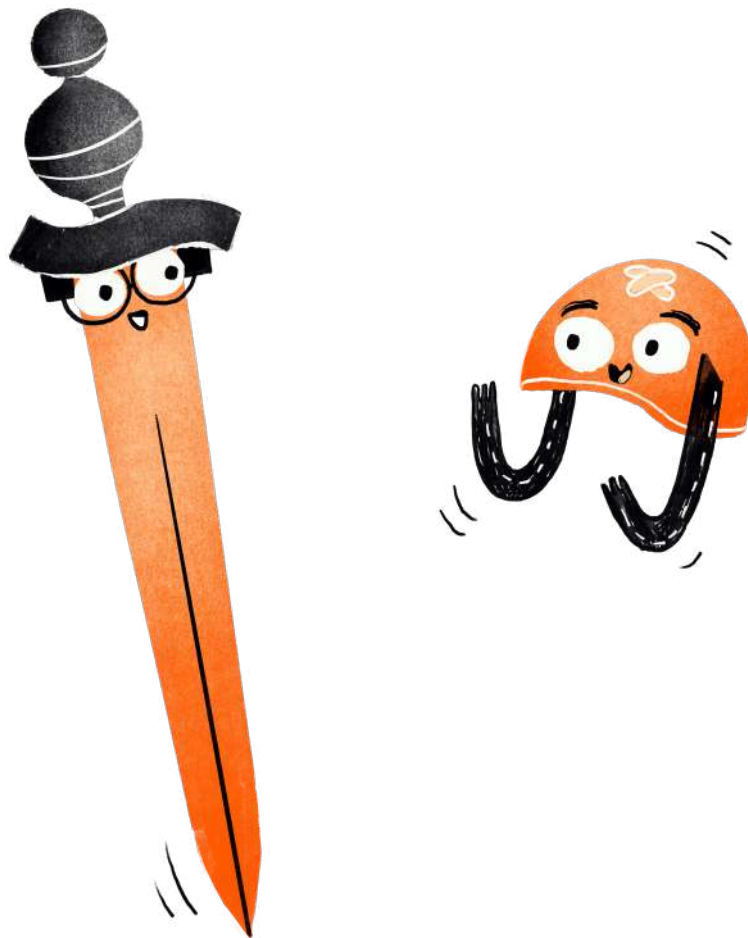


MUSEUM HEROES: FROM SHOWCASE STARS TO STOREROOM KEEPERS

Exhibition texts in English

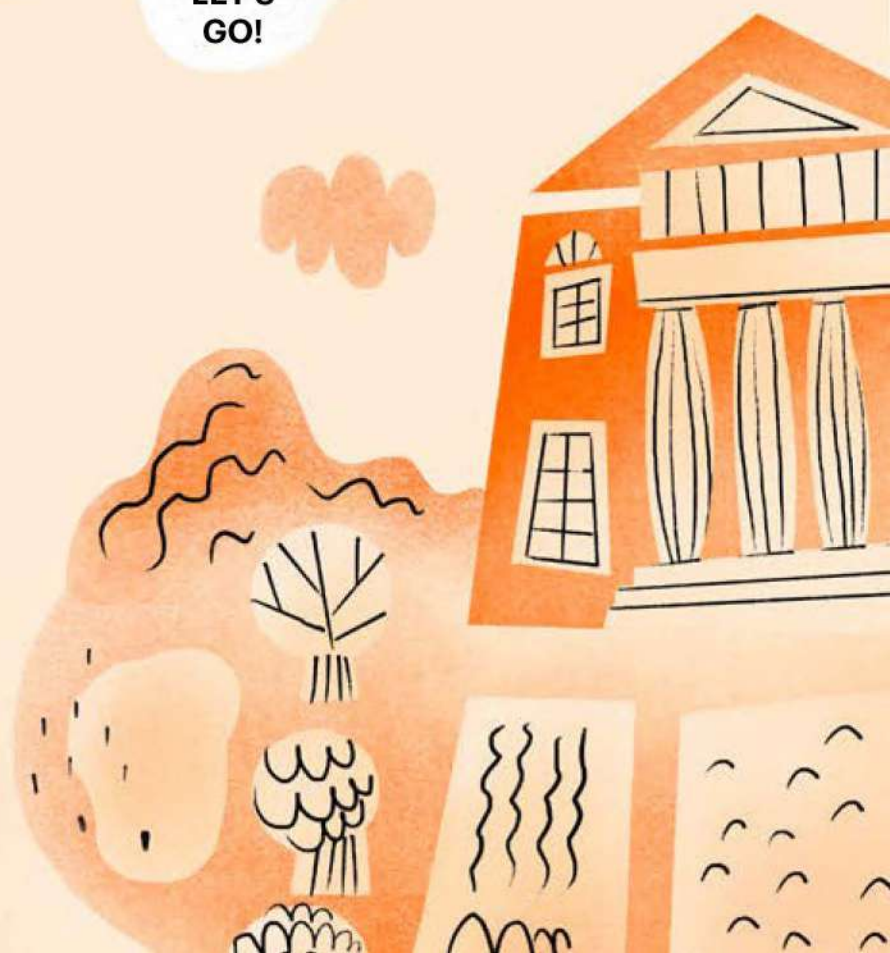


AH! A NEW
MUSEUM HERO!
WELCOME TO THE
BADEN STATE
MUSEUM!

MUSEUM
HERO? ME?

OF COURSE!
WE OBJECTS
ARE THE
HEROES HERE.
COME WITH ME,
I'LL SHOW YOU
WHY.

OK!
LET'S
GO!



MUSEUM HEROES: FROM SHOWCASE STARS TO STOREROOM KEEPERS

**What would King Arthur be without his sword Excalibur,
Dorian Gray without his magical painting?
To be honest: the real heroes in these stories
are the things, objects and artifacts.**

**It's the same with museum objects.
Some are beautiful, others rather bizarre.
But they are all one thing: heroic.
Because they are the witnesses of almost forgotten times,
