

GRIMM

WELT

KASSEL

PRESS KIT | Kassel, 11.11.2019

## Red Hood, Blue Beard

**Fairy-tale colours and experiments in a new exhibition at GRIMMWELT  
Kassel, from 13.11.2019 to 13.04.2020**

**GRIMMWELT Kassel opens a new special exhibition „Red Hood, Blue Beard – Fairy-tale colours and experiments“ on 13.11.2019. It is devoted to a subject that has not previously been researched in any depth to date: the world of fairy tales is colourful, but mention of the colours themselves is surprisingly rare. Nevertheless – or perhaps for that very reason – they immediately catch the eye: white snow contrasts with red blood, a strange blue beard shines through the gloom, or a little red hood characterises an entire fairy-tale heroine. The exhibition „Red Hood, Blue Beard“ explores the symbolic, cultural and historic significance of colour, as well as creating a bridge between the colour research of Newton, Goethe, Runge or the Brothers Grimm and modern-day image consulting.**

When the Brothers Grimm and the Hans Christian Andersen from Denmark published their famous collections of fairy tales, scientific research into the physics of colours and human vision was also booming: in 1810, Philipp Otto Runge and Johann Wolfgang von Goethe published the results of their colour research at the same time – and both men were writers or collectors of fairy tales. The world of fairy tales is colourful, but mention of the colours themselves is surprisingly rare. Nevertheless – or perhaps for that very reason – they immediately catch the eye: white snow contrasts with red blood, a strange blue beard shines through the gloom, or a little red hood characterises an entire fairy-tale heroine. The exhibition „Red Hood, Blue Beard“ explores the symbolic, cultural and historic significance of colour, as well as spanning the gap between the colour research of Newton, Goethe, Runge or the Brothers Grimm and modern-day image consulting. „The happy meeting of scientific research and creative imagination during the age of the Romantics inspired the exhibition to explore the significance of colours in fairy tales: why is Red Riding Hood’s headgear red, of all things, and why is a blue beard odd? „, says Peter Stohler, Director and Programme Manager of GRIMMWELT Kassel.

The world would be a sadder place without colours – grey, or maybe even completely black and white. Colours brighten up our lives and weave their own special magic, especially in fairy-tales. Although they are rarely mentioned, there are examples of colour everywhere: clothing, such as Little Red Riding Hood’s headgear, the equally famous hair colour of characters such as Snow White, Rapunzel and Bluebeard, and in solid form such as the gold nugget in Hans in Luck. „The symbolic, cultural and historic significance of colours has often developed in the course of several centuries. Whether it be in the works of the Brothers Grimm, Andersen or Goethe: colours are not chosen at random, but always have a deeper meaning“, says exhibition curator Dr. Sabine Schimma. However, this meaning is not always unequivocal, and it can be interpreted in many different ways, depending on the exact context in which the colour occurs. „This exhibition is a daring experiment: we are presenting the

symbolism of individual colours by means of historical drawings and book illustrations, and visitors can experience them in simulations of Mother Hulda's golden rain or the endless reflections of the German Romantics' „blue flower" in the Mirror of Infinity“, Schimma adds. The exhibition is also inspiring on another level: fascinating 19th century experiments with colour, using prisms and coloured shadows, invite young and old visitors to participate in hands-on activities. The cheerful, colourful combination of fairy-tale illustrations, games and historical experiments guarantees an intriguing journey of discovery and exploration of a subject that – until now – has led a shadowy existence.

**Exhibition duration:**

13.11.2019 – 13.04.2020

**Opening hours:**

Tue – Sun 10.00 a.m. – 6.00 p.m., Fri 10.00 a.m. – 8.00 p.m., Closed Mondays.

