

Joana

Le Château des
Valkyries

Vasconcelos



With
children's &
hands-on part
to take
out!

The booklet to the exhibition

With plenty of background
information on the art works

Event tips

on page 39 | #jointgenerations

Site plans & information

on the exhibition and objects

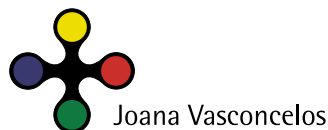
Landesmuseum
Schleswig-Holstein

Kultur des Nordens.

With friendly support



ZEIT
STIFTUNG
BUCERIUS



rocheboboib
PARIS

unter der Schirmherrschaft
BOTSCHAFT.
CULTURA
HERITAGE



PROVINZIAL



Die Sparkassen sind Partner der
Stiftung Schleswig-Holsteinische Landesmuseen
Schloss Gottorf



zdfkultur
partner

NDRkultur



IMPRINT

Curators

Ulrike Biedenbänder
Sonja E. Nökel
Thorsten Sadowsky
Ulrich Schneider

Education and mediation

Friederike Bill
Thekla Kock

Layout and typesetting

Jürgen Schüller

Print

Saxoprint
natural paper (FSC) from
sustainable forestry

Photo credits

All illustrations of works by
Joana Vasconcelos:
VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn 2024

P. 1, 17: *Valkyrie Marina Rinaldi*, 2014,
© Anne Greuzat - Courtesy La Patinoire
Royale
P. 3, 5, 16, 20: *Valkyrie Marina Rinaldi*, 2014,
© Museu Coleção Berardo
P. 3, 5, 8, 10, 11: *Valkyrie Martha*, 2022,
© Atelier Joana Vasconcelos
P. 3, 4, 26, 32: *Jardim do Eden [Garden of
Eden]*, 2007–2024, © Agustí Torres
P. 4, 19, 29: *Marilyn (AP)*, 2011, © DMF –
Daniel Malhão Fotografia, Lisboa
P. 4, 28: *Coração Independente Vermelho
#3 (PA) [Red Independent Heart #3 (AP)]*,
2013, © Juergen Vogel - Courtesy Landes-
Museum Bonn
P. 4, 30, 31: *Valkyrie Thyra*, © Lionel Baiteiro,
Atelier Joana Vasconcelos
P. 5, 12: *Flaming Heart*, 2019–2022, © Tang
Contemporary Art

P. 5, 13, 23: *Big Booby #5*, 2019, © Atelier
Joana Vasconcelos
P. 5, 14, 21, 24: *Finisterra*, 2018, © Luís
Vasconcelos – Courtesy Atelier Joana
Vasconcelos
P. 5, 25: *Pantelmina #1*, 2001, © DMF –
Daniel Malhão Fotografia, Lisboa
P. 3, 36: *Pavillon de Thé*, 2012, © Luís Vas-
concelos – Courtesy Atelier Joana
Vasconcelos
P. 4, 34: *Ostfriesland*, 2017, © Galerie
Scheffel
P. 6: *Joana Vasconcelos Retrato*, © Arlindo
Camacho for Atelier Joana Vasconcelos
P. 18: *Valkyrie Material Girl*, © Anne Greuzat
– Courtesy La Patinoire Royale |
Microvalkyrie, © Atelier Joana Vasconcelos

© Portraits:
S. 7: Michael Staudt,
S. 24, 32: Claudia Dannenberg,
S. 31: Sonja E. Nökel,
S. 39: Melina Pötz

Illustrations
S. 1, 3, 19, 21, 22: Jürgen Schüller
S. 19, 20, 22: Nadine Harbarth,
Jürgen Schüller