that can pass on their knowledge to us today.
Over 500,000 museum heroes currently call
the Baden State Museum their home.**

**But the path to the display case is not always easy:
Follow the bicycle helmet, it is new to the museum
and is accompanied by the experienced sword.
Here the two meet other museum heroes,
who tell of their exciting adventures.**

Come along on the journey!

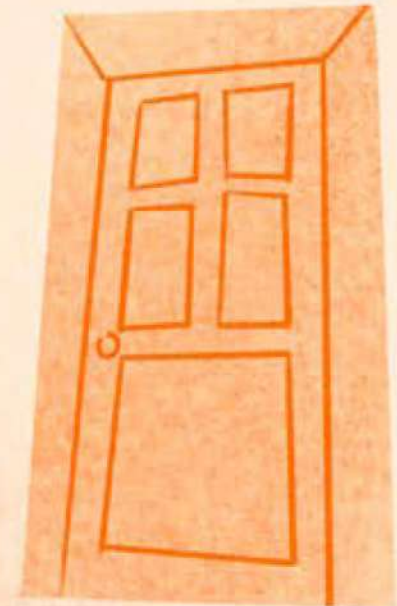
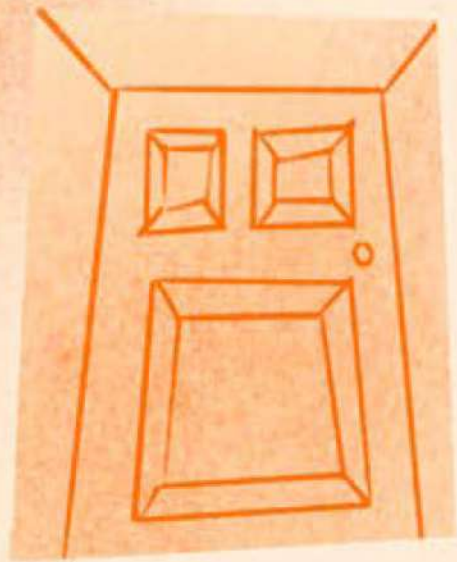
Speech bubbles

Helmet

Oh, why am I in the museum? These mushrooms recently grew into my beautiful helmet shape, then they were heated up and they died. Swoosh, I'm here! There is still a lot of experimentation going on with me. I would be a great alternative to plastic for cyclists' head protection.

