



Press release for the Christmas exhibition

## **I'm dreaming of a white Christmas**

**4 Nov 2023 – 4 Feb 2024**

Like Bing Crosby in the song "White Christmas", many people dream of a snowy holiday season – complete with gently drifting snowflakes, frost-dusted evergreens, and the magic of twinkling lights. Snow, it seems, is as inseparable from Christmas as the Christmas tree itself. Its soothing blanket covers everything, slows down the pace of life and makes for an idyllic, contemplative atmosphere.

The bible makes no mention of snow at the birth of Jesus. The popular notion of a white Christmas was shaped by poems, songs and postcards from the mid-19th century onwards. At the same time, it became fashionable to spend Christmas holidays in the mountains. The peaceful, snow-covered landscape of the Alps came to define the romantic image – even in the plains. As industrialisation took hold, snowy landscapes came to be seen as a restful alternative to life in the busy city.

Every year we wonder whether we will have a white Christmas. But a snow-free Christmas is hardly a disappointing exception, though people often feel that way. Basel has had about 70 snow-free Christmases since 1931. The last white Christmas was in 2010. Given the effects of climate change, it is unlikely that snow will become more common at Christmas. But the longing remains all the same.

As well as white objects from the Christmas ornament collection – silver pine cones, glass pearl snowflakes, crystal icicles and imitation snow made from cotton wool, silver tinsel or angel hair – the exhibition contains plenty of porcelain Snowbabies and historical postcards. It also features a selection from the snow collection of Swiss artist Silas Kreienbühl. Children can enjoy themselves in a reading corner with magical snow stories, various workshops and a sleigh cinema.

Exhibition texts are provided in German, French and English, as well as simple German. The whole museum is wheelchair-accessible.

## **Accompanying programme**

### **Opening, Sat 4 November, 4–6 pm**

Fondue on tap

### **Sledge cinema, Sun 12 November, 11 am**

“Schellen-Ursli” 2015, FSK 0 (in German)

### **Santiglaus pays a visit, Wed 6 December, 2–5 pm**

Saint Nicholas can't wait for your poems.

### **Creating snow globes, Wed 20 December, 2–5 pm**

No snow in sight for the Christmas days? Well, visit us and make your own snow globe!

### **Face painting for children, Wed 10 January, 2–5 pm**

Turn into an ice prince or ice princess.

### **Museum night in winter wonderland, Fri 19 January, from 6 pm**

### **Creating snow globes, Sun 4 February, 2–5 pm**

Preserve the snow from the exhibition in your own, self-made snow globe.

### **Snow star workshops**

Create your own sparkling, beaded snow stars as a decoration for your home.

18/19 November

25/26 November

9/10 December

6/7 January

27/28 January

1:30–5 pm on all days

### **Opening hours**

January to November: Tuesday to Sunday 10 am–6 pm

December: 10 am–6 pm on all days

### **Special opening times for Christmas and New Year**

24 Dec 2023: 10 am–4 pm

25 and 26 Dec 2023: closed

31 Dec 2023: 10 am–4 pm

1 Jan 2024: closed

**Admission fees**

CHF 7.- (special exhibition included)

Children aged 16 or under are free. They need to be accompanied by an adult until the age of 12.

**Further information on the exhibition**

Sibille Arnold, curator and director of Spielzeug Welten Museum Basel: [arnold@swm-basel.ch](mailto:arnold@swm-basel.ch)

**For high resolution images visit:** [www.swmb.museum](http://www.swmb.museum)

Sign up for our **newsletter** if you would like to receive information on our exhibitions and events:

[news@swm-basel.ch](mailto:news@swm-basel.ch)

**About the Spielzeug Welten Museum Basel**

A doll plays in the toy grocery shop, teddy bears race one another in pedal cars, an entire amusement park is set into motion at the push of a button. With more than 6,000 objects, the Spielzeug Welten Museum Basel (Toy Worlds Museum Basel) is unique across the world in its abundance and quality. Accommodated in a building from 1867, it lies in the very heart of Basel. Its cheery, lovingly arranged display windows have meanwhile become famous far and wide: they attract visitors of all ages and are an invitation to discover a world full of wonders. Several times a year, special temporary exhibitions on a wide variety of topics beckon visitors on a foray into new cultural realms, shining a spotlight on the unknown and placing the exhibits in a – sometimes surprising – historical context.