

Objects up to 30 M years old at the anniversary of Antike in Basel

Some superlatives can be found at the 10th edition of Antike in Basel, taking place from June 15 - 21. The exhibitors will be presenting outstanding and rare art treasures that will turn the fair into a true gem not only for collectors and lovers of the ancient world. The fair unites internationally renowned specialists with fine artworks from the Great Civilizations of the Mediterranean, as well as prehistoric artefacts, Tribal Art and art from Oceania and Asia.

Of particular interest is the oldest object, a large Gogotte (a natural sandstone concretion) from the Oligocene, that has been found in France at Fontainebleau and was formed 30 million years ago. Gallery Eberwein from Paris is presenting this exquisitely shaped find. On the opposite side of this long "time journey", a selection of perfectly crafted Tribal Art objects can be discovered, dating from the early 20st century.

The largest centerpiece at the fair is an impressive headless marble statue measuring 1.65 m and depicting the heroized figure of a Roman general or statesman (1st century B.C. - 2nd century A.D.) This type of honorary statue, rooted in a tradition of idealized male representations that can be traced to the Greek sculptor Polykleitos, is notable for its remarkable state of preservation. It will be shown at Galerie Cahn from Basel.

By contrast, the smallest exhibit, a red jasper face inlay, measures just 1.2 cm and was probably created for a composite figure. In spite of its size, the facial features are finely detailed and its condition is perfect. Dating back to Ancient Egypt, New Kingdom, 19th/20st dynasty, ca. 1250 - 1150 B.C. To be admired at the booth of Bigler Fine Arts from Zurich.

The object that had been discovered furthest from Basel is an early Maori chiefly Patu Pounamu (a short club /striking weapon) of archaic form, carved from a single block of high-quality green nephrite. Dating back to the 18th century (or earlier), in the flowering classical Maori period in New Zealand / Polynesia, that lasted between the 16th and 19th century. In geographical terms, this artefact has travelled a good 18'400 km to get to Antike in Basel. To be discovered at Galerie Meyer Oceanic & Eskimo Art, Paris.

The fair showcases numerous artworks of a wide spectrum of cultures, periods and materials. It has something to offer for every visitor. It attracts art lovers as well as specialists, private and institutional collectors. At the same time, it opens up a gateway to this fascinating cultural world for young and emerging collectors. Alongside the high-priced items, some budget-friendly artworks can be purchased for just a few hundred francs.

Antike in Basel brings together a selection of art dealers with various fields of expertise and a broad range of fine artworks, providing a remarkable insight into art historical developments that span from prehistory to the modern times. The juxtaposition of works from various periods and cultures creates a bridge for the understanding of Contemporary Art and simultaneously points out its roots.

For the first time and on the occasion of the 10th anniversary, Antike in Basel will be staged not in autumn but in June during the lively art week characterized by ArtBasel. By doing so, the fair aims to encourage the cross-collecting from antiquity to the present and to offer collectors and art lovers an additional opportunity to explore different eras in history.

www.antike-in-basel.com

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Antike in Basel

June 15 – 21, 2026

Venue:

CAHN STEINEN, Steinentorstrasse 19, CH-4051 Basel

Public Opening:

Monday, June 15

2 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Opening Hours:

Tues., 16 – Sat., June 20

11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Sunday, June 21

11 a.m. – 5 p.m.



Gogotte
Galerie Eberwein, Paris



Statue of a heroic statesman or general
Galerie Cahn, Basel



A red jasper face inlay
Bigler Fine Arts, Zurich



Chiefly Patu Paounamu (short club weapon)
Galerie Meyer Oceanic & Eskimo Art, Paris

All images are available in high resolution at
www.antike-in-basel.com/en/press/downloads