Sword

Whether it's an exhibition, a storeroom or a restorer's lab I know the Museum like the back of my hand. According to legend, I was a gift from the Emperor himself to the Margrave of Baden around 1500. Since 1877, the high lords have made me available to the museum.



MANY PATHS
LEAD TO THE
MUSEUM, NO
OBJECT IS HERE
WITHOUT A
REASON!

WE TELL OF
OUR TIMES
AND HOLD
SPECIAL
STORIES.

I CAN TELL
YOU ABOUT
THE
**MARGRAVE
OF BADEN**,
AND YOU?

WOW!

ME?
I COULD TELL
SOMETHING
ABOUT **SUSTAIN-
ABILITY**!?



FOR THE COLLECTION

Different people, times and ideas determine the path of a hero into the collection. In the past, aristocrats collected valuable art objects and presented them together with objects of natural history. These cabinets of curiosities often developed into museums with collections based on them.

**Today, museums are adopting a more critical approach to the origin of their holdings:
Was an acquisition legitimate?
What are the gaps in the collection?
Why did objects enter the collection?
Who do and who don't they represent?
And, how should the collection be further developed?**

The collection is the heart of a museum, a memory store for our history. It is not neutral and does not remain the same. Anyone who follows the footsteps of museum heroes is faced with new questions and answers.

Speech bubbles

Ptah Sokar Osiris statuette

Margravine Caroline Luise, may she rest in peace! Thanks to her, I entered the Margravian Collections, which were transferred to the y founded Badisches Landesmuseum in 1919. I count myself as a genuine old timer and was bought at an auction in Paris in 1766 on behalf of the Margravine.

Guild Sign

It was a dark time when a Jewish art dealer had to sell me under the Nazi regime and I came here. In 2019, I was finally returned to my rightful heirs, who then sold me back to the museum. Museums must also address injustice and take responsibility!

Nautilus Cup

Luckily in 1995 I was 'saved for Baden'. Some of the possessions of the former Baden royal family were for sale at a Sotheby's auction. The Badisches Landesmuseum acquired me and other pieces as examples of regional history.

Collection Gap

hoo, we are the ghosts of the collection gap! We exist because some materials are not for l term preservation. The ideals of a society or the preferences of individual collectors lead certain subjects and objects to be overlooked.

4 pieces of cutlery from the series mono Ring

Oh, how we were loved! After decades of use, we did not end up in the bin. No, we were given as a donation to the Badisches Landesmuseum. Our scuffs make us special. They tell of our long life as much used kitchen tools.

