Box with decoration on lid of two phoenixes against a background of various flowers, including chrysanthemum, rose, hibiscus, peony and camellia. Red carved lacquer. Ming, early 15th C (Xuande mark over Yongle mark).
The National Museums of World Culture
No. 1 – 2012
The National Museums of World Culture is a government agency founded in 1999 with the mission of showcasing and bringing to life the cultures of the world. Three museums in Stockholm and one in Gothenburg were brought together in an organization aiming to highlight our common cultural heritage based on the museums’ existing collections. This move also created a new type of intercultural museum – a museum for the world.

Our globalized world creates new opportunities and demands new solutions. We work to enhance international exchange and collaboration on the theme of humans as cultural beings, both historically and in the modern day. This means giving the general public and researchers alike greater access to our cultural heritage. It also means enhancing cross-border collaboration between cultural institutions.

This annual is the first of its kind. Since the agency is still relatively new, it needs to be “introduced” to the world. Thus, this annual describes not only the year’s activities, but also significant activities of the agency from the start. In these past 13 years, the organization has gradually been integrated, a new museum has been built in Gothenburg, and the museum environments in Stockholm have been extensively renovated and renewed. In 2010, Bergrummet opened in central Stockholm – an underground exhibition environment that opens new doors for major initiatives. Not to mention all the new exhibitions that have been created, the thousands of program activities that have been held and all the school classes that have visited the museums. All this has led to steadily growing visitor figures.

I am very pleased to be able to take this opportunity to thank the many countries, institutions and individuals, in Sweden and internationally, who have broadened our horizons and generously supported our operations through the years. I hope that you will continue to work with us in the future.

Sanne Houby-Nielsen
Director General

Sanne Houby-Nielsen took over as Director General of the Swedish National Museums of World Culture on May 1, 2010. Previously she has served as director of Medelhavsmuseet and Ostasiatiska museet. She has also headed the Kongelige Afstøbningssamling (Royal Cast Collection) at the National Gallery of Denmark in Copenhagen and holds a PhD in classical archeology from the University of Copenhagen.
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Museums
The National Museums of World Culture is a government agency under the Swedish Ministry of Culture. Its mission is defined in ordinance SFS (2007:1185) and through annual appropriation directions. The ordinance tasks the National Museums of World Culture with showcasing and bringing to life the cultures of the world, particularly those originating outside of Sweden.

The agency is to document and illuminate the conditions and forms of expressions of other cultures as well as interaction between cultures and cultural variation — historical and modern, national and international. Another task is to promote interdisciplinary knowledge enhancement and various forms of public activities.

Its operations are carried out in Sweden’s two largest cities: In Stockholm at Etnografiska museet, Medelhavsmuseet, Östasiatiska museet and Bergrummet, and in Gothenburg at Världskulturmuseet. Both cities are vital regional centers; Stockholm is the hub of the Baltic region, while Gothenburg has a central location between Malmö, Copenhagen, Aarhus and Oslo.

As a national museum, our mission includes national and international outreach, in particular in relation to the origins of our collections.
The biggest city in Scandinavia is considered one of the most knowledge-intensive and innovative regions of the world. It is home to a large number of universities, and nearly half of all the multinational companies in Scandinavia have their headquarters here. The city boasts a rich cultural life and is known for rapidly adopting new trends. Stockholm is home to three of our museums: Etnografiska museet, Medelhavsmuseet and Östasiatiska museet, as well as the new temporary exhibition center Bergrummet.
MEDELHAVSMUSEET
THE MUSEUM OF MEDITERRANEAN AND NEAR EASTERN ANTIQUITIES

Since 1982, Medelhavsmuseet is housed in an elegant former bank inspired by Italian Renaissance architecture. The central hall showcases our large Cypriot collection in a monumental exhibition designed by White Architects. The surrounding arcades feature collections from Ancient Greece and Rome, while the old bank vault is home to the Egypt exhibition. The museum also has significant collections from the Near East and the Islamic world, particularly Iran.

Medelhavsmuseet was founded in 1954 when the Cypriot collections and the Egyptian Museum merged. The collections consist mainly of archaeological material from Swedish excavations in the Mediterranean region, in particular the Swedish Cyprus expedition of 1927–1931. It also contains objects collected by Swedish royalty, diplomats and travelers.

Located in central Stockholm, the museum is a natural gathering place for discussions, debates and cultural experiences, often with more in-depth looks at current events in the Middle East, North Africa and Southern Europe.

The museum’s popular café and restaurant overlook Stockholms Ström, the Royal Palace and the Opera.

