



An exhibition at Neues Museum Nuremberg in cooperation with the Institute of Modern Art Nuremberg

Opening: 25 April 2024, 7 pm

Exhibition duration: 26 April–6 October 2024

www.nmn.de

Neues Museum, State Museum for Art and Design | Klarissenplatz | 90402 Nürnberg

Why do we collect all the things that are stored in archives? All the pictures and objects, manuscripts and documents, stories and poems? And what do they mean to us in 2024, at a time when social structures are being increasingly destabilised by wars and totalitarian tendencies and when ecological crises are on the rise in many parts of the world?

In their solo exhibition *Memory Movers* at Neues Museum, Berlin-based artist duo Böhler & Orendt present an expansive installation with over a hundred items from more than fifty archives. Using multimedia technology and aesthetic references to video games, Hollywood blockbusters and Greek mythology, the two artists have developed an interactive three-dimensional story in which they reflect on the relevance of cultural archives.

The scenario through which the visitors move is reminiscent of a still from a surreal film: a traffic jam of contemporary and vintage cars, bicycles, trolleys, mopeds, ice cream vans and other vehicles winds its way through the main exhibition hall in front of three dark tunnel entrances. The vehicles are heavily loaded with boxes containing archival objects selected for the show by the artists from a wide variety of periods and contexts.

When exploring this setting, guidance is available from digital ghosts who inhabit tall, semi-transparent hats. These special audio guides, called “Daimons” within the narrative of the exhibition, whisper funny, touching, poetic and philosophical thoughts about the exhibits into the minds of the people they accompany – similar to their mythological ancestors of the same name. Seen from the outside, this talking headgear turns the visitors themselves into performers, active participants in *Memory Movers*. In the end, it is also they who determine the meaning of the collected objects as they begin to reflect on the archival items and their historical background, triggered by the Daimons’ whispers.



In Böhler & Orendt’s selection, culture appears as a complex phenomenon that gradually develops from a multitude of sometimes contradictory, sometimes parallel motifs in human thought and action, and which never gives rise to a single reading or meaning.

Memory Movers playfully opens up a discussion on the importance of archiving cultural artefacts in a diverse range of ways: What do all these objects have to do with the world we live in today? And how can our recent and older collections be looked at and interpreted afresh, maybe even allowing us to learn something unexpected? If humanity in 2024 is able to recognise the immense value of historical cultural assets and strive to preserve them, why does it continue to change and shape the world in such a way that the complete destruction of this cultural heritage seems increasingly possible?



Böhler & Orendt's selection creates a unique simultaneous presence of very heterogeneous archival material. For example, photographic evidence of protests against the nuclear waste storage site in Gorleben can be found next to well-known works by Hannah Höch, Kurt Schwitters and Marcel Duchamp, or the historical recording of a dance piece by Sigurd Leeder next to a Circus Roncalli Playmobil set. In this exhibition, the objects not only "speak" to the visitors (through the Daimon guides), but also communicate with each other across time and space: they comment on and open up to each other through their diversity.

Memory Movers will only be on show at Neues Museum. It was developed by the artists on behalf of Neues Museum and the Institute of Modern Art Nuremberg. For this collaboration, Böhler & Orendt invited institutions that have been cultivating their own, sometimes highly specialised culture of remembrance in their respective fields for decades. These include well-known institutions such as the Kassel documenta archive, the archive of the Haus der Kunst in Munich and the Swiss Archive of the Performing Arts, as well as more recent archives based on civil initiatives such as the Cologne Documentation Centre on Migration in Germany, the Berlin Archive for Alternative Culture and the Centre for Queer History in Vienna.

Individual appointments for press tours can be arranged on request. Contacts: Andrea Kriegsch (Secretariat), Tel: 0911 240 20 20
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For press enquiries and further information on the exhibition, please contact Carola Uehlken: carolauehlken@gmail.com

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NMUN
NEUES MUSEUM NÜRNBERG
KUNST UND DESIGN

**BÖHLER
ORENDT**

**BÖHLER & ORENDT'S
MEMORY
MOVERS**

Design: StudioNearMe



Since the beginning of their collaborative artistic endeavours in 2008, Matthias Böhler (born 1981 in Aachen, Germany) and Christian Orendt (born 1980 in Sighișoara, Romania) have been exploring the tragic, comic and absurd political and ecological effects of human activity on the fate of the earth. They have developed a characteristic artistic approach that could be described as hybrid media storytelling: using various hybrid forms of drawing, digital, sculptural and performative techniques, as well as practices from the fields of stage design and modelling, they have gradually created an increasingly complex cosmos of installation-based narratives that often intertwine or build on one another.

Their works have been shown in institutions such as KW Berlin, the Irish Museum of Modern Art, the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art, Charleston SC, and the Bundeskunsthalle Bonn. Works by Böhler & Orendt can be found in various public collections, including the Berlinische Galerie, the Neues Museum Nürnberg and the Kunsthalle Göppingen. Permanent installations in public spaces can be seen in the park of the Wildbad Rothenburg and in the inner courtyard of the Bavarian State Office for Statistics in Fürth.

www.boehler-orendt.com

1 *Give us, Dear*, installation view Schloss Moyland, 2013 ; 2 *Kwirki, der Sendbote*, art in public space, Vienna 2022-2023, Photo: Iris Ranzinger; 3 *The Sweet Certainty*, installation view Berlinische Galerie, 2023. Images & Courtesy of the artists.