

## **"Taxidermied Jews?"**

### **History, Present, and Future of Jewish Museums**

**June 26, 2022 until March 19, 2023**

When the then chairman of the Jewish Community, Paul Grosz, was asked many years ago what he thought of the establishment of a Jewish Museum, he asked a bitter counter-question. Whether Jews should be marveled at there "like taxidermied Indians"?

Today, there are over 120 Jewish museums worldwide. However, even the definition of their designating adjective is by no means uniform. There are those to whom the institution itself is a Jewish one, to others the institution's topic is Judaism – from the most diverse perspectives. For some, the adjective "Jewish" is unambiguous, for others, it is not just ambiguous but even full of contradictions. The question of definitions and perspectives are decisive for content and practices of museums – and thus also on the sovereignty of interpretation of what is "Jewish" in a social public sphere. The exhibition illuminates the history and present of the institution "Jewish Museum," its collections and its canon – and thus reflects the urgent question of its role in society in the future.

An exhibition of the Jewish Museum Hohenems, in cooperation with the Saxon State Collections of Ethnography Leipzig, Dresden, and Herrnhut

## **Staff**

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Press release "Taxidermied Jews?"

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Printing Matters  
Thurnher Druckerei (Rankweil)  
Painting work  
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## **Exhibition opening**

**June 26, 2021, 11 a.m.**

Salomon Sulzer Saal, Schweizer Str. 21, Hohenems

### **Welcome**

Hanno Loewy – Director, Jewish Museum Hohenems  
Patricia Tschallener – Vice Mayor of the City of Hohenems  
Barbara Schöbi-Fink – Provincial Governor

### **Opening speech**

Cilly Kugelman – Jewish Museum Berlin

### **Words to the exhibition**

Felicitas Heimann-Jelinek – curator, Wien  
Hannes Sulzenbacher – curator, Wien