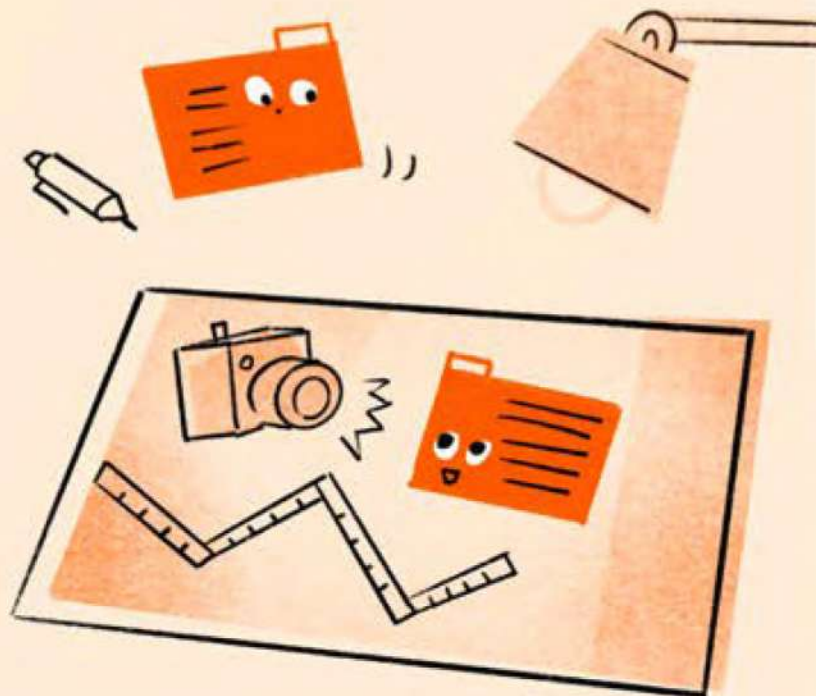
Collection 2002

Gyrotwister, hair dye packaging, and Der Spiegel magazine about an 'educational dis

Hair dye to Gyrotwister: What kind of weird plastic thing are you?

Gyrotwister: Ha! And coming from some packaging! Your hair color is pretty 2000s. I may not be trendy anymore, but I can still train my arm muscles!

Mirror: Have some love for each other! We're all getting a little long in the tooth, aren't we? We were collected TOGETHER. Several students decided in 2002 that WE ALL stood for that year. Whether it's education policy or trend, that period is preserved through us. Let's see who still recognises us....



HERE, YOUR
INVENTORY
NUMBER!

WHY DO I
HAVE TO
WEAR A
NUMBER?

IT'S THE ONLY
WAY TO FIND YOU
AMONG ALL THE
MUSEUM HEROES:
DATING, ORIGIN,
MEASUREMENTS AND
MUCH MORE ARE
LINKED TO YOUR
NUMBER IN A
DATABASE.

LOOK!

IT'S ON
YOUR ID
CARD,
TOO!

AND IN
THIS
BOOK!



VIA THE DOCUMENTATION

**Whether an archaeological artifact
or a modern everyday object,
Every new acquisition must first go through
the documentation process.
Here it is described, measured and photographed.**

**To ensure that nothing is lost, the museum hero
is given an inventory number
that links it to this documentation.
The number is noted in the inventory book
and on the hero.
Some museums record all object data on index cards,
here, instead, there has been a database since the 2000s.**

**Sometimes a hero loses its inventory label,
And the museum staff can no longer assign it.
At the Baden State Museum, it becomes part of
the 'R' inventory for objects
that no longer have an inventory number.
With the help of the documentation, the adventurous
stories of the museum heroes are preserved for all to see.
If it is missing, the information
about the objects will be in danger.**

Speech bubbles

Minai Bowl

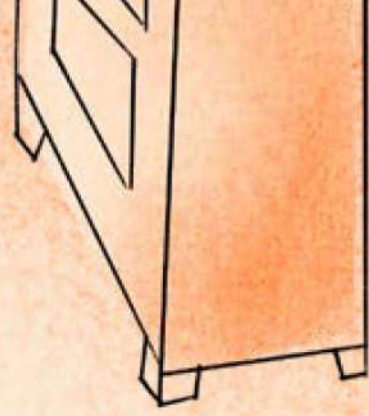
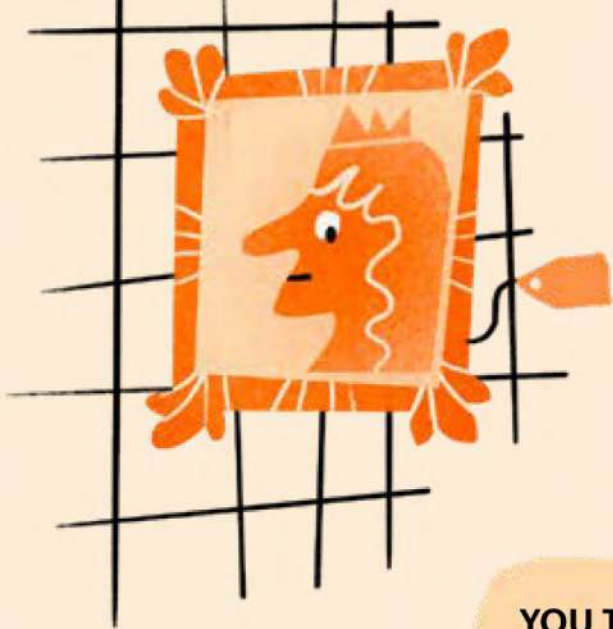
I'm a lucky find: after I arrived at the museum, I became part of the 'A' inventory of the ethnographic collection. But then I lost my label. As a replacement, I was given an 'R' number. After much thought, however, I was finally reassigned to my correct number.