10



32



16

36



4 Site plan

6 Introduction

8–12 Kreuzstall

10 Martha

12 Flaming Heart

13 Did you know ...?

14–17 Reithalle

16 Marina Rinaldi

17 Did you know ...?

23–25 Reithalle

23 Big Booby

24 Finisterra

25 Pantelmina

26–32 Castle

28 Red Independent Heart

29 Marilyn

30 Thyra

31 Did you know ...?

32 Garden of Eden

33 Did you know ...?

34–37 Ornamental Cast Iron Museum

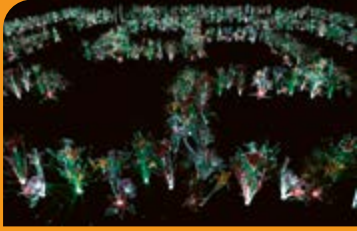
36 Ostfriesland

38 Did you know ...?

39 Event tips

CONTENTS





Castle

Schlossinsel 1
24837 Schleswig



ENTRANCE

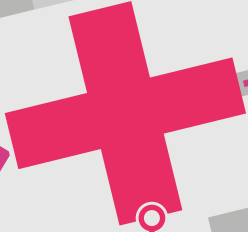


Ornamental Cast Iron Museum

Ahlmannallee 5
24782 Büdelsdorf



ENTRANCE



Reithalle

Kreuzstall

-The ticket is valid for 2 days





Joana Vasconcelos

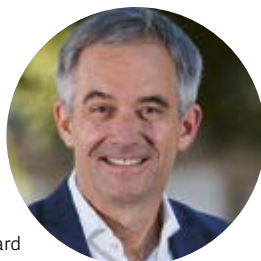
Le Château des Valkyries

Joana Vasconcelos, born in Paris in 1971, combines art, fashion and design in her work with unique persuasiveness and ease. Exhibitions at the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, the Palace of Versailles, the Uffizi in Florence and her appearances at the 2005 and 2013 Venice Biennales have made her a globally sought-after artist. She enchants audiences with her sensual works. Joana Vasconcelos, whose parents returned to Portugal from exile in France after the Carnation Revolution in 1974, sees herself as an artistic ambassador for her country. Her work is characterised by an appreciation of traditional Portuguese crafts and handicraft techniques, which she makes use of and takes out into the world. She is supported by a large team in her studio in Lisbon.

A total of eleven expansive installations, including the Valkyries *Marina Rinaldi* (2014), *Martha* (2022) and *Thyra* (2023), will be on display. Joana Vasconcelos' Valkyries are self-confident, floating creatures made of fabrics, lace, embroidery, wool, sequins, beads, feathers and LEDs that stretch their textile bodies out in all directions, taking over and occupying the spaces with gentle power.



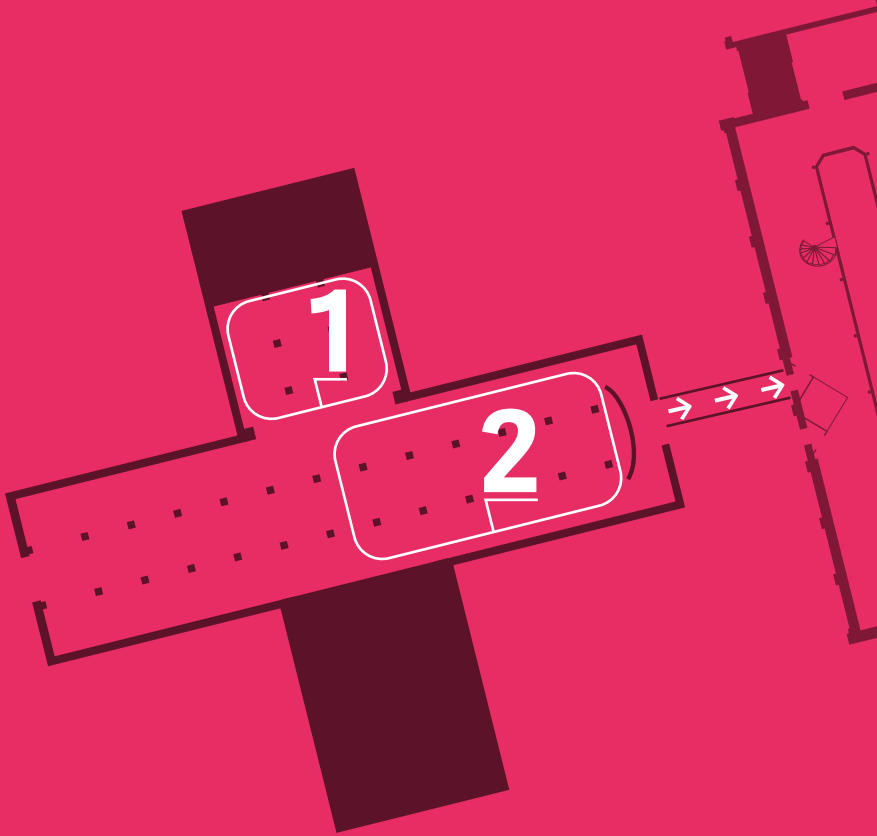
Dr. Thorsten Sadowsky
Scientific Director of the Executive Board
Director of the Museum of Art and
Cultural History





KREUZSTALL

- 1 Flaming Heart
- 2 Valkyrie Martha





Valkyrie Martha

2022-2024

Ulrich Schneider | *Martha* occupies a special position within the Valkyrie group of works, which goes far beyond visual perception, thanks to a composition and choreography written especially for her. By incorporating music and dance, the work of art is unconstrained. This becomes visible in the tentacles which establish contact between the dancers and the Valkyrie during the performance.



