

Press Release

HIDDEN TREASURES FROM THE COLLECTION FOURTH PRESENTATION

Since November last year the Collection Oskar Reinhart 'Am Römerholz' has been showing works of art from its permanent inventory that, despite their unquestionable quality, have not been on show to the public for a considerable time. The reasons for this absence are partly of a conservational nature and partly due to the limited available space. This separate individual presentation allows members of the public to take their time to contemplate these otherwise hidden gems. Accompanied by additional events such as discussions and special guided tours, these artworks will be explained and discussed from all perspectives. Representatives of many different professions will be invited, allowing the discourse to extend far beyond the usual core area of expertise in art history.

Our fourth presentation is focusing on a work of textile art – a tapestry from one of the city of Tournai's leading workshops, *A wild woman and a wild man holding a coat of arms*, which dates back to the last quarter of the 15th century. Even today, it has not been possible to assign this richly decorated coat of arms to a specific family, however there are many indications that its original owner was a knight. That said, here the coat of arms is held not by the usual heraldic beasts such as lions and griffins but by a wild couple. Barefoot and swathed in furs from head to foot, these mythical natural creatures stand for a liberated and aggressive existence, driven by instincts and far removed from the conventions of society. They represent not only the intimidating, untamed wildness of nature but also that feeling of longing engendered by a world governed by the rules and regulations of society. This tapestry fragment was once part of a larger ensemble and was probably created to mark the occasion of a marriage, particularly since other pieces bear the woman's combined coat of arms. In contrast with the wild couple, a real married couple is also portrayed in their coat of arms.

Exhibition duration: August 31 – November 12, 2017

Opening: Wednesday August 30, 2017, 6:30 p.m. with Kerstin Richter, Director of the Collection



Tournai (?), *Wild Woman and Wild Man bearing a Coat of Arms*, last quarter 15th century
Tapestry weave, fragment, 117 x 112.5 cm
The Oskar Reinhart Collection 'Am Römerholz', Winterthur



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA
Federal Office of Culture FOC