Censer (Koro)

Twice is better, isn't it? I'm made up of two parts, so I wear my inventory number twice and have for over 100 years! You can read all about it in the inventory book.

Furniture index cards

Come with us on a search for clues! During the war years, many pieces of furniture were removed from storage some found their way back to the Badisches Landesmuseum, others are still missing. Sometimes the destruction was due to the war, sometimes there was not enough time to record the location of the objects.



SUPER
CLIMATE AND
PEACEFUL
AFTER THE
EXHIBITION
STRESS.

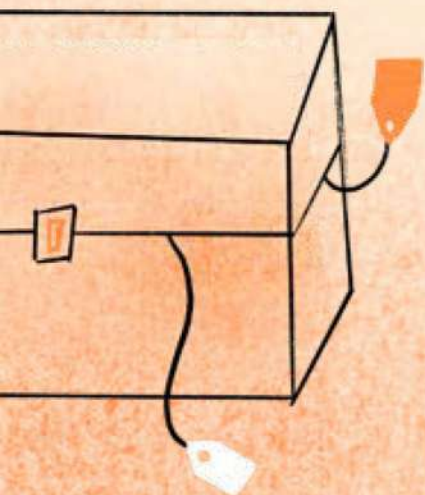
YOU THINK
SO? **I LIKE**
BEING
HERE.

HOW **CREEPY!**

PFFF ...
CONSTANT
CONTROLS, LIGHTS
ON, LIGHTS OFF.
THERE'S ALWAYS
SOMETHING GOING
ON HERE!



MANY OF US
LIVE HERE,
SOME THEIR
WHOLE
MUSEUM LIFE.



TO THE STOREROOMS

The storerooms are everyday life for most museum heroes.

After all, the museums' passion for collecting continues. Views are also changing about which and how many heroes should be shown. Often there is a lack of money and space in museums.

In the storerooms, restorers take care of everything that is necessary to preserve the objects in the long term: This requires stable temperatures, constant humidity, protection from light and dust, pollutants and insects.

Depending on the material or group of objects, the heroes live in cleverly designed shelving and cabinet systems.

At the Baden State Museum, for example, there are magazines for metal and furniture, paintings and textiles.

Here, the museum heroes don't just slumber, but are ready to be explored and discovered.

Speech bubbles

Diadem

A dry climate is needed for proper storage. Naked hands do not belong in the depot they only leave sweat and skin fat. Phew! This cushion here is just fine for my filigree leaf tendrils of gilded metal.

Of course, madame needs a cushion! For me, anything up to 45% relative humidity is wonderful.

Belt Buckle

I sparkle and shine, but still stay in storage! Something doesn't fit the curators' exhibition concept: information about me is missing or too imprecise. And most importantly, the regional reference to Baden! Oh, but why can't it be something about Ostrogothic belt buckles from Italy!

Keystone

A stone is low maintenance? Pff! Stones are more robust than wood or paper, but even we can become brittle. My vibrant colors have diminished through the years and unfavorable climate. Now I have to pay close attention that it gets neither too wet nor too dry. Otherwise I will fade completely!

