

Forthcoming exhibition at the MEG

Environmental Injustice Indigenous Peoples' Alternatives

24 September 2021 to 21 August 2022

Musée d'ethnographie de Genève
www.meg-geneve.ch

The MEG presents its next major exhibition entitled “Environmental Injustice – Indigenous Peoples' Alternatives”. The theme treated is the climate emergency, one of the major issues of our times, and the exhibition presents the perspectives, knowledge and know-how used by Indigenous Peoples to deal with the damage to their lands accelerated by changes in climate.

The Ts'myen of Alaska, the Amazigh of Morocco, the Anishinaabeg of the United States and Canada, the Sami of Fenno-Scandinavia, the Māori of New Zealand, the Maasai of Kenya and Tanzania, the Ainu of Japan, the Islanders of the Marshall Islands, the Kalina of Guyana, all over the world nearly 500 million Indigenous Peoples are defending their rights in the face of the environmental injustice threatening their economies, health and cultures.

Indigenous Peoples are particularly vulnerable because of their close dependence on the natural environment for their culture, health and means of subsistence. These communities have an important role to play in the search for alternatives, thanks to their ancestral knowledge and know-how which are proving especially effective in the protection of biodiversity, soil, water and ecosystems.

The “Environmental Injustice – Indigenous Peoples' Alternatives” exhibition invites these women and men anxious to assert their collective rights to control their lands to make their voices heard. Focused on the political, geographic and social situation of Indigenous Peoples in today's world, it shows how they propose to alter the relationship to ecosystems in order to cope with the environmental damage accelerated by climate change. The exhibition presents the manner in which these communities are responding to these issues through an ethics of care and a culture of repair and reveals the way in which these peoples use their fundamental rights to resist environmental injustice, protect their lands and pass on their knowledge to younger generations.

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Through biographies and video testimonies, and using artistic installations and specific case studies, the exhibition takes us from Alaska to Micronesia via Malaysia, Japan or Morocco. Five Indigenous artists, researchers and activists from the United States, Guyana and Norway have been invited to create works specifically for the MEG. David R. Boxley, Gavin Hudson, Kandi McGilton, Ti'iwan Couchili and Mâret Anne Sara take a thoughtful look at their lands, histories and communities and question the relationship we have with our ecosystems. Many other artists, as well as institutions in Switzerland and abroad, have also loaned contemporary creations from Canada, the United States, the Marshall Islands and Australia.

"This exhibition presents the ways in which Indigenous People's knowledge and know-how can be used to protect the environment. The MEG gives the voice to women and men who demonstrate to us that another relationship with our planet is possible provided that their fundamental rights are respected", explains Carine Ayélé Durand, the chief curator and exhibition curator.

The "Environmental Injustice – Indigenous Peoples' Alternatives" exhibition is intended to be a space in which we can listen to the voice of Indigenous Peoples and with them weave a common future, one based on the values of care, protection, repair, respect and responsibility for our environment.

Environmental Injustice – Indigenous Peoples' Alternatives

From 24 September 2021 to 21 August 2022

Curator: Carine Ayélé Durand

Project Director: Philippe Mathez

Concept Team: Julian Burger, Roberta Colombo Dougoud, Chantal Courtois, Alessia Fondrini, Patricia Guisado, Damien Kunik, Lucie Monot, Johnathan Watts

Advisory Committee: Lounes Belkacem, Andrea Carmen, Myrna Cunningham, Jennifer P. Linggi

EXHIBITION VISUALS



- [1] Titunkai (Deforestation) – detail**
 by Ti'iwan Couchili (1972-)
 Teko-Wayana
 Guyana
 2020
 Amaranth wood, natural coloured pigments
 Made in 2020 for the exhibition
 MEG ETHAM 068757
 ©MEG, Johnathan Watts