© Aurélien Melan



Digital dance evening

18.9., 9.10., 30.10. | Digital

register under
service@landesmuseen.sh

"I am impressed by the way
Joana Vasconcelos con-
stantly explores and playfully
transcends the boundaries
of art." Ulrich Schneider

Flaming Heart 2019-2022

Sonja E. Nökel | The oversized heart in various shades of red and purple, consists of handcrafted fabric cushions with an inflatable core. It is suspended from the ceiling with the help of tentacle-like fabric veins. The arms reach into the room and connect the heart with its surroundings. This gives the heart an ambiguous appearance: it is intended to be a human organ as well as a plant or animal shape. With the crocheted patterns, fabrics, sequins and fringes, Joana Vasconcelos aims to evoke baroque-like, sumptuous decorative elements. The richly embellished work of art is intended to allude to the purity of the heart. It stands powerfully against every temptation, no matter how enticing, and retains its unspoilt nature. The LED lights incorporated into the work, which light up to the rhythm of human heartbeats, amplify the throbbing of this imposing-looking body.

"If my flat were big enough, I would hang this flaming heart on the living room ceiling immediately." Sonja E. Nökel



Did you know ...?

... that handicraft techniques such as crochet or knitting have a long tradition in Schleswig-Holstein and Portugal?

We have compared the traditions between Portugal and Schleswig-Holstein for you:

1 handicrafts are an integral part of the cultural heritage in both regions! There is a multitude of handicraft techniques that are passed on through community meetings and within the family.

2 both regions often use traditional patterns and motifs. In Schleswig-Holstein, however, influences from Scandinavia, such as "Nordic Knitting", can be recognised, whereas Portuguese handicrafts are characterised by Arabic influences or the typical local tile patterns (azulejos).

3 both regions regularly organise markets and exhibitions where local craftspeople can present and sell their work.

4 In Schleswig-Holstein, "needle tying" or the "loop technique" are special needlework techniques. Needlebinding uses a single needle to form loops of yarn and join them together. It was traditionally used to make socks, gloves and hats and produces particularly robust results.

5 In both regions, handicrafts are characterised by high quality and detailed work requiring precise techniques which can be quite complex.

6 The filé technique is a special type of crochet in the Portuguese handicraft tradition. It is characterised by filigree and open-work patterns. This technique uses thin yarns to create airy and transparent fabrics. This technique takes its name from the Portuguese word for "wire" or "thread".