**Digital Press Kit and Photos:**

<https://www.grimmwelt.de/en/site/presse/>

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## Exhibition Team

**Director/Head of Programmes: Peter Stohler**

Peter Stohler has been Director of the GRIMM WORLD since the beginning of this year and is also responsible as programme manager for its programmatic orientation. He comes from Switzerland, studied art and film studies in Zurich, Amsterdam and London, followed by further training in cultural management. As representative for cultural affairs at the Department of Culture in the Canton Basel-Stadt from 2007 to 2013, he promoted projects of art, film, video art, photography and music. Before that, he was curator and director at several museums and art spaces in Zurich, Altdorf and Geneva. Before coming to the GRIMM WORLD, he had been director and senior curator at the Kunst(Zeug)Haus Rapperswil-Jona since 2013, directly on Lake Zurich. He is the author and publisher of numerous publications on contemporary art, photography and design.

**Curator: Dr. Sabine Schimma**

Following her degree in Cultural Studies, specialising in Media, Sabine Schimma completed her doctorate at the Bauhaus-University of Weimar on the subject of „Aesthetics and experiments in Goethe's colour studies". She worked as a curator in the Klassik Stiftung Weimar foundation, which includes responsibility for the current permanent exhibition on Goethe's life and work. She has worked at GRIMMWELT Kassel in the area of exhibitions since 2017.

**Project Management: Manuela Greipel**

Manuela Greipel has been responsible for the design at the GRIMM WORLD Kassel since 2015. She studied visual communication at the Kunsthochschule (School of Art and Design) in Kassel and takes the responsibility for international and interdisciplinary projects in Germany and abroad. She works in the areas of cultural and corporate communication as well as in the fields of design and spatial communication, typography and graphic/editorial design.

**Scenography and design: Christine Krüger, Werner Rien**

Archimedes Exhibitions GmbH in Kassel and Berlin plans, designs and implements permanent and temporary exhibitions for museums, Science Centres and other institutions. The main focus is on the staging and presentation of complex subjects that are common in the field of science and research or culture and politics. Additional services provided by Archimedes Exhibitions range from the conception and development of interactive installations and their design to final realisation: [www.archimedes-exhibitions.de](http://www.archimedes-exhibitions.de)

## Contributors

**Art Handling, Conservational Care:** Dieter Fuchs, Hans Peter Tewes

**With our special thanks to the participating artists:**

Markus Lefrançois (Initial illustrations exhibition areas), Katrin Nicklas (Carnovsky installation Frog Prince, Mother Hulda's rain of gold, figures on magnetic board), Patricia Thoma (blue flower)

**Exhibit Lenders:** Grimm collection of the City of Kassel, University Library Kassel, The Association of the Brothers Grimm in Kassel, University of Kassel – Didactics of Physics, Klassik Stiftung Weimar

**Supporters:** JS Medientechnik GmbH & Co. KG, ZEISS Vision Center Kassel

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**As well as all other contributors, including:**

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## Accompanying publication

**Red Hood. Blue Beard – Colour in Fairy Tales**

The eye of the beholder is fascinated by colours. And their symbolic and cultural historical meanings, which have often developed over centuries and been reflected in various narrative forms, are found to be equally as fascinating. Thus in traditional folk tales and in literary fairy tales, colours are not just attributes or superficial manifestations but rather have a deeper significance. Why, for example, is the head covering of a little unimposing girl, of all things, red, and why is the beard of a knight who kills warnen blue? Why does Cinderella wear grey

clothing, and what power does Peter Schlemihl's sold shadow have? The publication traces - colour by colour - these and other exciting questions, all richly portrayed with numerous prints and illustrations from historical fairy tale books.

**Red Hood. Blue Beard – Colour in Fairy Tales**

Sabine Schimma, Peter Stohler for the GRIMMWELT Kassel (eds)

Arnoldsche Art Publishers, Stuttgart, 2019

English/German

ISBN 978-3-89790-573-3

Hardcover, 120 pp

€ 28 [D] /US\$ 50 / £

## **Accompanying programme**

**Sundays and public holidays from 17.11.2019 to 13.04.2020 | 4 p.m. | Exhibition guided tour**

**Red Riding Hood, Blue Beard**

We are fascinated by the symbolic, cultural and historical significance of colours, which has often developed over several centuries and is also reflected in fairy tales and other narratives. Why is Red Riding Hood's headgear red, of all colours, and why is a blue beard odd? This guided tour for adults and children explores these and many other intriguing questions about colour in fairy tales.