The Egypt exhibition is now being renovated and will open again in 2014 when the museum celebrates its 60th anniversary.
Terra-cotta figurines from the Ayia Irini sanctuary
Medelhavsmuseet
Permanent exhibitions: 1,710 m² on Cyprus through the ages, Ancient Greece and Rome, the Near East, Islamic art, the Gold Room, the Expedition and the study gallery. The Egypt exhibition is closed and will open in spring 2014.

Number of permanent exhibit pieces: 4,400

Space for temporary exhibitions: 150 m²

Gift shop, café and fully licensed restaurant.

Auditorium that seats 100 people.

For children: Creative activities, guided tours, family walkways in the exhibitions.

Located five minutes from the Central Station, Old Town Stockholm and Sergels Torg square. With evening hours several days a week, the museum and its café and wine bar are a cosmopolitan meeting place for discussion, debate and culture.

Address: Fredsgatan 2, Gustav Adolfs torg
ÖSTASIATISKA MUSEET
THE MUSEUM OF FAR EASTERN ANTIQUITIES

This museum is a natural part of Stockholm’s cultural life, centrally located on the museum island of Skeppsholmen, next door to Moderna Museet and Nationalmuseum. Few museums in Europe can match Östasiatiska’s collections from China, Korea, Japan, India and Southeast Asia. Among other things in the permanent exhibitions, visitors can discover over 5,000 years of Chinese history.

The museum is also famous for its temporary exhibitions, which primarily reflect contemporary Asian culture. Alongside the exhibitions, the museum offers extensive programs with plenty of room for debate and more in-depth examination of issues.

Johan Gunnar Andersson’s pioneering archeological discoveries in China formed the basis of the museum’s founding in 1929. Other important persons in the museum’s history are art historian Osvald Sirén and Sinologist Bernhard Karlgren, as well as King Gustaf VI Adolf, whose generous donation makes up a key part of the collections.

Designed by palace architect Nicodemus Tessin, the building was originally constructed in 1699–1704 as a stable for the horses of Charles XII’s bodyguards. Over the years it has also served as a ropewalk and an arsenal for the Navy. In 2013, Östasiatiska museet celebrates its 50th anniversary on Skeppsholmen.
Korea Gallery
In collaboration with the Korea Foundation. Architect Hwang Doojin.
Östasiatiska museet

Space for permanent exhibitions: 810 m² on the Middle Kingdom, China before China, China’s Book History, Buddhist sculpture, Chinese painting, the Southeast Asian Gallery, the Korea Gallery and Japan in objects and pictures.

Number of permanent exhibit pieces: 2,300

Space for temporary exhibitions: 405 m²
Gift shop, café and restaurant.

Auditorium that seats 100 people.

For children: Ateljé Draken – the Dragon Studio – guided tours, theme days, family walkways in the exhibitions.

Located on the island of Skeppsholmen in the heart of Stockholm, overlooking Stockholms Ström and the Royal Palace. A popular weekend activity for Stockholmers and among tourists anytime. This is also where Moderna Museet and Arkitekstmuseum (the Swedish Museum of Architecture) are located.

Address: Tyghusplan, Skeppsholmen
What does it mean to be human in a global world? At our museum in the beautiful Museum Park between the Djurgården canal and Gärdet, visitors discover new worlds and alternative lifestyles. The museum has a wide range for all visitors, including a big workshop for children.

Etnografiska museet opened in 1900, but its collections date all the way back to the natural history cabinets of the 17th century. The museum also contains much of what Linnaeus’s disciples brought home from their travels in the 18th century, as well as the results of the 19th century’s round-the-world sailing trips and Sven Hedin’s expeditions in the early 20th century. In addition, countless missionaries, diplomats and private individuals have donated objects to the collections. You can see much of this in the museum’s permanent exhibitions, particularly in the open storage (Magasinet) of over 6,000 objects.

The museum aims to maintain a green profile, and was the first in Stockholm to be heated using solar panels. Its Matmekka restaurant serves locally grown Swedish foods along with exotic cuisine in a delightful culture clash. This is also the site of the only Japanese tea house in the Nordic region. It’s a popular attraction at any time of year.
Permanent exhibitions: 2,800 m² the Storage – an Ethnographic Treasury, Native Americans, With the World in the Backpack, Japan – Image and Self-image, Who do they belong to? Art Treasures from Benin, the Story of the Dance Mask, Indigenous People in 3 Climates, the Missionary Exhibition 1907.

Number of permanent exhibit pieces: 8,000

Space for temporary exhibitions: 800 m²

Gift shop, café and fully licensed restaurant.

Auditorium that seats 150 people.