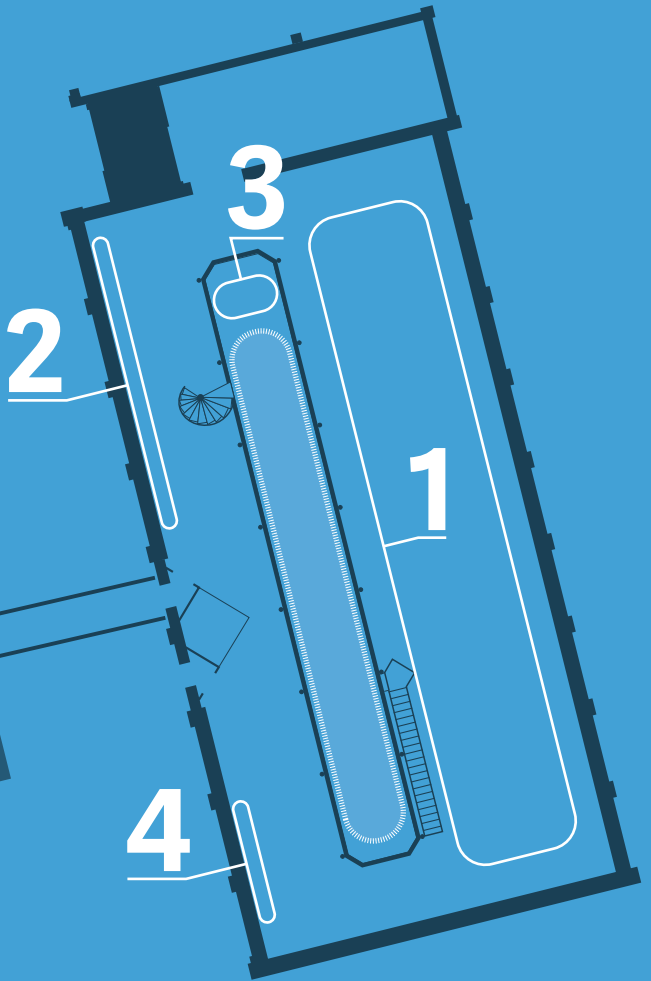


REITHALLE

- 1 Valkyrie Marina Rinaldi
- 2 Pantelmina
- 3 Big Booby
- 4 Finisterra



Hands-on station (on gallery)





Valkyrie

Marina Rinaldi 2014

Thorsten Sadowsky | This Valkyrie celebrates the Italian dressmaker Marina Rinaldi, who founded an atelier for women's fashion in the 1850s. The Italian fashion entrepreneur Achille Maramotti (1927–2005), who built up the Max Mara fashion group a century later, honoured his great-grandmother with the Marina Rinaldi design brand. It was the first high-fashion house to dress women from size 40 upwards for more than forty years, making an important contribution to the body positivity movement.



“This floating Valkyrie is of lavish, colourful elegance; pompous in appearance and created by the delicate craftsmanship of many hands. A wonderful tribute to female creativity and self-determination.” Thorsten Sadowsky

Did you know ...?

What exactly is a Valkyrie?

The term “Valkyrie”, derived from ancient Icelandic, means “to choose those who have fallen in battle”. Valkyries are figures from Scandi-

navian mythology. They are traditionally depicted as female warriors chosen by the gods, especially Odin, to collect the souls of the bravest warriors in battle and lead them to the afterlife. They are often depicted

Did you know ...?

Continue on page 18

Did you know, ...?

as beautiful but also warlike women with weapons and armour. Valkyries are therefore seen as a symbol of bravery, strength, death and fate.

You can also find Valkyries here!

- **Opera:** "Die Walküre" is the second part of Richard Wagner's four-act opera "Der Ring des Nibelungen".

- **Literature and art:** The term "Valkyrie" is sometimes used to describe strong, independent and warlike female characters.
- **Pop culture:** Here, the term is sometimes used metaphorically to describe strong, fierce women, especially those who work in professions or activities traditionally considered masculine, such as the military or the sports world.
- **Technology:** The term "Valkyrie" is also occasionally used for various products, services or projects to create an association with strength, reliability or innovation.



↑ Material Girl, 2015

Mikrovalkyrie, 2014 →



Knitting and Patching Meet-Up
more information on page 39 |
Gottorf Castle & Ornamental Cast Iron
Museum

Hello and welcome!

I'm Fredi and I live at Gottorf Castle.
Have you seen the giant shoe?
It was made by the artist
Joana Vasconcelos.

Hm, I know these pieces from
somewhere... Maybe my friend Carl
from the Ornamental Cast Iron
Museum can help me.



**Can you tell
what the shoe is
made of?**

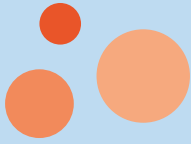
I think
Joana means that women
can not only cook at home, but
also have fun and be successful
outdoors. She named the shoe
after a famous actress:
Marilyn Monroe.

Hello Fredi!
Sure, I can help you:
These are pots and lids.
Why do you think Joana made a
shoe out of them? Does it belong
to a giant princess?

**What would you like to create
a work of art from?**

Empty white rectangular box for writing an answer.





Fredi has run out of wool. Which thread leads to Carl's ball of wool?



A number of Joana's works are made from fabric or wool. Many people work for her. Some are particularly good at knitting, others can crochet or sew. Together they assemble the colourful fabric sculptures. Joana calls a number of them Valkyries. They are often dedicated to strong women.

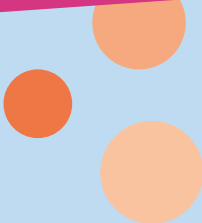


1 2 3



What are the names of the Valkyries in our exhibition?

- Martha
- Fredi
- Thyra
- Marina Rinaldi
- Joana



Come up to the gallery!
There's lots to join in with here.



Look closely:
Which work does this excerpt belong to?


Which words go with Joana's art?
Underline your favourite words!

crocheted
COSY illuminated shrill
heavy rough
funny patterned powerful
fringed quiet
courageous


Oh yes,
and I'm sure the
view is great!