Bathing caps (three individual speech bubbles)

Bathing cap in bag: I'm completely cramped. I can't make it out of the bag. And my exhalations have already discolored the paper!

Bathing cap in pink: Light and air do us no good at all. There is little the restorers can do. Nothing is for eternity not even in the museum depo

Bathing cap in blue: Oh, another piece of rubber fell off me!

THIS
WORKSHOP
IS GREAT!

IF I **BREAK**,
I'LL BE
REPAIRED
HERE.

CAREFUL!
IT'S NOT THAT
EASY!

CAN I ALSO
GET **HORNS** OR
LEDs?

I DON'T
WANT YOU
TO LOOK
DIFFERENT, I
WANT YOU
TO STAY
AUTHENTIC.

WHAT
IS
AUTHENTIC
?



ABOUT THE RESTORATION

**Despite their many adventures,
the museum heroes should be preserved
as authentically as possible and for the long term.
Restorers regularly check their condition
and plan various treatments for the heroes.**

**Priority is given to purely preservative measures
which stabilize the hero and stop it from deteriorating.
Sometimes it is reassembled from fragments
or discretely supplemented with modern materials.
These interventions help the viewer to appreciate
the meaning and function of an object.**

**But every treatment changes a museum hero.
Therefore, the views on the correct way to deal
with them are very different.
The changes should always be well justified,
documented, as minimal as possible, and traceable.**

Speech bubbles

Figure: Two girls nestled together

Climate change makes me sick! In 2013, salt crystals were discovered on me. The restorers immediately prescribed me a water bath cure. Under strict supervision, the salt was sucked out of my body over several months. Without this treatment I would not n such good shape!

Etruscan helmets

When we arrived here, we were still one. Nobody noticed that we helmet halves did not fit together at all! That was until the mass in the missing parts became too brittle. We were then separated again to make two complete helmets. Today we would not be deconstructed, but digitally reconstructed through 3D scanning.

Everything's fine? That's what you think! My original elements from the Middle Ages is only a minor part of my middle section. The rest was elaborately reconstructed, so you can see my original appearance and function.

Jardinières (two separate speech bubbles)

Shining Jardinière: Look at you again! Full of dark silver sulfide!

Tarnished Jardinière: So what? I just like it more natural. But I haven't had any silver rubbed off in a very long time and my engravings are tip



THIS IS
ONE OF OUR
SUPERSTARS.

SO MANY
FANS! I WANT
TO BE FAMOUS
LIKE THAT!

OH, I KNOW
THE HUSTLE
AND BUSTLE
FROM EXPERIENCE.
YOU NEED A SUPER
TEAM TO STAY IN
SHAPE FOR THE
FANS.

INTO THE EXHIBITION

Not all museum heroes end up in a display case, only about three percent are on permanent display. In addition, there are exhibits at eight other locations, from Lake Constance to Bruchsal. In special exhibitions, the local heroes are temporarily supported by loans.

Exhibitions change over time. They should please visitors convey the state of the art and meet changing demands and trends. But for an exhibition to be successful many helping hands are needed: From artisans and curators to cultural curators, cultural mediators and designers to the supervisory staff, everyone is involved.

The dream of many museum heroes comes true: To stand alive and in color in front of the visitors, for whom the Museum preserves them.

Speech bubbles

Drawing of woman from Baar

A disaster! My outfit is ruined, just by sunlight! In the past, they didn't know that I change my color through UV radiation. It had already happened: the color pigments on my sleeve faded! Just make sure you always use sunscreen!

Postcard and painting

Postcard: Here you see the former exhibition of the peasant furniture in the Badisches Landesmuseum after 1920. Ignore the impostor next to me! He's misappropriating his museum context.

Painting: It doesn't matter where a peasant's parlor is located whether in a museum or in the Black Forest! I show the production that my creator has seen here. Above all, we both show how much we inspire people. A really productive collaboration between museum, objects and visitors!

