

Accumulation: The greed for «more»



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The exhibition «Accumulation» is about collecting, growth and excess.

«Accumulation» means gathering things or piling things up.

«Excess» means having too much.

The exhibition has two parts. The parts are called «sequences».

First sequence of the exhibition:

Saturday, 8 February to Sunday, 25 May 2025

We are showing artwork made by 10 artists:

- Cian Dayrit
- Nils Amadeus Lange
- Jumana Manna
- Reto Pulfer
- Selma Selman
- Stirnimann-Stojanovic
- Sung Tieu
- Elom 20ce
- Musquiqui Chihying
- Gregor Kasper

We are also showing works by artists from our collection:

- Art & Language
- Maja Bajevic
- Thomas Bayrle
- Maria Eichhorn
- Rachel Harrison
- Tobias Kaspar
- Liz Magor
- Tabor Robak
- Andy Warhol

Tasnim Baghdadi, Michael Birchall and Nadia Schneider have organised the exhibition.
Linda Addae and Mirta Gianocca have helped with the organisation.

What is the exhibition about?

The exhibition is about collecting things, wanting more and having too much. As humans, we always want to have «more»: more things, more money, more power. This gives us the feeling that we are doing well and that we are worth more.

But we buy and own too much. This has terrible consequences for planet Earth.

The consequences of growth

The exhibition shows the consequences of growth and excess in different parts of the world. For example:

- We exploit nature and damage it. This is why our climate is changing.
- We exploit other human beings. This is why there is so much injustice.
- The rich countries stay in power and set the rules for the world.

Collections in museums

Museums also collect knowledge and power. They want to grow more and more, but the storage rooms of the museums are already full. The exhibition makes us think: What is the mission of a museum? Are there other ways for a museum to collect things?

The artists

The artists in this exhibition look at the problem of «growth». Some artists show what happens when we collect so many things. Others experiment with new forms of art which do not require a lot of material.

The Artwork

Here is some information on a few works of art. They are just examples. We are not describing all artists and all works of art here.

Elom 20ce, Musquiqui Chihying und Gregor Kasper

These three artists together have a project called «THE CURRENCY».

«Currency» is the name we give to money in a country, for example: Swiss Franc or Dollar.

The project looks at how money and power are distributed in the world.

Part of the project is a film called «**The Currency – Sensing 1 Agboglobloshie**». The video shows the path that raw materials take. We take raw materials from nature and turn them into things. We use these things, and some time later, we throw them away. We get rid of the waste or turn it into something new. The video shows a very large recycling site in Ghana in Africa called «Agboglobloshie».

The video was made in 2023.

Reto Pulfer

Reto Pulfer's installation has several parts, for example:

- «**Erinnerungshaus Demenzraum Material**», which was made between 2009 and 2014
- «**Muster**» from 2022
- «**Modus Orte**» from 2025

Reto Pulfer's art does not damage the environment. He takes used materials and turns them into something new. For example: He uses old bed sheets, curtains or clothes. He dyes the fabrics, sews them together or embroiders them. He also writes or draws on the fabrics. He creates rooms which look like tents. They can be changed over and over again.

Rachel Harrison

Rachel Harrison also works with used things. She uses things she finds or everyday objects and turns them into new works of art. One installation is called «**Trees for the Forest**». For this installation, the artist has painted old bases from the Migros Museum depot. She has placed the bases in the room together with paintings from a flea market and found objects. With this installation, Rachel Harrison asks: How do museums decide what art is? What do museums keep for the future?

The installation was made in 2007.

Selma Selman

Buying and collecting many things also creates a lot of waste. Other people have to recycle the waste. This is hard work, and it is important work. But we often disrespect that work. And we treat the people badly.

The works of art «**Motherboards**», «**Golden Spoon**» and «**Bread**» show: Working with waste is valuable work. For example: We can take out valuable metals from electronic waste.

The works of art were made in 2021 and 2023.

Sung Tieu

Sung Tieu looks at the impact of colonialism on growth. She has created a work of art called «**The Ruling**». Back in 1897, the French colonies introduced a European unit of length in Indochina. The idea was to introduce order. But the colonies were also able to control people and exploit them. Sung Tieu shows: Even today, Europe is a major influence on other countries in the world.

The artwork was made in 2025.

The exhibition shows: We buy and use too much. This has terrible consequences for nature and human beings. The artists want us to reflect on this. And they want us to try and find new ways. How will our life change if we own and collect less? How do we all do if we take care of nature and human beings?