For children: Workshop, guided tours, family walkways in the exhibitions.

Along with several other museums, including Tekniska Museet (the National Museum of Science and Technology), Idrottsmuseet (the sports museum) and Sjöhistoriska Museet (the Maritime Museum), Etnografiska museet is a part of the beautiful Museiparken (museum park) in Gärdet.

Address: Djurgårdsvägen 34, Gärdet
Bergrummet is perhaps Stockholm’s most spectacular exhibition site, located in the formerly secret underground wartime headquarters of the Swedish Navy. Now, this is where the National Museums of World Culture showcases its biggest international productions. The exhibition of China’s Terracotta Army garnered more visitors than any other temporary exhibition in Sweden with over 350,000 visitors. The exhibition Inca – Gold Treasures in the Skeppsholmen Caverns attracted more than 100,000 visitors. The next big exhibition opens in the fall of 2013.

Bergrummet is right in the middle of other popular tourist attractions on Skeppsholmen in central Stockholm, with a unique view of Old Town and the Royal Palace. A café and restaurant are available aboveground, in Ostasiatiska museet. Bergrummet is a part of an extensive system of tunnels and chambers built in the 1930s as the wartime Naval headquarters. It was used for this purpose until the 1960s. Now, the hypnotic, rough stone walls are ideal for re-creating the feeling of being in the midst of the world’s biggest archeological discoveries.
Kinas terrakottaarmé / China’s Terracotta Army
Bergrunnet 2010–2011
Inka – Gold Treasures in the Skeppsholmen Caverns

Bergrummet 2011-2012

ABOUT BERGRUMMET

Space for temporary exhibitions: 1,500 m²

Gift shop.

Child friendly and accessible to the disabled.

Carved out of the bedrock right under Östasiatiska museet on the island of Skeppsholmen, which is one of Stockholm's most popular walking and cultural areas, just a few hundred meters from the Nationalmuseum and the Grand Hôtel.

Address: Batteriplan, Skeppsholmen
Sweden’s second-largest city, and the fifth-largest in the Nordic region, is right at the center of Scandinavia. The Gothenburg region is not only a vital center of industry, commerce and transportation, it is also a hub of cultural, sporting and entertainment events, not to mention big trade fairs and conventions.

Världskulturmuseet is situated on Korsvägen Street along Evenemangsstråket, the thoroughfare of events, just a stone’s throw from the Avenyn shopping street and Götaplatsen Square. Its nearest neighbors are the Swedish Exhibition and Congress Centre, the Universeum Science Discovery Center and Scandinavia’s biggest amusement park, Liseberg. It is also home to Scandinavia’s biggest hotel and some of the country’s best sports arenas, famous for big international events. These are just a few of the things that make Gothenburg one of Sweden’s most popular tourist destinations.
VÄRLDSKULTURMUSEET
THE MUSEUM OF WORLD CULTURE

Värdskulturmuseet aims to be a place for experiences, knowledge, and new insights. Exhibitions, educational activities and programs offer content that is thought-provoking and wakes visitors’ curiosity. A major focus is on interdisciplinary perspectives and meetings between a variety of art and media forms that give global perspectives on the modern day and historical times as well.

The museum has been described as boundless because of its highly advanced architectural design with a four-story high glass atrium and the wide stairwell that is the heart of the building. In combination with all different activities, the emphasis has been to create a meeting place where everyone feels at home. The whole family can enjoy culture and good food here in an exceptional environment.

Time and again, the museum tops the city’s visitor lists and is particularly popular among young people. In 2009 Värdskulturmuseet was named Museum of the Year in Sweden. On the international level, the museum has a reputation for being pioneering ever since it opened in 2004. It has also won the Kasper Salin Prize for its architecture.

In 2013 and 2014, the museum will take the next great step in its development through a sweeping project aiming to make a large part of the collections accessible to the public in open storages, thematic exhibitions and installations to help create a world-class museum experience.
Drömmens syster / Sister of Dreams
Världskulturmuseum 2004–2008

Jordlingar / Earthlings
Världskulturmuseum 2009
Exhibition area: 3,432 m²

Number of permanently exhibited items: 1,400

In 2013–2015, large parts of the collections will be made available to the public.

Gift shop, café and restaurant.

For children: Jordlingar / Earthlings

On Korsvägen right next to Liseberg, Universeum and the Swedish Exhibition and Congress Centre.

Besöksadress: Södra Vägen 54
Exhibitions
**A SELECTION OF EXHIBITIONS FROM 2001 ON**

**A DAY IN THE WORLD**
A giant photography project was held on Tuesday, May 15, 2012, in which everyone in the entire world was invited to participate. A unique document of a single day in our world – a world of diversity. Many of these images are on exhibit at Världskulturmuseet.