Otter

My name is Otter and I have a mission: history up close, for everyone! That's why I'm on assignment as a stunt double for 77/27. He's so old that he can't be touched. But I can, including by children or people with visual impairments. Egypt to touch: check it

Bell Crater

Want a selfie? I've been a collection superstar since the 1840s. The art dealer Friedrich Maler brought me here for the Grand Dukes back then. I've been on stage almost permanently since then. In 1921, I finally reached the Schloss! A wonderful career have you spotted me in the photos here yet?

HEY! I'M STILL
ACCLIMATIZING
HERE ...

ACCLIMATI-
WHAT?

AC-**CLIMA**-TIZ-
ING. OUR
COLLEAGUE WAS
ON LOAN AND
NEEDS TO GET
USED TO
CLIMATIC
CHANGES.

AM I GOING
TO **TRAVEL**,
TOO?

FOR SURE! WITH
THE LATEST
TECHNOLOGY;
EVEN INTO
CYBERSPACE ...



ON THE ROAD AS A LOAN

**Museums lend their heroes to each other,
so that visitors can gain special insights
into new worlds without having to travel themselves!
Who is allowed to travel? Where and for how long?
How will the heroes be transported?
What insurance will protect them?
Before the adventure can begin,
these questions must first be answered.**

**Travel can sometimes be stressful.
This is true for people as well as for objects.
Climatic fluctuations or bumpy transportation
bring uncertainties and dangers.
But with the right packaging, the heroes
hardly notice anything.**

**Once they arrive at the museum,
the heroes rest for a while
and get used to their new surroundings.
After their field service, they go back.
This keeps the museum heroes on the move!**

Speech bubbles

Janissary Hood

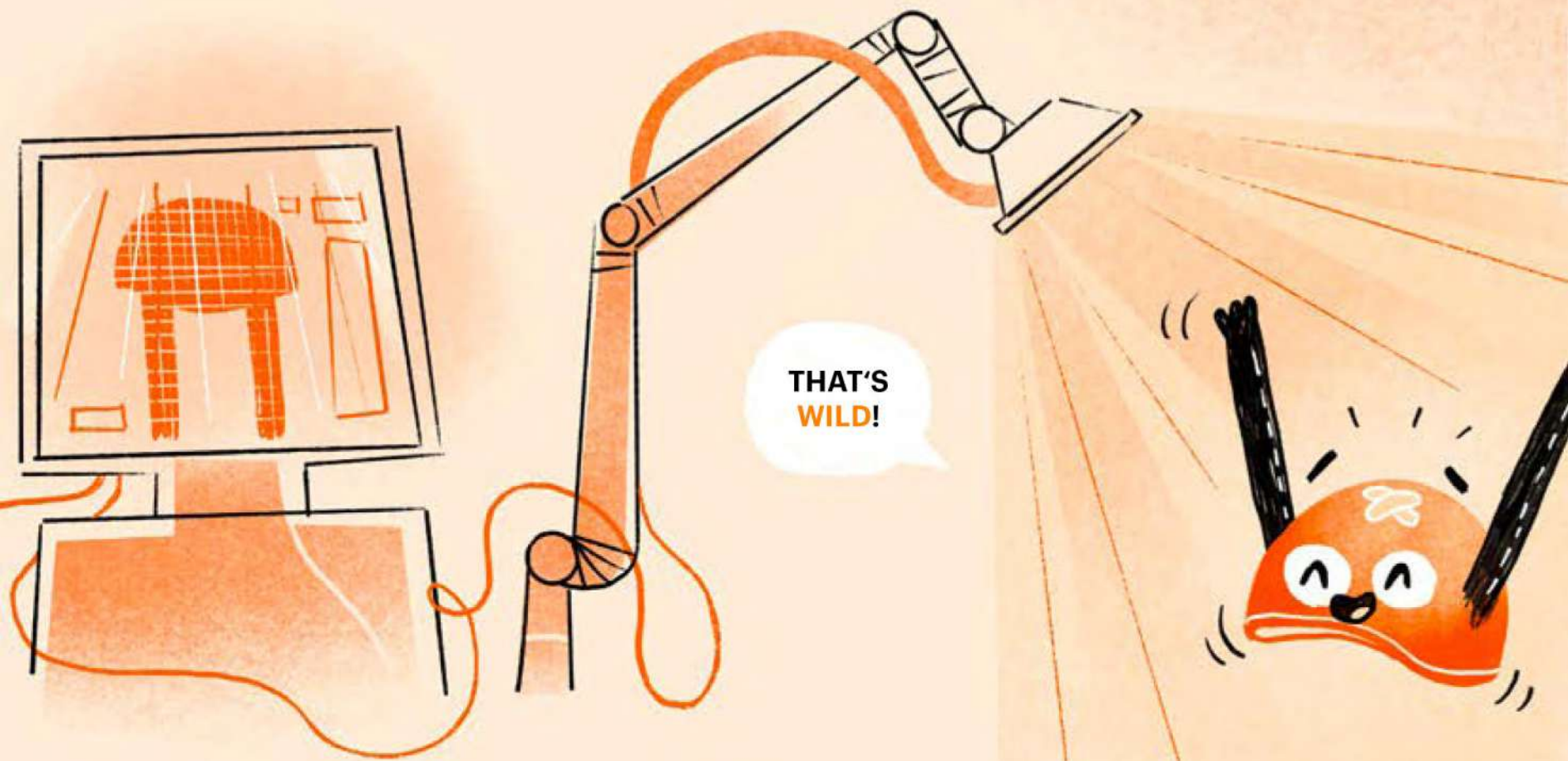
Doppelganger in action! There is a copy in the museum only for good reason. There are only three copies of my prototype left in the world, so it is in high demand. Because traveling as a loan can be burdensome and dangerous, I'm happy to step in.

