

Exhibition programme 2026



»Halibut Bowl«
Clifford George, Nootka, Vancouver
Island, 1996-2000
© GRASSI-Museum für Völkerkunde zu
Leipzig, Staatliche Kunstsammlungen
Dresden, photo Melanie Meier

25 October 2025 through 19 April 2026

Dinner Is Served - a Culinary Trip around the World

Europe's aristocratic families used to indulge in luxurious banquets with exquisite table accessories to demonstrate their power and extravagantly while away their time. Well into the 18th century, it was not unusual for people to bring their own cutlery - quite often peculiar, valuable one-of-a-kind pieces. In the Baroque period, matching dinner services came into vogue and finally, in the wake of industrialisation, became mass-produced commodities. Trading with faraway countries, conquests and migration processes augmented people's menus with exotic fruit and spices, and contributed to a change in customs and traditions. Juxtaposing ethnographic treasures and exquisite historical examples of the goldsmith's art with imaginatively designed contemporary dining utensils and everyday objects, the exhibition will be themed around dining cultures around the globe. After all, the way to culture is also through the stomach.

Admission € 10, reduced price € 8.50, combined (permanent & special exh.) ticket € 12,50

17 May 2026 through 6 January 2027

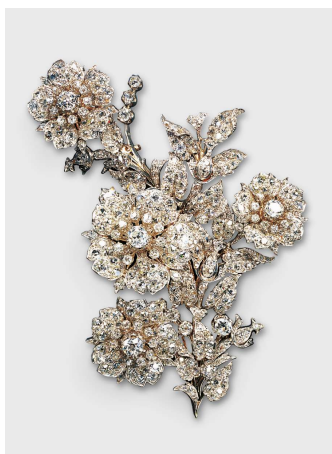
Opens on International Museum Day, Sunday, 17 May, 5 p.m.

21st International Silver Triennial, organised by the Association for the Promotion of the Goldsmith's Art and the German Goldsmiths' House in Hanau
Pforzheim's Jewellery Museum will be showing the creations selected from the 21st International Silver Triennial that were previously on view at the DIVA Museum in Antwerp. Since 1965, the Association for the Promotion of the Goldsmith's Art and the German Goldsmiths' House in Hanau have been organising the competition to promote the work of contemporary silversmiths. Meanwhile, thanks to presentations both in Germany and abroad, the Silver Triennial has become a series of travelling exhibitions that enjoys international recognition. This time too, visitors can look forward to admiring exceptional silver objects whose designs and craftsmanship testify to artistic sophistication and an impeccably high level of artisanal precision.

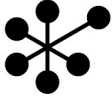


»Bottle in Silver«
Silver, leather, Lee Sungyeoul, 2023
Photo Sangduk Han

Cool Brilliance - the Jewellery Museum's highlights made of silver and diamonds
Everything that glitters catches people's eye. No other metal reflects light as much as silver. It has a bright, warm white hue to which it owes its Latin name of »argentum«. The cool brilliance of diamonds is shown off to maximum advantage only in a setting of white precious metal, something that suited people's self-indulgent desire for luxury and extravagance in the Baroque and Rococo periods. Well into the 19th century, diamonds used in jewellery were often set in silver because white gold had still had to be invented, and the methods for processing platinum weren't fully developed yet. So it was not uncommon back then for people to outfavour silver over gold. In our Historical collection, we'll be spotlighting the multifaceted importance of silver, a multimedia installation will be placing the metal in an historico-cultural context.



Brooch
English or French, about 1860-70
© SMP, photo Günter Meyer



»Sumt« necklace
with Maria Theresa thalers
Oman, Wahiba Sands, Bedouins
© SMP, Eva and Peter Herion collec-
tion, photo Petra Jaschke

Afghanistan, Oman or the Black Forest?

Silver highlights from the ethnographic Herion collection

Ancient silver finds date back to the 5th millennium BC and were excavated in the mountainous region between Asia Minor and Afghanistan. Silver is still popular worldwide in the form of jewellery or as a means of payment, as is testified by the Eva and Peter Herion collection in the Jewellery Museum's »What is Jewellery?« presentation. The respective exhibition area can be rediscovered with this aspect in mind, not least with the help of a digital excavation table that allows visitors of all ages to slip into the role of archaeologists. With a little skill, they can unearth silver treasures from all over the world - an interactive fun game for the entire family. The originals can be admired in the relevant areas of the exhibition.

Admission to all silver-themed exhibitions € 12.50, reduced price € 10

Status: 4 March 2026, subject to change