“The Machine” is Maria Loboda’s first film. The lead role is played by an artesian well that gushes water without the aid of any technology. In the machine age these fountains attract enormous attention. They create quite naturally an “aquatic theatre” that would otherwise require a huge apparatus of machinery to stage. Strangely enough, such a well also stands in the industrially shaped landscape of the Messel pit. The film – shown in the museum’s cinema – describes a surreal journey from Messel and the age of the “new dawn” 50 million years ago (Eocene) to the machines of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and through to research labs.

For this project Loboda is the first recipient of the Ottilie Roederstein fellowship awarded by the Hessian Ministry of Higher Education, Research, Science and the Arts. For “Meet the Reef!” artists, scientists, and youths elaborate new perspectives on coral reefs – their value, their protection, and the dangers threatening their existence. Linda Weiß and Nina Queissner are responsible for the art perspective. More and more artists are actively involved in reef protection, raising awareness of the issue. Key to the exhibition is the flexible display architecture by the artist Marcus Zimmermann. “Meet the Reef!” is part of the “Temporary Permanence” project of the Federal Ministry for Education and Research, which aims to update permanent exhibitions. Education programs and visitor research complement the three-part museum research project.

Maria Loboda: The Machine
22.06. – 01.10.2023
Pinar Yoldas: An Ecosystem of Excess
29.09.2023 – 01.12.2024
City Insects – Frankfurt’s Tiny Helpers
31.03. – 16.07.2023
Floralia: Merian – Schultz – Crespo
08.09. – 03.12.2023
Meet the Reef! Art Perspective
02.06. – 15.01.2024
Program 2023
Still on show

until 21.05.2023
Meet the Reef
Society Perspective

The museum team is working on new exhibition and education formats which examine how to transfer scientific questioning into society and vice versa. How can research results and social discussions be connected? What makes research museums key sites in this dialogue? How can we generate an enduring and innovative impact that goes beyond the museum setting on topics such as biodiversity loss, climate change, and their interconnection? Focusing on the value of coral reefs and how to protect them from a host of threats, the project shows approaches from three different perspectives: society - art - science.

Until 27.03.2023
Shaping the Future – How do we want to live?

What will a normal day be like in 2040? In this context, there are different ideas on how to achieve a sustainable future, one thing is certain: if the world is to remain a viable place for diversified action are shown. Bending the Curve is part of the “Bioprospect” project initiated by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research together with youths devoted to the medicine practiced by animals, a source of inspiration for early humans. Here we want to dive into a modern space that unifies nature + medicine.

Cooperation projects

22.06. - 01.10.2023
Plastic World
Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt

“Plastic World” in the Schirn presents a vast array of objects, installations, films, and documentations, opening up a broad panorama on the artistic use and evaluation of plastic, and how this mirrors the respective social context. The spectrum ranges from the euphoria of pop culture in the 1960s and the futuristic influence of the space age through to the tightly woven works of the Nouveau-Réalisme and ecclesiastical positions of recent times, while covering architectural utopias and environments as well as experiments with the properties of materials. Over 100 works are shown by some 50 international artists.

13.10.2023 - 11.02.2024
Bending the Curve
Frankfurter Kunstverein

The interdisciplinary parcour of the exhibition “Bending the Curve” in Frankfurt’s Kunstverein features contemporary art, scientific exhibitions, multimedia installations, and innovative materials. The theme is the rapidly advancing loss of species and the importance of species diversity and intact living habitats for humans and nature. Complex interrelations are made tangible and experienced by children for diversified action are shown. Bending the Curve is part of a cross-discipline cooperation between the Kunstverein and the Senckenberg Biodiversity and Climate Research Centre in Frankfurt.

Beginning 07.2023
The Frankfurt Prototype, in the courtyard of Senckenberg Museum

Senckenberg and Städelschule are linked by more than just the same foundation year, 1817: originating from the past 50 international artists. A large installation by Pınar Yoldaş is featured in the Senckenberg Natural History Museum.

Beginning 15.12.2023
Planet Nature – New permanent exhibition

In the new permanent exhibition on the 2nd floor visitors are able to dive into a modern space that unites both historical and contemporary topics concerning human health and our relationship to nature. Here we can experience the diverse uses of natural substances for pharmacology and medicine. A spectacular LED display behind a pharmacy façade shows more than 100 pharmaceutically important organisms. Global challenges like between health, biodiversity, and the anthroposphere are plotted and compared.

13.10.2023 - 11.02.2024
Nature + Medicine
Beginning 15.12.2023
New permanent exhibition

Until 23.07.2023
Meet the Reef
Society Perspective

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