Solutions: Valkyries: Martha, Thyra, Marina Rinaldi |
Ball of wool: 2 | Look closely: Finisterra.



Fredi, you really must visit me at the Ornamental Cast Iron Museum! There's a work of art by Joana that you can even go inside.



Really? I can't wait to see that ...


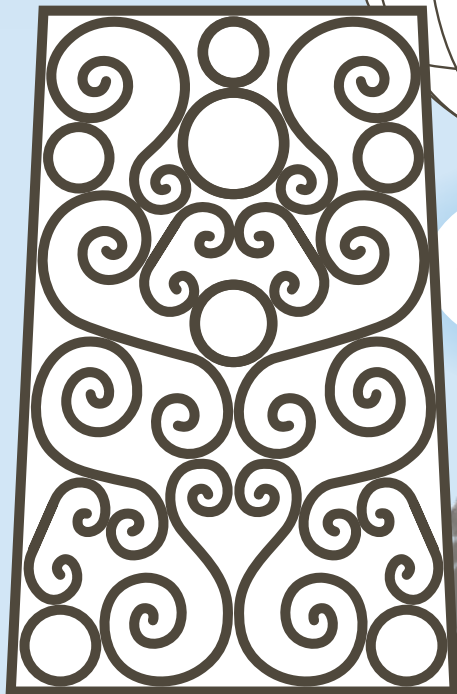
The jug consists of iron parts like a balcony lattice. They form a great pattern.

Wow, you didn't even tell me it was a teapot!

**What should your teapot look like?
Design your own pattern!**



For colouring in



The exhibition is really great, Carl.



We hope you enjoy Joana's art in our museums!

Big Booby #5

2019

Sonja E. Nökel | This prominently curved fabric body is an allusion to the female breast. Symbolically, the “big breast” is shown standing permanently upright in this work – tightened and brought into position with the help of metal hooks. *Big Booby* is intended to illustrate the social pressure imposed on women in many societies. They are expected to balance life, work and family, while looking good, with a taut body at the same time.

The crocheted pattern of *Big Booby* and the technique used are also reminiscent of an oversized oven cloth. In the artisanal tradition of Portugal, crochet work is assigned to women who made a wide variety of everyday objects for their private and domestic lives.





Finisterra 2018

Ulrike Biedenbänder | This work is one of several crochet paintings in which the boundaries between painting, sculpture and craftsmanship are exposed. Inspired by landscape painting and implemented in this traditional textile craftsmanship, crocheted mountain and valley formations overlap in a baroque frame. The three-dimensional crocheted cushions emerge from the picture frame and are intended as a playful confrontation with form, colour and texture. The title Finisterra stands for the end of the world, at the same time referring to a cape in north-west Spain. However, the actual geographical end of the European world is in Portugal, around 40 kilometres west of Lisbon, where this work was created.

“My initial impulse was a desire to snuggle up into this work.”

Ulrike Biedenbänder





Pantelmina #1

2001

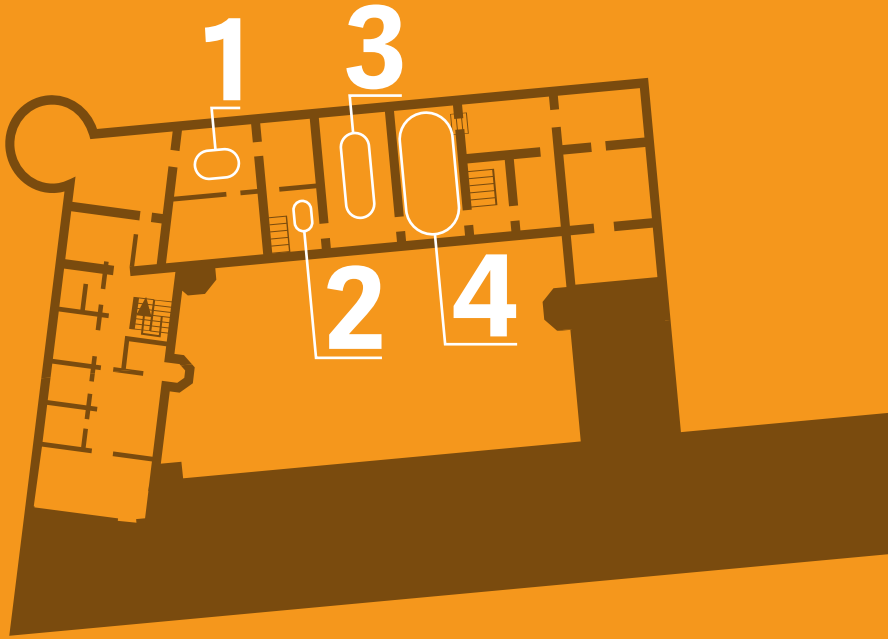
Sonja E. Nökel | With this work, Joana Vasconcelos alludes to the role of women in society and thus to the themes of motherhood, sexuality and labour. In particular, the knitting technique used by the artist is traditionally associated with women's manual labour. For a long time, this was seen as unskilled. While women's work is thus localised as domestic and private, men's work takes place in the public sphere. With *Pantelmina*, Joana Vasconcelos addresses this distinction and combines the elongated shape of the artwork with woollen knitwear, bright colours and alternating patterns. The work thus questions society's preconceived concepts of gender. The title is an allusion to the drug "Pantelmin", which is used against intestinal parasites. According to the artist, the work is a kind of alternative to minimalist sculpture and at the same time an ironic commentary on the historical subordination of women in the art world.