A Day in the World is displayed in collaboration with Expressions of Humankind (EOH).

Världskulturmuseet  
November 10, 2012–May 26, 2013

**MAGASINET – THE STORAGE**
It’s easy to get lost among all the tinder pouches, monkey traps and poison arrows. Magasinet features 6,000 fascinating objects from all corners of the world. By opening Magasinet, we’re opening the door to the wonderful diversity and magic of our collections – a treasure trove for inquisitive minds. Hundreds of objects, stories from the past and endless inspiration for the future. At Magasinet, visitors can go on their own voyage of discovery. It’s an opportunity for a freer interpretation of all that we are preserving for the good of everyone.

Etnografiska museet  
Permanent exhibition, opened in October 2012

**SECRET LOVE**
With world-famous Chinese names such as the Gao Brothers, Chi Peng, Ma Liangming and Zhang Yuan, Östasiatiska museet opened an exhibition on secret love in the fall of 2012. This is the first major contemporary art exhibition on the theme ever. Encompassing some 150 works by 27 Chinese artists, the exhibition is an outlet for issues that are sensitive in China, such as identity, norms and sexuality.

Östasiatiska museet  
September 21, 2012–March 31, 2013

Världskulturmuseet  
April 27–December 2013

**AFGHANISTAN – MITT I VÅRDELEN**
**AFGHANISTAN – IN THE MIDST OF THE WORLD**
Incalculable treasures, secret key bearers, princess graves and heroic archeologists. Items of gold, ivory, glass and bronze demonstrated exquisite craftsmanship and far-reaching influences along the Silk Road that linked Afghanistan to both East and West.

Some 250 objects from 2000 BC to the first century AD were borrowed from the National Museum of Afghanistan in Kabul. In collaboration with the British Museum and the National Geographic Society.

Etnografiska museet  
September 12, 2011–March 25, 2012

**AFGHANISTAN – MITT I VÅRDELEN**
**AFGHANISTAN – IN THE MIDST OF THE WORLD**
In this exhibition we turned our eyes to South America, to the Inca Empire and its predecessors. Incredible archeological finds of gold and silver from Peru told the tale of the ancient Indian cultures’ unique relationship to these precious metals. It was also the tale of the search for El Dorado, the country of gold, and the conquering of the Incas by the Spaniards. The formerly secret Bergrummet and the staging of the exhibition created a hypnotic environment.

Some 300 or so objects were borrowed from 15 national and private museums in Peru.

Bergrummet  
September 10, 2011–February 12, 2012

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Bergrummet  
September 10, 2011–February 12, 2012

**RISKZONER**
**RISK ZONES**
Is the earth becoming an increasingly dangerous and unsafe place to live? That was the question posed by Världskulturmuseet in its exhibition Riskzoner / Risk Zones. Thirteen internationally known artists cast a sharp, ironic spotlight on themes such as environmental destruction, faltering economies, overconsumption and undermined human rights.

Riskzoner comes from the La Caixa Foundation’s collection of contemporary art in Spain.

Världskulturmuseet  
April 29, 2011–October 31, 2011

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Världskulturmuseet  
April 29, 2011–October 31, 2011
OMÄNSKLIGT

INHUMAN

A two-part exhibition on bone collectors, eugenicists and norms in an era when the idea of racial purity took hold in society, and people were categorized and rejected in the name of science. With historical facts and personal stories, the exhibition threw a spotlight on how we in Sweden have classified and discarded people. The aim was to evoke thoughts about judgmentalism, respect for humanity and the importance of norms. Then and now. The exhibition was primarily aimed at teens and young adults. A co-production with the Living History Forum and the Swedish Exhibition Agency.

Etnografiska museet
April 14, 2010–January 9, 2011

WASTE COLLECTION

Nearly 20 million people live in Cairo. The city’s informal trash collectors, the Zabbaleen, amass around 7,000 metric tons of garbage a day. The Manshiyet Nasr district has many micro-businesses that recycle most of the waste and employ nearly 50,000 people.

The exhibition dealt with a global environmental problem—the growing mountains of refuse in the world’s big cities. It also showed how trash can be put to new uses.

A joint production with Olof Löf, University College of Arts, Crafts and Design in Stockholm.

