

BUNDESKUNSTHALLE

Media Information

MARK DION. DELIRIOUS TOYS

8 September 2024 to 9 February 2025

The US-American artist Mark Dion presents a work of art made from objects from the toy collection of the Stadtmuseum Berlin, first shown at the Museum Nikolaikirche in Berlin. His installations not only transcend space and time with hundreds of exhibits, but also take a critical look at children's toys themselves.

For the exhibition, Mark Dion spent months researching in the collection of around 70,000 objects at the Stadtmuseum Berlin, one of the largest in Germany. On this basis, he created a kind of labyrinth of board games, a pyramid of animals, a circuit with an imaginary race between vehicles of all kinds and other installations. A doll's cave, a war landscape and a "poison cabinet" with borderline and cross-border toys can also be seen in the exhibition.

Mark Dion has been working intensively since the late 1980s with the question of how knowledge is generated and passed on in museums, always with a keen eye for systems of exploitation and oppression. After all, toys, which are usually designed by adults for children always convey ideas about people and their world. In dealing with toys, children practise certain role models, and through toys they are themes or ideologies to them.

The project is flanked by the newly developed ELLAH-Lab, which integrates artistic engagement and creative learning into a visit to the Bundeskunsthalle for young and old alike.

An exhibition by the Stiftung Stadtmuseum Berlin in cooperation with the Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany.

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