



Events accompanying the special exhibition
can be found in the programme on the museum's website at
[www.museum-fuenf-kontinente.de/veranstaltungen/programm-überblick](http://www.museum-fuenf-kontinente.de/veranstaltungen/programm-ueberblick)

Catalogue

A comprehensive catalogue of the exhibition is available with articles by Liz Childs, Elena Govor, Sven Kirsten, Michael Koch, Hannelore Paflik-Huber, Hilke Thode-Arora and Bernd Zimmer. 176 pages, 183 illustrations, halflinen, €36.90

Museum Fünf Kontinente
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Opening times

Tue – Sun 9.30am – 5.30pm
For times on public holidays see museum-fuenf-kontinente.de

Admission charges

Permanent exhibition €5, concessions €4
Special exhibitions €6, concessions €5
Combination ticket for two special exhibitions €9, concessions €7
Visitors under 18 and school students free of charge

Guided tours and information

Guided tours on request for kindergartens, after school care centres, school classes and groups of adults

Access for wheelchair users via Knöbelstraße.
Museum staff will be on hand should you require assistance.
Please call us beforehand. T (089) 210 136 100

How to get there

U4 and U5 Lehel, S-Bahn Isartor, Tram 16 and 19 Maxmonument

For up-to-date information about the museum

subscribe to our newsletter at
www.museum-fuenf-kontinente.de/services/newsletter.html

Visit us online

museum-fuenf-kontinente.de



We would like to thank



Illustrations

Cover: Bernd Zimmer, 'Tiki. Ua Pou', Acryl on canvas, 130 cm x 162 cm, 1996
© VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn, 2020

Left: Bernd Zimmer, 'Tiki. Carrying a horse', Majolica, coloured, 53 x 15 x 33 cm, 2003
© VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn, 2020

TIKIMANIA

BERND ZIMMER

THE MARQUESAS ISLANDS AND EUROPEAN SOUTH SEA FANTASIES



10.07.2020
28.02.2021



Museum
Fünf Kontinente

TIKIMANIA

BERND ZIMMER

THE MARQUESAS ISLANDS AND
EUROPEAN SOUTH SEA FANTASIES

'Tikimania' presents works by the artist Bernd Zimmer (*born in 1948 in Planegg near Munich) together with objects from the South Seas in the Museum Fünf Kontinente's collections. The dissonances and harmonies this creates results in an entirely new interplay between European art and Oceanian culture.

Bernd Zimmer is one of the most important representatives of 'Heftige Malerei' (Vehement Painting). The publisher, book designer, philosophy and religious studies scholar moved in 1973 to West Berlin, an ideally insular environment for the burgeoning art movement later known as the 'Junge Wilde' (Young Wild Ones). A new expressive artistic style was developed in Kreuzberg with vigorous gestic ideas and strident colours. The exhibition 'Heftige Malerei' in 1980 earned Zimmer international recognition as a contemporary artist and paved the way for success.

In 1995 Bernd Zimmer travelled round the island group of the Marquesas in the South Seas, applying to maximum effect his sensitivity to colours, light and cultural conditions.

He produced neither watercolours nor sketches while he was there, but retained vivid images of his impressions which he put into paintings on his return. The myth of the South Seas, a dream of ideal island landscapes and sensual, happy people, was one of his motifs. He went in search of places on the Marquesas Islands that had already inspired the artist Paul Gauguin and writers such as Herman Melville.

Tiki is a Polynesian word for a figure with human-like and often supernatural qualities. Tikis are usually carved from wood, bone or teeth, or



resulting in a form of 'mania' that even now still makes a periodic appearance, with its mixture of longings for an unspoiled paradise and fear of the islands that were supposed to be the home of cannibals. 'Tikimania' thus examines the phenomenon of European reception and relates Bernd Zimmer's works not only to the history and culture of the Marquesas but also to the potent Western fantasies. It was not for nothing that in 1912 Wassily Kandinsky included an elaborately carved stilt from the Marquesas from the Museum Fünf Kontinente's collections in the famous 'Der Blaue Reiter' almanac.

sculpted out of stone. The majority of Bernd Zimmer's Marquesas-inspired works feature at least one tiki.

The appeal of these impressive figures, which with their strong presence are one of the most important forms of artistic expression in the Marquesas and have also dominated western ideas of the Marquesas Islands from the time these were 'discovered' by Europeans to the present day, was the inspiration for the slightly ironic title of 'Tikimania' for this exhibition. With a combination of Bernd Zimmer's works, the objects from the Marquesas in the Museum Fünf Kontinente's collections and the imaginative creations of American tiki pop, this exhibition shows tikis in all their various manifestations.

It was not only the impressive tikis but also the (alleged) characteristics of the Marquesan culture that captured western imagination,

Illustrations

Left:
Bernd Zimmer
'Myself with tiki'
Acrylic on canvas
200 cm x 160 cm
1995/96
© VG Bild-Kunst
Bonn, 2020

Centre:
Bernd Zimmer
'Tiki.
Assembly (1)'
Coloured woodcut
214 cm x 272 cm
1999
© VG Bild-Kunst
Bonn, 2020

Top right:
Stilt with climbing
Tiki (detail)
Wood, height:
32.5 cm
Nuku Hiva, 1804
MFK, Inv. No. 188
Photo:
Nicolai Kästner

Bottom right:
Double-headed
club with tiki face
Wood, height:
148 cm
Marquesas Islands,
before 1894, MFK
Inv. No. 94-264
Photo:
Nicolai Kästner