Medelhavsmuseet
March 20–May 16, 2010

MEDEA FRÅN GEORGІEN – SKАTTER FRÅN ANTIKENS KОLCHIS

MEDEA FROM GEORGIA – TREASURES OF ANCIENT COLCHIS

Medea from Georgia was an exhibition that highlighted some of Georgia’s foremost archeological cultural treasures. The collection helped in many ways to add nuance to the western view of “Europe”, and also provided a historical background to the Georgia of today — for many a completely unknown country between the Black Sea and the Caucasus Mountains. The 150 or so objects in the exhibition spanned over 1,000 years (from about 1000 BC to 300 AD). The treasures included unique gold jewelry whose distinctive design was the direct result of a cultural encounter between Greek traders and the local Colchic population.

Borrowed from the Georgian National Museum in Tblisi, with support from the Swedish Institute.

Medelhavsmuseet
November 21, 2009–February 14, 2010
Bollywood

Fabulous dancing, grand scenery and costumes, swinging bhangra music and emotional Hindi ballads. This family-friendly exhibition gave a taste of environments and moods that still seem far from our everyday lives. Yet Bollywood is on the verge of a true global breakthrough. What will the world look like after that?

Östasiatiska museet

Världskulturmuseet
February 7, 2009–May 30, 2010

Fair Fashion

How do your clothes affect the world? How can you combine shopping with sustainable development? The Fair Fashion exhibition showed that the catwalk isn’t the only thing being walked on in the fashion industry.

Världskulturmuseet
September 20, 2007–May 12, 2008

Etnografiska museet
December 28, 2008–January 10, 2010

Take Action – 83 Ways to Change the World

Who are the people who drive a community forward? Why do people revolt? Are they heroes or vandals? People today are increasingly building new, alternative social solutions on their own, rather than putting their faith in experts and politicians. Others are confronting the establishment to break down the system. Take Action — 83 Ways to Change the World was about people who occupy land, refuse to obey orders, build armies of clowns, crochet their own Gucci bags or start their own bank. They resist and question, sometimes putting their lives on the line.

Världskulturmuseet
January 17, 2008–April 19, 2009

Etnografiska museet
February 12–August 21, 2011

Trafficking

The Trafficking exhibition placed visitors right in the middle of the ongoing global trade in human beings. Several real cases, contemporary art from different parts of the world, documentary film, photos and private objects mingled with the hard, cold facts about trade routes, markets and demand.

Partners: BalticFem, Caritas Sverige, Ecpat, Rikorganisationen Män för jämförelse, Hela människan, Forum – Foundation of Women’s Forum Sweden, the county administrative board of Västra Götaland, the Police in Västra Götaland, Prostitutionsenheten, City of Stockholm social services office, Södermalms Baptistförsamling, the Swedish Prosecution Authority, Utvecklingscentrum Stockholm.

Världskulturmuseet
September 6, 2006–March 24, 2008

Etnografiska museet
December 28, 2008–January 10, 2010

Vodou

The real-life voodoo. Poppets with pins in them, zombies and evil Hollywoodeseque characters? We cracked open the door to the reality of vodou — a source of creativity and struggle against oppression and poverty. This captivating exhibition brought out the bright and dark powers of vodou. It introduced fascinating and mysterious objects and brought visitors face-to-face with their own prejudices. The exhibition was an element of a tour of the world’s biggest collection of vodou objects.

In collaboration with Marianne Lehman and the Fondation pour la préservation, la valorisation et la production d’œuvres culturelles haïtiennes (FPVOCH).

Världskulturmuseet
September 17, 2009–January 10, 2010

Etnografiska museet
September 13, 2009–January 10, 2010

Medelhavsmuseet
April 12–August 15, 2008

12 april–15 augusti 2008

Trafficking
This exhibition put HIV/AIDS in a global perspective. Through works of art, personal tales, film, music, photos, examples of political activism and promotional material from various parts of the world, visitors got a broad emotional understanding of the disease. Encountering people’s enormous will to survive inspired hope and a desire to make a difference.

**Världskulturmuseet**
December 27, 2004–June 18, 2006

**JAPANSK TATUERINGSKONST AV MÄSTAREN HORIYOSHI III**

**JAPANESE TATTOO ART BY HORIYOSHI III**

Horiyoshi III (Yoshihito Nakano) is a contemporary master tattoo artist from Yokohama. The exhibition consisted of Juan Puente’s brand-new photographs of his tattoos. The pictures were shown alongside Östasiatiska museet’s own objects.

Horiyoshi III’s motifs include dragons, tigers, peonies, carp and historical figures. Like the master tattoo artists before him, he is inspired by woodcarvings and other works of art. This was the first time that photographs of tattoos were shown together with the artistic and everyday objects that inspired them.

Loaned from La Fundación Cisneros.

