

Press release

Amsterdam Mahzor: A treasure comes home to Cologne Special exhibition presents joint European project

Cologne, 11 September 2019. An important highlight of the future MiQua. LVR-Jewish Museum in the Archaeological Quarter in Cologne can be seen from 25 September as a guest exhibit at the Wallraf-Richartz-Museum & Fondation Corboud. The Amsterdam Mahzor, purchased in 2017 thanks to a European partnership between the Rhineland Regional Council (LVR) and the Joods Historisch Museum in Amsterdam with the support of notable sponsors and foundations, will return to its original home in Cologne and be placed on display at a special exhibition.

This outstanding 13th-century specimen of Jewish cultural history, a 331-leaf document setting out a specific Cologne rite for Jewish holidays, is one of the oldest surviving illuminated Hebrew manuscripts on German-speaking territory. The big parchment folios contain prayers and liturgical poems impressively decorated with gold initials, foliage, filigree and figures. From 2021, once the MiQua is finished, the Amsterdam Mahzor will form part of the museum's permanent exhibition, right next to the synagogue where it was read in the Middle Ages.

Until 12 January 2020 the public will have an advance opportunity to study this treasure, unique in Germany, in the Window Gallery of the Wallraf-Richartz-Museum, where there is a view across the excavations outside Cologne's City Hall. The Amsterdam Mahzor was last displayed in Cologne at the exhibition *Monumenta Judaica* (1963/64). Dating from around 1250, the manuscript was acquired in 1669 by the Ashkenazi community in Amsterdam, where it was preserved until its recent purchase. MiQua's founding director **Dr Thomas Otten** believes that the Amsterdam Mahzor will offer the public a very special experience because it grants as yet unfamiliar insights into medieval Jewish life in Germany, and in particular Jewish culture in Cologne. In the future museum, the exhibition is to include a digital book explaining Jewish festivals based on the texts and illuminations.

The speakers on **24 September 2019** at the **press conference at 11 am** and the **opening at 7 pm** will be **Dr Marcus Dekiert** (Director of the Wallraf-Richartz-Museum & Fondation Corboud), **Dr Thomas Otten** (Director of MiQua. LVR-Jewish Museum in the Archeological Quarter in Cologne) and **Prof. Emile Schrijver** (General Director of the Joods Historisch Museum and Joods Cultureel Kwartier, Amsterdam). They will be joined in the evening by **Anne Henk-Hollstein** (President of the Rhineland Regional Assembly) and **Susanne Laugwitz-Aulbach** (Deputy Major of Fine Arts and Culture at Cologne City Council). Representatives of the sponsors and foundations who have so generously funded the project will also be present.

Facts & Figures Special exhibition

Amsterdam Mahzor. A treasure comes home

Exhibition dates	25 September 2019 to 12 January 2020
Location	Wallraf Richartz-Museum & Fondation Corboud Obenmarspforten, D-50667 Cologne
Partners	MiQua. LVR-Jewish Museum in the Archaeological Quarter in Cologne in cooperation with Wallraf-Richartz-Museum & Fondation Corboud and Joods Historisch Museum, Amsterdam
Project lead	Dr Thomas Otten, Dr Christiane Twiehaus
Press conference	Tuesday, 24 September 2019, 11 am Speakers: Dr Marcus Dekiert (Director Wallraf-Richartz-Museum & Fondation Corboud), Prof. Emile Schrijver (General Director Joods Historisch Museum and Joods Cultureel Kwartier, Amsterdam) and Dr Thomas Otten (Director MiQua. LVR-Jewish Museum in the Archaeological Quarter in Cologne)
Opening date	Tuesday, 24 September 2019, 7 pm Speakers: Dr Marcus Dekiert (Director Wallraf-Richartz-Museum & Fondation Corboud), Anne Henk-Hollstein (President of the Rhineland Regional Assembly), Susanne Laugwitz-Aulbach (Deputy Major of Fine Arts and Culture at Cologne City Council), Prof. Emile Schrijver (General Director Joods Historisch Museum and Joods Cultureel Kwartier, Amsterdam). Presentation: Dr Thomas Otten (Director MiQua. LVR-Jewish Museum in the Archaeological Quarter in Cologne)
Supporting events	13 October / 18 October 2019, resp. 3–5 pm "From medieval altarpieces to Eduard Bendemann: The Wallraf's Jewish History" (curator led tour)
Publication	The Amsterdam Mahzor. Including an article by Katrin Kogman-Appel, 24 pages and additional 16-page booklet, 12.90 €.
Opening hours	Tuesday to Sunday 10 am–6 pm, 1st + 3rd Thursday per month: 10 am-10 pm, holidays: 10 am–6 pm (Day of German Unity (3 Oct), Reformation Day (31 Oct), All Saints' Day (1 Nov), 26 Dec) / closed on Mondays (also closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas, New Year's Eve, New Year)
Admission fee	Regular 9 € / reduced 4.50 €, after 1 November (Start Rembrandt exhibition): 13 € /reduced 8 € / free entrance for kids and youngsters based in Cologne up to age 18, as well as all school groups (worldwide, including two supervisors per group)
Press contact special exhibition	MiQua. LVR-Jewish Museum in the Archaeological Quarter in Cologne, Michael Jakobs Phone: +49 (0)221 809-7156, E-Mail: presse.miqua@lvr.de Download Press releases & images: https://miqua.lvr.de/de/presse/presse.html
Funded by	Ernst von Siemens Kunststiftung, Kulturstiftung der Länder, C.L. Grosspeter Stiftung, Kulturförderung des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen, Rheinischer Sparkassen- und Giroverband, Kreissparkasse Köln and Sparkasse KölnBonn

Press images



Image 1: Amsterdam Mahzor, Folio 180b: "Kol Nidre", ca. 1250.

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(Acquired in 2017 by Joods Historisch Museum, Amsterdam, and the Rhineland Regional Council (LVR) with support of Kulturstiftung der Länder, Ernst von Siemens Kunststiftung, Kulturförderung des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen, C.L. Grosspeter Stiftung, Rheinischer Sparkassen- und Giroverband as well as Kreissparkasse Köln and Sparkasse KölnBonn)



Image 2: Amsterdam Mahzor, ca. 1250,
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Press contact

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