

## **In Full View**

**“In Full View” allows members of the public to look over the shoulders of staff carrying out research at the Museum der Kulturen Basel (MKB). “Dambana, Sri Lanka” marked a successful start to the project. “Hiva Oa, French Polynesia” follows on 27 June.**

There was great interest in the 47 objects from Dambana that are now back in Sri Lanka. In May, staff working on the project set up their workstations in one of the museum's galleries where they held interesting discussions with museum visitors and answered their many questions.

27 June sees the start of “Hiva Oa, French Polynesia”, the second installment of the “In Full View” project. The focus this time is not restitution; instead, an exhibition in Hiva Oa is in preparation using items on loan from the MKB.

### **Close Ties**

Basel natives Lucas Staehelin and Theo Meier set off to Hiva Oa in the Marquesas Islands in 1932 to assemble a collection that has been the subject of research by the MKB's curators of Oceania since 2019. They have been able to expand their investigations since March 2023 after receiving funding from the Federal Office of Culture.

In a project titled “Shared Cultural Heritage: Making Museum Access Real”, the researchers are focused on working closely with colleagues in the Pacific. An exhibition featuring some 30 objects from the MKB collection is currently being put together for a newly-opened space dedicated to the culture of the Marquesas Islands.

The MKB is already in close and regular contact with appropriate parties in Hiva Oa, and specialists elsewhere. In particular, the exhibition seeks to satisfy local expectations and offer real added value for the local population.

### **Seeking Dialog**

Between 27 June and 21 July, visitors to the MKB will be able to examine documentation showing what has been achieved thus far. They will see which of the sixty objects on show have been selected – old and new war clubs and tikis, no doubt – and what preparations are needed for the journey to Hiva Oa. To that end, museum curators, researchers, and conservators will once again move their workstations into a public gallery.

During museum opening hours, staff will be working in full view of the public who can interrupt them at any time. Staff are there to chat to members of the public, to provide information, answer questions, and explain their work.

Downloadable images are available on our [website](#).

The next project in the series – **“Benin, Nigeria”** – starts in February 2025.