**Världskulturmuseet**
December 28, 2004–November 1, 2008

**LIÚYINGYUAN – DE FLYTTANDE SKUGGORNAS TRÄDGÅRD**

**LIÚYINGYUAN – THE GARDEN OF FLOATING SHADOWS**

Surrounded by high walls, protected from damaging winds and curious gazes, the Chinese garden was like a little universe all of its own. The museum’s garden contained a pond with a bridge, typical Chinese stones and plants, a surrounding wall and a pavilion – whose characteristic silhouette was visible throughout the city.

The Chinese garden reflects the dualism between the cosmic powers of yin and yang, which are so central to Chinese thinking. The goal of the Chinese garden at Östasiatiska museet was to remind viewers that the history of the garden is an equally important part of our global heritage as more durable relics.

In collaboration with Suzhou Taihu Classical Garden Construction Ltd. and the Suzhou Institute of Landscape and Architectural Design.

**Östasiatiska museet**
June 6, 2008–September 14, 2008

**DRÖMMENS SYSTER**

**SISTER OF DREAMS**

About the borderland between life and death, and the origin of everything. The exhibition took visitors on a journey along the Orinoco River in Venezuela. Along the way they met the peoples of the Orinoco and their possessions, dreams and myths. In this exhibition we chose to focus on a young audience. The challenge was not only to show exotic objects from lost or fading societies, it was to invite visitors to discover the connections between the objects, the people who made them and the belief systems the objects reflect.

Loaned from La Fundación Cisneros.

**Världskulturmuseet**

**FRED WILSON – SITE UNSEEN: DWELLINGS OF THE DEMONS**

Museum collections are an endless source of knowledge about people, eras and cultures. Each new generation has the opportunity to question and interpret a collection through the filter of their own era. In the past few decades, artist Fred Wilson’s installations of museum pieces have become widely known for their incisive revelations of hidden intentions and lost meanings in the museums’ traditions.

For the grand opening of Världskulturmuseet, we asked him to come and give his perspective on our collections.

**Världskulturmuseet**
December 27, 2004–June 18, 2006

**HORIZONTER – RÖSTER FRÅN ETT GLOBALT AFRIKA**

**HORIZONS – VOICES FROM GLOBAL AFRICA**

This exhibition told many stories related to Africa – as a continent, as a concept and as a cultural identity. Voices of the present and the past, combined with over 800 exhibit pieces, opened some of the horizons of the globalized world. The life stories, art, objects and music of women and men painted a picture of how to survive and how to live. About love, joy and hope. About oppression, violence and resistance.

In collaboration with the EQUAL Community Initiative, funded by the European Social fund, as a part of the European employment strategy.

**Världskulturmuseet**
December 27, 2004–June 14, 2007
Sweden and the world are inundated with Japanese comics—manga. Suddenly our children and teenagers are easily reading books from right to left. There is manga about just about every topic you can think of in Japan, and the exhibition showed a variety of types, from shonen manga (boys’ manga) and shojo manga (girls’ manga) to types rarely seen in Sweden, such as gekiga (realistic manga) and gurumé manga (gourmet manga—manga about food).

The exhibition also showed the background of modern-day manga, including Japanese woodcarvings from the 18th and 19th centuries by artists such as Hokusai, Kuniyoshi and Hiroshige. Influences from these artists are clearly visible in the caricatures, the graphic storytelling, the text in the images and the steep perspectives.

Loaned from the National Museum in Krakow.

Östasiatiska museet
September 4, 2004–January 9, 2005

The Greek colony of Taranto and the rich finds from excavations of its burial grounds, including Greek ceramic, terracotta figurines and gold jewelry from the centuries before Christ, told a riveting tale of the Greek colonization of Southern Italy. The exhibition focused particularly on cultural encounters as an important phenomenon in the history of Western Europe.

Loan of 100 objects from the National Archaeological Museum of Taranto.

Medelhavsmuseet
October 31, 2001–January 27, 2002

This exhibition consisted of unique archeological material that highlighted the great cultural wealth of Romania over thousands of years. Featuring some 200 objects, including the unique Pietroasele treasure, the collection brought to light cultural traces left behind by various peoples in graves, settlements and buried treasures. All this emphasizes the importance of Romania to European cultural development. The museum received the Emil Condurachi award from the Romanian Ministry of Culture and National Heritage for the exhibition.

Borrowed from the National Museum in Bucharest and several local museums in Romania.

