religious beliefs spread not only across regions, but across the entire world. In their new settings they are gradually absorbed and creatively woven into new cultural contexts.

In ten stations the exhibition addresses different themes, such as upcycling, fashion, religious interrelationships and (hi)stories of global economic entanglement, through to rites of passage.

Since cultural transformation processes belong to the constants in life, changes are also made to two of the exhibition galleries each year. In the opening gallery alternating artists are showcased with a work which, in some way or another, was inspired by an object in our collections. The last gallery in the exhibition is redesigned twice a year in order to address further themes or to enlarge upon special aspects of the exhibition – either in the form of shows designed alongside with collaborative partners or in workshops in which visitors are invited to engage and convert an item of everyday use into something new and special.

Museum der Kulturen Basel
Münsterplatz 20, CH-4051 Basel
T +41 61 266 56 00
www.mkb.ch

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