"When I look at the work, I would like to free the tethered snake structure from the attached clamps." Sonja E. Nökel

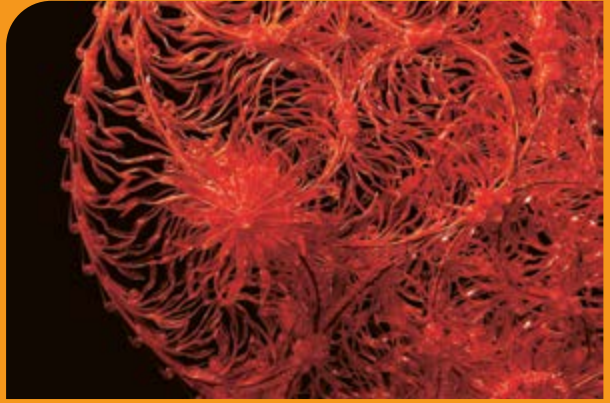


CASTLE

- 1 Red Independent Heart
- 2 Marilyn
- 3 Valkyrie Thyra
- 4 Garden of Eden



1ST UPPER FLOOR
Access via the art and culture tour



Red Independent Heart #3 (AP)

2013

Thorsten Sadowsky | *Red Independent Heart* presents a giant “Heart of Viana”, the famous symbol of the town of Viana do Castelo in northern Portugal. It is a filigree piece of jewellery that was originally a symbol of religious devotion and veneration of the heart of Jesus. In Joana Vasconcelos’ work, it is made entirely of red plastic cutlery. Suspended from a ceiling hook, the heart performs a rotating movement that evokes the cycle of life. It is accompanied by three Fado songs sung by Amália Rodrigues (1920–1999), the great diva of Portuguese music in the second half of the 20th century. Independent Heart is a powerful and emotive installation of sound, movement, plastic and artistry that tells of wealth, love and death.

Did you know ...?

AP = Artist's Proof



Marilyn (AP) 2011

Ulrike Biedenbänder | The giant pair of women's high heels, made of saucepans and saucepan lids is intended to question the role of women as housewives. Like a ready-made, an unglamorous household object is converted into a new associative space. The sexy women's shoe is an element that both empowers women in the world and restricts their movement.

The title *Marilyn* brings the invisible housewife into dialogue with the much-seen sex symbol, Marilyn Monroe (1926–1962). The title also refers to the golden era of Hollywood, in which a special form of elegance and attractiveness was exhibited on the big stage. With this work, Joana Vasconcelos aims to break down stereotypes and to stimulate a complex narrative.

"Give me a saucepan in preference to a pair of high heels any day."

Ulrike Biedenbänder

By using saucepans from the Portuguese company Silampos, a direct reference to Portugal is created in this work.



Valkyrie Thyra

2023

Sonja E. Nökel | This impressive piece was originally a fabric side arm of the large *Valkyrie Miss Dior*, which was shown in the Dior show for the Autumn/Winter 2023 collection. The materials used are combined with fabrics characteristic of the Dior fashion house. At the fashion show, the models walked under the Valkyrie and were thus part of the work. Under the name *Thyra*, a side arm of *Miss Dior* was given a new identity especially for the exhibition at Gottorf Castle. In the castle chapel, she floats above the visitors to the church service. *Thyra* alludes to Denmark's first queen, Thyra Danebod (ca. 880–935), who is regarded in Danish national romanticism as the initiator of the local *Danewerk* fortification system, among other things.