Tour charge 5 €, reduced rate 3 € plus museum admission charge

**Thur., 21.11. | 7 p.m. | Reading**

**Blue. A journey through a fascinating colour**

For many centuries, blue has fascinated humanity like no other colour. It seldom occurs naturally in the world of plants and animals, and has always been coveted as a dye because of its rarity. Molecular biologist and scientific author Kai Kupferschmidt has undertaken a voyage of discovery through the universe of the colour blue, tracing its roots everywhere from the German Romantic movement's „blue flower” to the blue depths of a volcanic lake in Japan. Look forward to some true surprises!

Admission: 10 €, reduced rate 8 €, including admission to the special exhibition „Red Riding Hood, Blue Beard - Fairy-tale colours and experiments“

**Sun., 08.12. | 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. | Advent programme**

**A fairy-tale puppet show**

Castello's Puppet Theatre and its hand-carved puppets bring the Grimm's' fairy tales back to life again. The audience can see their heroes at close quarters, accompany them on their quest, and sometimes even bravely come to their aid. Go through the dark woods with Little Red Riding Hood to her grandmother's house, or guess your favourite story at the „Märchenwerkstatt” fairytale workshop.

2.00 p.m. | Little Red Riding Hood

3.00 p.m. | Fairy-tale workshop

Admission free

**Sun., 05.01., 12.01., 19.01., 26.01. | 12 noon | Combi-tour**

**The Brothers Grimm – live and in colour**

Immerse yourself in a fairy-tale world full of colours! Discover the highlights of the permanent exhibition and find out how Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm compiled their world-famous collection of fairy tales. The current special exhibition „Red Riding Hood, Blue Beard“ will tell you more about the significance of colours in a fairy tale. Experience the fascinating effect of colours for yourself by standing in the golden rain like „Gold Mary“ in the tale of Mother Hulda or seeing your own shadow in colour. Multi-coloured fun for young and old!  
5 €, reduced rate 3 € plus museum admission charge

**Sat., 01.02. | 6 p.m. | I'm taking my parents out**

**The Queen of Colours**

„Malwida, the Queen of Colours, summoned her subjects. Blue came, and it was gentle and mild. It bade a friendly welcome and filled the sky.“ This is how the story begins, adapted for the stage from Jutta Bauer's book and performed by the ensemble „Compagnie les voisins“.  
„The Queen of Colours“ is a play about the imperious Queen Malwida, who orders her colours around until they rise up against her, combining with one another to produce grey. Can Malwida save her colourful kingdom? A play for all the family with children aged 4 or over.  
Admission: 6 € for children under 10, otherwise 8 €

**Thur., 12.03. | 6 p.m. | Colour consultation**

**Mirror, mirror on the wall**

Are you the Snow White type, or more Rapunzel? Find out more about the power of colours and how to use them to make the most of your personal type. Colour and style consultant Lydia Horn will use vivid examples to show what effect colours can have, and give you a brief insight into your personal colour system.  
Admission: 15 €

**Tue., 06.04. | 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. | Easter holiday programme**

**Enchanting Easter basket arts and crafts**

Easter will soon be here, and the Easter bunny would like a pretty nest for his presents! Make and decorate your very own Easter basket with figures from the Grimms' stories, such as the Frog Prince, Sleeping Beauty, Little Red Riding Hood, Snow White, Bluebeard or the Wolf. Give the Easter bunny a big surprise!

Admission: 7 €, advance booking requested: phone 0561.5986190 or e-mail to [kasse@grimmwelt.de](mailto:kasse@grimmwelt.de)

**Events and readings will be in German.**