

**Call for applications for two fellowships on occasion of the anniversary of the
Landesmuseum für Kunst & Kultur Oldenburg
(State Museum of Art & Culture Oldenburg)**

A Fresh View at the Collections

The year 2023 marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Landesmuseum Kunst & Kultur Oldenburg. The Hanse-Wissenschaftskolleg – Institute for Advanced Study (HWK) in Delmenhorst, a long-standing cooperation partner of the museum, is taking this opportunity to announce, jointly with the museum, two fellowships.

Background:

The Landesmuseum has extensive collections of cultural and artistic artifacts. The presentation of such artifacts inevitably always takes place against the background of cultural, aesthetic, scientific-theoretical, and political intentions—whether consciously or not. The desire for political representation, habits, customs, or supposedly self-evident meanings can all play a role in the way artifacts and works of art are exhibited. Consequently, no selection is value-free, nor does it usually strive to be. It usually draws its appeal at least in part from its choice of perspective. This appeal might be further enhanced if these aspects were to be better understood and reflected upon without judgment.

In 2023, the Landesmuseum would take up a special curatorial project. Its underlying hypothesis is that curatorial practice, as cultivated at European museums, is based at least in part on known, or (possibly consciously) unknown, historically evolved traditions. The aim of the project is to reconsider and reinvestigate these traditions, insofar as they are scientifically observable and documentable, from fresh perspectives rooted in the humanities as well as in the curatorial praxis, and to bring these perspectives into dialogue. The historical dimension of mutual inspiration of such curatorial perspectives, for example, where collection and selection have already led to encounter and exchange, may also be taken into account. The project is based on the expectation that members of other cultural spheres may assist European curators and viewers of art in becoming aware of these traditions and regaining a fresh view at the collections of the museum.

Fellowships:

Jointly with the Hanse-Wissenschaftskolleg (HWK), the Landesmuseum invites two “travelers in the arts” from different cultural backgrounds to explore the collections, with the aim of contrasting Western-influenced curatorial practices and traditional usages of presentation and object selection other points of view. To this end, the Landesmuseum will make accessible the artifacts in the permanent exhibitions as well as its archives. Ideally, seeing, marveling, and discovering these anew in such a way will result in a cabinet exhibition, likely to be on view in 2024, that gathers the artifacts “discovered” by the fellows into a new “Wunderkammer”: “For there may be a recoil from the traveler to what he sees that shakes what he has seen”¹ (our translation).

To this end, two fellows will be invited to the HWK for stays of up to four months each. The fellows should have a background in the humanities, cultural studies, or the arts, or be artists with a pronounced scholarly interest, one of whom from a Western European cultural background and the other from a different one. They will be invited to “perceive and discover the artifacts of European cultural history as curiosities in the same way that European chambers of art and curiosities once inspired awe and wonder about the world.”

The funding consists of individual support in the form of stipends, subject to individual agreement of the HWK with the fellow; the maximum amount for fellowship stipends is 2.500 €/month. Alternative forms of compensation (e.g., through salary compensation) are possible and require individual agreement. Fellowships include rent-free housing on the campus of the Hanse-Wissenschaftskolleg for the duration of the Fellowship. Residence is mandatory.

Fellows' Responsibilities:

The call for proposals aims to award both fellowships to individuals who ideally pursue different scholarly or artistic approaches to the collections and bring their approaches into fruitful dialogue—possibly a controversial one. The dialogue of perspectives should be reflected, for example, in the exhibition design, which is to be carried out jointly by both fellows. The joint presentation ideally helps in perceiving the different perspectives as a benevolent conversation in the spirit of an “adversarial collaboration”² and to avoid the reproduction of stereotypes. Attributions

¹ *Die Ästhetik des Diversen : Versuch über den Exotismus* : traduction d’Uli Wittmann, Frankfurt am Main, Qumram, 1994, p. 35.

² Cf. Penn Arts & Sciences Adversarial Collaboration Project:
<https://web.sas.upenn.edu/adcollabproject/>

characteristics or qualities based on group-related characteristics are to be avoided and the exchange is to take place on a scientific basis and in a humanistic spirit.

Conversation will be sought among the two fellows as well as with museum staff facilitating the implementation of the curatorial approach, as well as with other fellows of the HWK. Additionally, a dialogue with the public and outreach opportunities may be facilitated.

Application and selection:

Complete applications (see the following paragraph on application documents) should be sent to the Hanse-Wissenschaftskolleg. The **deadline for applications is June 17, 2023**. The selection will be made jointly by the Hanse-Wissenschaftskolleg, its Artistic Advisory Board, and the State Museum of Art and Cultural History. It is planned to inform the applicants about the result of their applications by August 1, 2023.

Application documents

Applications can be submitted in English or German.

Applications must be sent by e-mail; they consist of the following documents (to be sent in a single e-mail as separate pdf-files).

- Completed [application form](#), including an abstract of the proposed work (maximum 1500 characters including spaces)
- Personal cover letter to the Rector of the HWK stating the motivation for the application (with signature)
- Project description (maximum 5 DIN A 4 pages)
- Resume
- Scientists: complete list of publications
- Artists: complete catalog of works and list of all individual and group exhibitions
- Two letters of recommendation to be sent directly by the authors to arts@hanse-ias.de (pdf-files with full address).

Application address: arts@hanse-ias.de