"This is probably the only fashion show I'm sad not to have been at ;)"

Sonja E. Nökel



“Many Valkyries consist of several independent modules so that they can be customised. This is the only way we can show *Thyra* away from *Miss Dior*.” Sonja E. Nökel



Did you know ...?

What is the Carnation Revolution?

The *Carnation Revolution* refers to the peaceful military coup on 25 April 1974 in Portugal, which ended the authoritarian dictatorship. The revolution was named after the red carnation flowers worn by the

rebels and the population. The revolution led to the introduction of a democratic government and marked the end of Portuguese colonial rule in Africa. It had far-reaching political, social and cultural impact on Portugal and its former colonies.

Did you know ...?

Continue on page 33



Garden of Eden

2007-2024

Ulrich Schneider | The *Garden of Eden* installation refers to the most elaborate flowerbed design in the Baroque garden, the broderie. From a bird's eye view, it is reminiscent of embroidery. However, where in the baroque garden cut boxwood plants circumscribe precisely outlined organic forms, the *Garden of Eden* shows a labyrinth of fluorescent flowers. The flowers are highly artificial, formed by human hands, brought only to life by artificial light.

"I am impressed by the way in which Joana Vasconcelos takes fundamental design principles of garden art and pushes them to the limits of the conceivable with her unmistakable signature." Ulrich Schneider



Did you know ...?

... that the social and political conditions for women in Portugal have improved significantly since the *Carnation Revolution* in 1974? Here are some examples of formative changes.

1974 *Carnation Revolution:*

Women play an active role in the protests and fight for political freedom and equal rights.

1976 **Equal rights** for men and

women are guaranteed in the Portuguese constitution for the first time.

1981 **Foundation of the Movimento Democrático de Mulheres (Democratic Women's Movement).**

The MDM campaigns for women's rights in various areas and plays an important role in feminist activism in Portugal.

1997 **Introduction of the Equality Law.**

2007 **Law to combat domestic violence.**

2011 The ***Conselho Nacional das Mulheres Portuguesas (Portuguese Women's Council)*** was founded to represent the interests and rights of women in Portugal and to promote policies for gender equality.

2014 A law to decriminalise abortion is fully implemented.

2015 Joana Marques Vidal is appointed **Portugal's first female Attorney General.**

2020 A law on equal pay is passed. In light of the rise in domestic violence during the COVID-19 pandemic, Portugal passes a law that strengthens measures to support and protect victims of domestic violence.



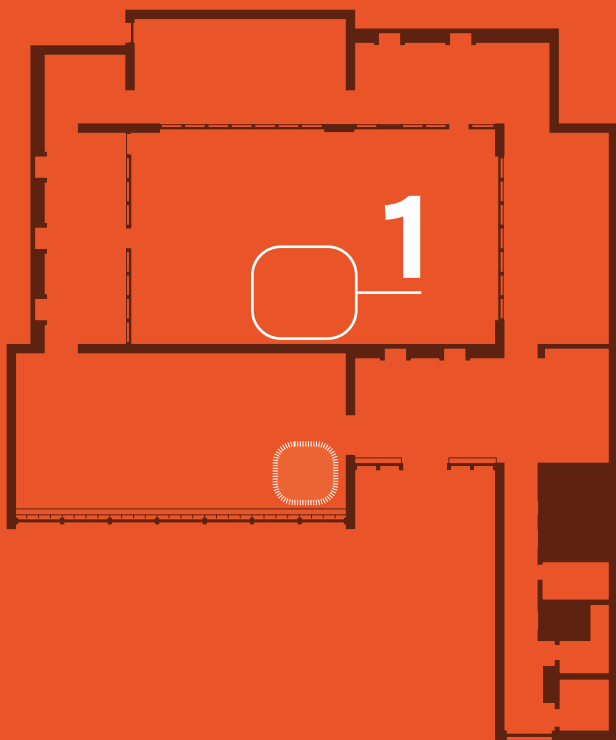


ORNAMENTAL CAST IRON MUSEUM

1 Ostfriesland (East Frisia)



Hands-on station





Ostfriesland

2017
(East Frisia)

Ulrike Biedenbänder | Both the East Frisian and Portuguese tea traditions date back to the 17th century. In both cases, tea has become a defining part of the culture. With her work *Ostfriesland* (East Frisia), Joana Vasconcelos draws attention to the regional and global importance of the historical tea trading routes and their impact to this day. This monumental, walk-in teapot made of wrought iron, is part of a series of "tea pavilions". Overgrown with jasmine plants, they become floral sculptures. The decorative design of the wrought iron lattice adopts traditional Portuguese architectural elements that can still be found in urban and rural areas today.



