

GRIMM

WELT

KASSEL

PRESS RELEASE | Kassel, 9 November 2022

Exhibition opening **»imPOSSIBLE? The magic of wishes«**

At GRIMMWELT Kassel from 24 November 2022

In the new, interactive special exhibition, visitors to GRIMMWELT Kassel can expect a wonderful world of fantasy – utopias, wishes and (a sprinkling of) curses, too.

The exhibition is divided into three sections – Wishes, Magic and Utopia – and explores the meaning of wishing in everyday life, fairy tales and contemporary art. It also focuses on the power of the imagination and the naturalness of the impossible in fairy tales, but also personal wishes and how we deal with them. Based on the Grimms' *Children's and Household Tales*, artistic works, interviews and installations take a look at wishes and the effects wishing can have on an individual and on society.

The exhibition focuses on works by contemporary artists, for example, the *Balloon Tree* by the Korean artist MyeongBeom Kim, a mural by the Berlin artist Jim Avignon, an autobiographical piece by artist Jenny Rova and illustrations for *Children's and Household Tales* by the Berlin artist Henrik Schrat.

How do wishes affect our ordinary daily lives? Experts from different disciplines offer their take in short video interviews that shed light on the phenomenon of what wishes mean from their very unique points of view.

'The exhibition's about looking at and going from individual wishes that can catapult us out of our everyday lives to social wishes and utopias. In both of these areas, wishes can literally help you move mountains – we want to make this hopeful moment visible in the exhibition,' explains Jan Sauerwald, Managing Director and Programme Director of GRIMMWELT Kassel. *'In Grimms' Children's and Household Tales, wish fulfilment becomes a wishing machine. It's a theme that still plays a role in literature today – especially in books for children and young people. There are numerous examples that illustrate this: The Slurb by Paul Maar is by far one of my favourites as it demonstrates the anarchic power underlying the theme of wish fulfilment and shows that it can be quite rewarding to break out of one's everyday life through one's wishes.'*

Audience involvement is a central element of the exhibition itself. There are interactive stations such as a wishing well and a fairy tale quiz by Jim Avignon that invite visitors to actively participate. Kassel-based studio Raamwerk e. V. also created a version of *Raathaus – Was macht eine Stadt schön?* (*Raathaus – What is it that makes a city beautiful?*) especially for GRIMMWELT. It deals with the question of how society envisions a future living environment and gets visitors to think about and share their ideas on the topic.

Then there's Swing VR – the dream of flying, created by Design Studio A.MUSE. It's an immersive, VR-based installation that's dedicated to one of mankind's greatest dreams – flying. It's time to take off and explore other worlds ...

Fairy tale wishes and curses play an important role in our new, special exhibition at GRIMMWELT. Numerous illustrations taken from *Children's and Household Tales* – most of which come from the Grimm collection of the city of Kassel – illustrate the many facets of wishes, not to mention the function of the fairy tale as a wish-fulfiller and wishing machine.

»Long ago, when wishes often came true, there lived a King ...«, goes the number one Grimm tale, *The Frog Prince*, as taken from the *Children's and Household Tales* collection. It is a quote that is as symbolic as it is true of wishes in any fairy tale where beauty and power, health or a long life are wished for.

'Visitors can explore their own wishes in the exhibition and see for themselves just how wide and wonderful the world of wishes can be,' says Claudia Roßkopf, responsible for exhibition conception at GRIMMWELT Kassel. *'What areas are influenced by wishes? Are wishes exclusively individual or can they be collective? What effects do wishes have on me and on society? These are just some of the questions we address in the exhibition.'*

Wishing ring, coat and boots – in fairy tales, magical objects help protagonists to fulfil their wishes. Even beyond fairy tales, people tend to attribute special powers to objects. The exhibition goes deeper into the phenomenon by presenting a collection of lucky charms and talismans from the people of Kassel. The lucky charms and talismans were collected as part of an appeal and will be put on display along with the unique stories that go with them – just like a walnut charm that belongs to actress and TV crime scene detective Ulrike Folkerts, who grew up in Kassel.

Dreams, hopes and wishes are potent and great sources of strength, especially when they are visualised in a creative way. *'For this reason, we've set up the #GRIMMAtelier in front of the exhibition area. It's a fully accessible studio where visitors have access to many different types of materials,'* says Julia Ronge, responsible for didactics at GRIMMWELT. *'In addition, there's a special riddle trail through the exhibition for children aged five to twelve called My Wishing Machine. An A5-sized booklet with many hands-on activities, questions and explanations acts as an exhibition guide.'*

An exhibition taken over from the Vögele Kultur Zentrum Pfäffikon (Switzerland), it has been widely adapted for GRIMMWELT Kassel and supplemented with new works.

The exhibition is sponsored by the documenta Stadt Kassel, the district of Kassel and the Gerhard Fieseler Foundation, Kassel.

