

## Press release

### Christmas & Cribs

21/11/2019 – 5/1/2020

**The exhibition of nativity scenes has been part of the National Museum's regular programme for many years now. For this winter, the exhibition has been completely redesigned.**

The first nativity scenes were set up in churches; the earliest one has stood in the Sistine Chapel in Rome since 1291. It's only since the 19th century that Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus figures have increasingly been put on display in people's homes as well. But this new custom isn't a European phenomenon – it's a global one. The nativity scenes in this year's exhibition therefore come not just from Switzerland, but from all over the world – from as far afield as Haiti and Taiwan, for example. This year, there is a focus on the materials used. In addition to clay, paper and wood, there are also exhibits made from plant fibres and sheet metal. Historical Christmas photographs complement the display of original nativity scenes.

The National Museum Zurich has displayed nativity scenes during the Christmas season since 2012. This year the exhibition has been completely redesigned, with the precious exhibits now displayed in a fairy-tale forest setting. The extensive accompanying programme for families remains unchanged. At the Museum children can read books, listen to the Christmas story, make their own gifts, or wander through the exhibition spaces with a lantern.

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