Té Danzante (PA), 2018, ©Tania Dolvers

"I'm curious to see how the teapot's appearance will change when the fragrant jasmine grows up during the course of the exhibition." Ulrike Biedenbänder

The teapot also pays homage to Catherine of Braganza (1638–1705), who brought tea to England through her marriage to King Charles II (1630–1685). In an allusion to Alice in Wonderland, visitors, scaled down in size, become tea leaves in the teapot.

Here, two different versions of the tea pavillions are shown. On the left is the Pavillon de Thé in Versailles and on the right you see a detail of Té Danzante.

Did you know ...?

More background information on page 38

Did you know ...?

And what about tea?

5 facts about one of the world's favourite drinks

1 The oldest tea plantation in Europe belongs to Portugal and is located in the Azores.

2 The Portuguese Princess Catherine of Braganza (1638–1705) was married to the English King Charles II in order to strengthen the relationship between their two countries. She established tea drinking in England, after beer was probably the only refreshment on offer after her arrival. Legend has it that she transported her tea in crates labelled “Transporte de **E**rvas **A**romáticas” (Transport of Aromatic Herbs). This is said to have led to the English spelling *tea* for tea.

3 With around 300 litres per capita, tea consumption in East Frisia is considerably higher than in the rest of Germany.

4 tea was and is very important to the East Frisians. Even the Prussian King Frederick II (1712–1786) failed in his attempt to ban them from consuming tea. The later Napoleonic Continental Blockade (1806–1814) was also infiltrated by the East Frisians through smuggling to ensure access to their favourite drink.

5 In addition to the strong East Frisian tea (usually a blend of Assam teas), the East Frisian tea ceremony also includes rock candy in large chunks (*Kluntje*), a little cloud of cream (*Wulkje*) and, of course, the peace and enjoyment of the *Teetied* (teatime). The East Frisian tea culture has even been included in UNESCO's list of intangible cultural heritage.



United generations #jointgenerations

Series of events

Yoga in Museum
from 8.5. | Gottorf Castle

Kinderfest
A Children's Party
1.6. | Ornamental Cast Iron Museum

Insel.Rauschen
Night of Arts and Music
5.7. | Gottorf Castle

Mad Tea Party
Summer Evening with Music
2.8. | Ornamental Cast Iron Museum

Knitting and Patching Meet-Up
Gottorf Castle and Ornamental Cast Iron Museum



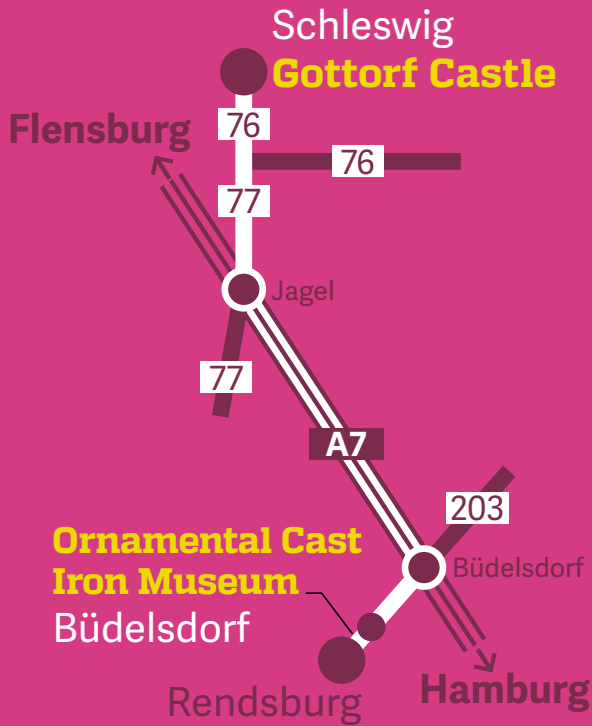
Holger Ceglars
(Service)

- : **Booking & registration:**
- : service@landesmuseen.sh
- : 04621 813-222 or online



**More events &
information**

How to find us:



Museumsinsel Schloss Gottorf

Landesmuseen SH



Eisenkunstguss Museum Büdelndorf

Landesmuseen SH