Medelhavsmuseet
October 2, 2004–February 27, 2005

This exhibition consisted of unique archeological material that highlighted the great cultural wealth of Romania over thousands of years. Featuring some 200 objects, including the unique Pietroasele treasure, the collection brought to light cultural traces left behind by various peoples in graves, settlements and buried treasures. All this emphasizes the importance of Romania to European cultural development. The museum received the Emil Condurachi award from the Romanian Ministry of Culture and National Heritage for the exhibition.

Borrowed from the National Museum in Bucharest and several local museums in Romania.

Medelhavsmuseet
October 2, 2004–February 27, 2005
WHAT’S ON NOW

EGYPEN UNDER 7 000 ÅR
7,000 YEARS OF EGYPTIAN HISTORY

The new permanent Egypt exhibition at Medelhavsmuseet gives new perspectives on the country’s ancient history. Archeological finds, photographs and films guide the visitor through millennia in an inspiring, thought-provoking exhibition focused on people. Thousands of objects from the museum’s collection illustrate various aspects of Egyptian society, from royal ideology and the formation of the state to daily life in the homes and the fields of the Nile River Valley.

In the underground burial chamber, where the museum’s mummies are on display, visitors can learn about ancient Egyptians’ perceptions of the kingdom of the dead and their hopes for eternal life.

Medelhavsmuseet is the first museum to accentuate the continuity of Egypt’s history and culture. We move from prehistory through the age of the pharaohs to early Christianity, the arrival of Islam in North Africa and further into the middle ages, when Cairo was the biggest city in the Mediterranean region and a leading center of crafts and commerce.

AFRIKANSKA MÄSTERVERK I BERGRUMMET
AFRICAN MASTERPIECES IN THE SKEPPSHOLMEN CAVERNS

In autumn 2013 we show off some of the world’s perhaps least well-known, but most sophisticated antique works of art in Bergrummet. Over 100 bronze and terracotta sculptures from the 9th to the 15th century tell the story of the Ife civilization in what is now Nigeria.

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50-ÅRSJUBILEUM!
50TH ANNIVERSARY!

Östasiatiska museet celebrates 50 years on Skeppsholmen with two anniversary exhibitions

KRIGBRÖTTNINGEN OCH KINAS BRONSSLÄR
THE WARRIOR QUEEN AND THE BRONZE AGE OF CHINA

The centerpiece of this story is the mysterious warrior queen Fu Hao, whose burial site revealed a fascinating life. She served as a general in the Shang Dynasty Army in many battles. Exquisite world-class bronze objects tell the tale of this warlike dynasty, its battle techniques, rituals and ancestor worship. In a unique collaboration with the Henan province, the National Museums of World Culture presents the story of China’s first dynasties.

KUNGENS GÅV
KING GUSTAF VI ADOLF’S GIFT

The gift of King Gustaf VI Adolf to the people of Sweden plays a key role in the museum’s collections. The many incredible objects are the focus, but visitors also get to know the king as a collector and connoisseur of Chinese and Asian art, and learn about the role he played as a driving force in Sweden’s relations with and interest in Asia.

VKM 2015

Since it opened in 2004, Världskulturmuseet has been one of Gothenburg’s most popular museums and was named Museum of the Year in 2009. The period 2013 to 2015 will see the next big step in the museum’s development – VKM 2015. The ambition is to open up large parts of the collections to the general public and create a new, expansive, world-class museum experience.

The experience will begin before visitors even enter the museum, once inside they should feel embraced by the museum experience, whether going to an exhibition or a concert, or just spending time in Gothenburg’s international living room. VKM 2015 is the National Museums of World Culture’s major initiative of the coming years.

DIGITAL OFFERINGS FOR CHILDREN

As part of our strategy for children and adolescents, we are currently developing a digital offering that will stimulate children’s interest in the world’s cultures, both historical and modern, in a playful, engaging way.

The aim is to reach out to the entire country with this offering, since it will not be dependent on a physical visit to Stockholm or Gothenburg.
Children’s activities
Östasiatiska museet

“Heaven Lake” on Mount Baekdu San
Photo archive of the National Museums of World Culture
Gaza – Porten mot havet / Gaza – Gateway to the Sea
Medelhavsmuseet 2011
Johan Gunnar Andersson and Crown Prince Gustaf Adolf
From Isaksson, ed. Kungen gräver

A Day in the World
Världskulturmuseet 2012–2013
Secret Love
Östasiatiska museet 2012–2013
Världskulturmuseet 2013

Magasinet – en etnografisk skatthamnare / The Storage - an Ethnographic Treasury
Etnografiska museet 2012
Organization
The Swedish National Museums of World Culture operates Världskultur museet in Gothenburg and Etnografiska museet, Östasiatiska museet and Medelhavsmuseet in Stockholm. The agency also runs temporary exhibitions in Bergrummet on Skeppsholmen in Stockholm.

