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Red Hood, Blue Beard

**Fairy-tale colours and experiments in a new exhibition at GRIMMWELT
Kassel, from 13.11.2019 to 13.04.2020**

GRIMMWELT Kassel opens a new special exhibition „Red Hood, Blue Beard – Fairy-tale colours and experiments“ on 13.11.2019. It is devoted to a subject that has not previously been researched in any depth to date: the world of fairy tales is colourful, but mention of the colours themselves is surprisingly rare. Nevertheless – or perhaps for that very reason – they immediately catch the eye: white snow contrasts with red blood, a strange blue beard shines through the gloom, or a little red hood characterises an entire fairy-tale heroine. The exhibition „Red Hood, Blue Beard“ explores the symbolic, cultural and historic significance of colour, as well as creating a bridge between the colour research of Newton, Goethe, Runge or the Brothers Grimm and modern-day image consulting.

When the Brothers Grimm and the Hans Christian Andersen from Denmark published their famous collections of fairy tales, scientific research into the physics of colours and human vision was also booming: in 1810, Philipp Otto Runge and Johann Wolfgang von Goethe published the results of their colour research at the same time – and both men were writers or collectors of fairy tales. The world of fairy tales is colourful, but mention of the colours themselves is surprisingly rare. Nevertheless – or perhaps for that very reason – they immediately catch the eye: white snow contrasts with red blood, a strange blue beard shines through the gloom, or a little red hood characterises an entire fairy-tale heroine. The exhibition „Red Hood, Blue Beard“ explores the symbolic, cultural and historic significance of colour, as well as spanning the gap between the colour research of Newton, Goethe, Runge or the Brothers Grimm and modern-day image consulting. „The happy meeting of scientific research and creative imagination during the age of the Romantics inspired the exhibition to explore the significance of colours in fairy tales: why is Red Riding Hood’s headgear red, of all things, and why is a blue beard odd? „, says Peter Stohler, Director and Programme Manager of GRIMMWELT Kassel.

The world would be a sadder place without colours – grey, or maybe even completely black and white. Colours brighten up our lives and weave their own special magic, especially in fairy-tales. Although they are rarely mentioned, there are examples of colour everywhere: clothing, such as Little Red Riding Hood’s headgear, the equally famous hair colour of characters such as Snow White, Rapunzel and Bluebeard, and in solid form such as the gold nugget in Hans in Luck. „The symbolic, cultural and historic significance of colours has often developed in the course of several centuries. Whether it be in the works of the Brothers Grimm, Andersen or Goethe: colours are not chosen at random, but always have a deeper meaning“, says exhibition curator Dr. Sabine Schimma. However, this meaning is not always unequivocal, and it can be interpreted in many different ways, depending on the exact context in which the colour occurs. „This exhibition is a daring experiment: we are presenting the

symbolism of individual colours by means of historical drawings and book illustrations, and visitors can experience them in simulations of Mother Hulda's golden rain or the endless reflections of the German Romantics' „blue flower” in the Mirror of Infinity“, Schimma adds. The exhibition is also inspiring on another level: fascinating 19th century experiments with colour, using prisms and coloured shadows, invite young and old visitors to participate in hands-on activities. The cheerful, colourful combination of fairy-tale illustrations, games and historical experiments guarantees an intriguing journey of discovery and exploration of a subject that – until now – has led a shadowy existence.

Exhibition duration:

13.11.2019 – 13.04.2020

Opening hours:

Tue – Sun 10.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m., Fri 10.00 a.m. – 8.00 p.m., Closed Mondays.

Digital Press Kit and Photos:

<https://www.grimmwelt.de/en/site/presse/>

GRIMMWELT Kassel gGmbH | Mirko Zapp, Press | Public Relations | Marketing

Weinbergstraße 21, 34117 Kassel | T +49.561.59861913 | mirko.zapp@grimmwelt.de | www.grimmwelt.de