- [5] Gwe'elm hats'ald Octopus Bag**
 by Mangyepsa Gyipaayg – Kandi McGilton (1985-)
 Ts'msyen
 United States, Alaska
 2020
 Wool, cotton, glass beads
 Made in 2020 for the exhibition
 MEG Inv. ETHAM 068769
 ©Kandi McGilton



- [2] Sculpture kenyalang featuring the hornbill**
 Iban (Dayak)
 Malaysia, Sarawak
 20th century
 Wood, pigments, plant fibres, metal
 Gift of Marcolino Gomes Candau in 1965
 MEG Inv. ETHAS 032955
 ©MEG, Johnathan Watts



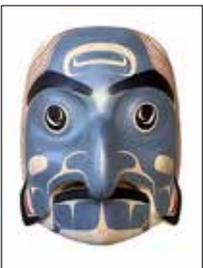
- [6] The Water Carries Her, She Carries the Water**
 by Elizabeth LaPensée (1984-)
 Anishinaabe
 United States, Minnesota
 2016
 Digital design
 With kind permission of the artist
 ©Elizabeth LaPensée



- [3] Calabash**
 West Africa, Senegal ?
 Brought or made by one of the extras at the Black Village of the Swiss National Exhibition in Geneva, in 1896
 19th century
 Gourd, plant fibres
 Acquired from the Office des poursuites genevois in 1896
 MEG Inv. ETHAF K002275
 ©MEG, Johnathan Watts



- [7] Land Water**
 by Margaret Orr (1962-)
 Cree
 Canada, Quebec
 Eeyou Istchee, Chisasibi
 2018
 Acrylic and oil on canvas
 With kind permission of the artist
 ©Margaret Orr



- [4] Amiilgm Sm'ooygit Hoon Salmon Mask**
 by Gyibaawm Laxha – David R. Boxley (1981-)
 Ts'msyen
 United States, Alaska
 2020
 Alder wood, acrylic paint
 Made in 2020 for the exhibition
 MEG Inv. ETHAM 068762
 ©David R. Boxley



- [8] Act Now**
 Photograph taken during the student demonstration against climate warming
 Switzerland, Geneva
 2019
 Modern print
 ©MEG, Johnathan Watts

The images are available
 in high definition on:
www.ville-ge.ch/meg/presse.php

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

MEG

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Open from Tuesday to Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Closed on Mondays, 25 December and 1 January

Public transport access by bus 1, 2, 19 and 35 or tram 12, 15, 17 and 18

Permanent exhibition: free admission

Temporary exhibition: 9/6 CHF

Free admission for under 18s as well as on the first Sunday of the month.

Audio guides are available at the Museum reception desk.

The "ExpoClimat" mobile application can be downloaded on App Store or Google Play

Information:

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MEG Café is open from Tuesday to Sunday, from 9.30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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**Winner of the 2017
European Museum
of the Year Award**

MEG at a glance

MEG (Musée d'ethnographie de Genève) is a public institution, founded in 1901, whose first director was the Genevan anthropologist Eugène Pittard (1867-1962). The Museum's mission is to care for and enhance, together with the bearers of the cultures concerned, objects designed and used by people throughout the history of the world. It houses a collection of more than 70,000 objects and its library contains more than 60,000 documents on the peoples of the world. The Museum possesses a unique collection of musical recordings, the Archives internationales de musique populaire (AIMP), containing more than 20,000 hours of music including the collection gathered by Constantin Brăiloiu between 1944 and 1958. With more than 3,000 hours of historic recordings, this constitutes the core of the collection. Admission to the permanent collection, which presents more than a thousand objects from the five continents, is free. Along with its permanent collection and temporary exhibitions, MEG offers a programme of cultural and scientific mediation, concerts, film and lecture cycles as well as shows. Since November 2014, the MEG's collections have been shown to advantage in a new building designed by the Zurich firm Graber Pulver Architekten AG on the site it has occupied since 1941.

**A museum
City of Geneva**

www.meg-geneve.ch