Magic roll

My mounting device is tailored to me and allows me to relax during transport. It is multifunctional and sets me perfectly in scene during the exhibition like in 2015/16 during my Japan tour.

Chair

I once got stopped by customs! The bit of tropical wood in my backrest caused problems during my last trip to the USA. The reason was the species protection treaty. Fortunately, being almost 120 years old, I no longer fall under it and was allowed back to Karlsruhe.



THAT'S
WILD!

IN THE FUTURE, ALL
OBJECTS WILL BE 3D
SCANNED AND
AVAILABLE TO
EVERYONE IN THE
DIGITAL CATALOG.

THAT WAY, YOU'LL
REMAIN A PART OF THE
COLLECTION EVEN IF
YOU ARE NO LONGER
HERE.

THEN I'LL ALSO BE AN
IMMORTAL WITNESS TO
THE TIMES AND READY FOR
ADVENTURES AS A
MUSEUM HERO!



ONWARD TO THE DIGITAL

For years now, the museum heroes have increasingly been venturing into the vastness of the Internet. Depositories are coming to the public's eye for the first time.

Thanks to the latest digital media, even long-serving showcase stars are seen in a new light. In this way, the museum not only opens up its depositories to the digital world, but also enables greater participation by all.

A museum hero is not just made of gold or glass, bits and bytes can also become museum-worthy. The digitization of human life is creating genuine digital objects: new museum heroes. They bear witness to our everyday lives for future generations. That's why museums are increasingly addressing the question: How can we collect websites, posts and memes?

Speech bubbles

Askos

Sometimes I hardly understand myself! After millennia, I've forgotten what the letters on my back mean. But thanks to new scanning techniques, I can not only be examined worldwide as a 3D model, but also easily copied and printed. Maybe that will help solve the riddle!

D printed Askos

me people say I'm just a cheap copy of an original. That is not true! I have many strengths and I don't need a glass box! This allows me help visitors more than my older "twin" to understand the past.

Digital ticket

OK, a digital soccer ticket for a game without an audience. I thought my future lay in the junk folder of some smartphone. But in a museum? Never! All the material objects were so welcoming though. Everybody understands: I'm a symbol of these crazy times
#covid19 #borndigital #coronasammlung