Exhibition duration:

24 November 2022 to 11 June 2023

Opening times:

Tue to Sun: 10 am to 6 pm | Fri: 10 am to 8 pm | Mon: closed

Contact:

GRIMMWELT Kassel gGmbH
Weinbergstraße 21
34117 Kassel
www.grimmwelt.de

Admission fees:

Adults: €10, concessions: €7 | Families: €25
Group min. 8 people: €7
Children under 6 years of age: admission free

Admission fees (special exhibition only):

Adults: €5, concessions: €3 | Families: €12
Group min. 8 people: €3

Press releases:

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

Contributors

VÖGELE KULTUR ZENTRUM (Pfäffikon SZ, Switzerland): Alexandra Könz and Karolina Widla

Managing Director | Programme Director GRIMMWELT Kassel: Jan Sauerwald

Exhibition conception GRIMMWELT Kassel: Claudia Roßkopf, Jan Sauerwald and Julia Ronge

Design | scenography: Gebert & Krüger

Graphic design | exhibition motif: Studio Terhedebrügge

Project management: Manuela Greipel

Didactics: Julia Ronge

»My Wishing Machine« riddle trail: Julia Ronge, Johannes Ickler and Claudia Roßkopf

Press | public relations | marketing: Katja Blum

Administration: Stefanie Büscher, Maité Fischer, Christine Großberndt, Johannes Ickler, Lina Schmidt and Timo Vogt

Technical set-up | lighting | media technology: Rolf Tonhäuser and Armin Jakob

Art handling | conservational care: Srećko Barišić

Grimm collection of the city of Kassel maintenance: Daniel Rothen and Marie-Louise Lange

Translation work: Neville Williamson

Editing work: Rea Triyandafilidis

We would especially like to thank everyone involved: all participating artists, filmmakers, interview partners and lenders as well as Gartenfit Sauerland & Pult.

Accompanying programme November to December 2022

Sat 26 November 22 | Sun 27 November 22 | 4 pm | Guided tour

imPOSSIBLE? The magic of wishes

Learn more about the world of wishes and curses in the current special exhibition – not only in fairy tales! Wishes are profound and potent, central to our own human needs, and are important in driving societal change. Various scientific disciplines have dealt with the topic of wishes, as have numerous artists. The interactive design studio A.MUSE, for example, has taken mankind's innate desire to fly and turned it into a VR installation. The wishing well from *The Frog Prince* fairy tale – where wishes still came true – is also a particular exhibition highlight. Discover the well-known, but also lesser known Brothers Grimm cosmos and make a wish, because you never know ...

€5 | concessions: €3 | plus admission fee

Tickets are available at the GRIMMWELT ticket desk. 0561 598 6190 | kasse@grimmwelt.de

Sat 3 December 22 | Sun 4 December 22 | 4 pm | Guided tour

Sat 10 December 22 | Sun 11 December 22 | 4 pm | Guided tour

Sat 17 December .22 | Sun 18 December 22 | 4 pm | Guided tour

Sun 25 December 22 | Mon 26 December22 | 4 pm | Guided tour

imPOSSIBLE? The magic of wishes

Learn more about the world of wishes and curses in the current special exhibition – not only in fairy tales! Wishes are profound and potent, central to our own human needs, and are important in driving societal change. Various scientific disciplines have dealt with the topic of wishes, as have numerous artists.

Discover the well-known, but also lesser-known Brothers Grimm cosmos and make a wish, because you never know ...

€5 | concessions: €3 | plus admission fee

Tickets are available at the GRIMMWELT ticket desk. 0561 598 6190 | kasse@grimmwelt.de

Sun 4 December 22 | 11.30 am | Grimm's story time

Time for wishes

It's the second Advent which means high time to write your wish list! But how do you go about making the right wishes? And will every wish come true? Fairy tales all over the world tell of wishes and their miraculous fulfilment. Gudrun Rathke has selected the most beautiful ones for our fairy tale session. Hear about the mouse bride from the Czech Republic, the sparrow prince from Japan, about the most ardent wish of a spindly shrub, the generous charcoal burners who didn't even know they were making a wish, and about the poor woodcutter who, despite all of his thriftiness, barely manages to give his son a good education. Will his great wish still come true? Be sure to join this fairy tale session full of special wishes.

From 5 years of age

€10 | concessions €7 | incl. admission; free admission for children under 6 years of age

Tickets are available at the GRIMMWELT ticket desk. 0561 598 6190 | kasse@grimmwelt.de

Sun 11 December 22 | 3 to 4 pm | Advent programme

Write a wish list workshop

Christmas is just around the corner and writing your wish list could be just the ticket to fulfilling your dreams. In this workshop, you'll get the chance to create your perfect wish list.

Free admission

Pre-registration requested under 0561 598 6190 or kasse@grimmwelt.de

GRIMMWELT

In GRIMMWELT Kassel, the Brothers Grimm are brought to life in the here and now: through art, media and interaction, this newly created world of adventure conveys the Brothers' fascinating life and work. Valuable originals, artistic installations along with interactive and multimedia features all draw visitors in to explore the permanent exhibition. With an international outlook, the venue presents the globally unifying cultural assets of 'fairy tales' and 'language' with great appeal, addressing children and adults, art lovers and fairy tale aficionados alike.

GRIMMWELT Kassel gGmbH | Contact person: Katja Blum, press/public relations/marketing
Weinbergstraße 21, 34117 Kassel | T +49 (0)561 598 619 13 | katja.blum@grimmwelt.de |
www.grimmwelt.de