Its core operations are organized in three departments: Exhibitions, Museum Environment, and Research and Collections. In addition to this, the agency provides supporting staff in several areas.
Research in the Swedish Cyprus collections. With the support of the A G Leventis Foundation, Riksbankens Jubileumsfond and the Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities.

Curator Hans-Peter Hedlund cleans and preserves a sarcophagus at Medelhavsmuseet.

RESEARCH AND COLLECTIONS

The Research and Collections department has two primary tasks: maintaining, listing, processing and developing the collections, and working to enhance research-based knowledge in collaboration with universities and other seats of higher learning. This department is active at all levels of the agency and contributes to developing the content of the exhibitions, programs and educational activities in Stockholm and Gothenburg.

EXHIBITIONS

The job of the Exhibitions department is to showcase and bring to life the cultures of the world and make collections throughout the agency available to the general public by holding exhibitions in Gothenburg and Stockholm.
**SUPPORTING STAFF**

The core operations and the director general are assisted by the following units to help manage, support and promote the departments. The supporting staff work at all levels of the agency.

- Office (staff, finance, administration, IT)
- Communication & Marketing
- Property & Security
- HR Management
- Public Relations

**MUSEUM ENVIRONMENT**

The Museum Environment department is tasked with making the collections accessible to the public and pursuing educational activities, programs and other outreach activities. Another job is to promote and enrich social debate in its field of operations. The department is active at all the museums in Gothenburg and Stockholm.
The National Museums of World Culture currently presides over more than 460,000 objects. Most of them come from places outside the region that is now Sweden. Some came here as early as the 17th century, but most of the objects have arrived in the past 250 years.

The collections consist of material from archeological digs and contain objects that are thousands of years old. Our oldest object is about 80,000 years old, while the newest are from our own era. Many of the objects are from living communities and are vital expressions of identity for whole groups of people.

The National Museums of World Culture also possess extensive photographic collections, totaling around a million photos. Another vital resource is our four special libraries, which focus primarily on anthropology, archeology, ethnography, history, art, museology, religion and sociology. The library at Östasiatiska museet has an extensive range of titles in Chinese, Japanese and Korean.
We at the National Museums of World Culture work with many countries around the world in our daily work and also in more specific contexts. It is a key part of our mission and a natural reflection of the international character of our collections. The creation of our new permanent galleries of collections from Korea and Cyprus could not have been achieved without the aid of the Korea Foundation and the A.G. Leventis Foundation. The latter is also co-funding, along with Riksbankens Jubileumsfond and the Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities, a major three-year archeological research project about the Cyprus collections. Nearly all of our temporary exhibitions and many program activities are the result of close collaboration with experts, museums, institutions and ministries around the world, and we recently began a 5-year collaboration with China’s Henan province. The network of museums in the Mediterranean region (MEDMUS) and the Asia–Europe Museum Network (ASEMUS), which we initiated, provide us with valuable opportunities for continuous exchange of experiences and joint projects. ASEMUS alone embraces around 100 museums in Europe and Asia, and in collaboration with ethnographic museums around Europe we produced a traveling exhibition, Fetish Modernity, which will be on exhibit at Etnografiska museet in the fall of 2013. Etnografiska also recently hosted the exhibition Stories of the Mekong River, which is the result of a 5-year aid project, funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, SIDA, which we conducted with museums in Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam. We are also the contact point for the Anna Lindh Foundation’s Swedish network.
VISITOR FIGURES AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUMS OF WORLD CULTURE, 1999–2012

456 %

Increase in the number of visitors from the start in 1999 until 2011

VISITORS TO THE WEBSITE

SCHOOL VISITS TO THE NATIONAL MUSEUMS OF WORLD CULTURE IN 1999–2012

DIGITIZATION

162,425 of 463,120 objects are digitized

Number of objects in the collections in 2012

* the 2012 figures are estimates
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Published by the National Museums of World Culture
Box 5306, 402 27 Gothenburg, Sweden
info@vardskulturmuseerna.se
www.vardskulturmuseerna.se
Orgno. 203100-5075
Responsible under Swedish law: Sanne Houby-Nielsen
Graphic design: Smith reklambyrå
Printed by: Vitt grafiska (Certifierade enligt ISO 14001)
Box with decoration on lid of two phoenixes against a background of various flowers, including chrysanthemum, rose, hibiscus, peony and camellia. Red carved lacquer. Ming, early 15th C (Xuande mark over Yongle mark).