

Press Release

PRISON

Geneva, 5 February 2019

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum (MICR) presents its new exhibition, **PRISON**, which will be held from 6 February to 18 August 2019.

A ground-breaking international partnership

In keeping with our open-minded, partnership-based exhibition policy, the **MICR** teamed up with the **musée des Confluences in Lyon** and the **Deutsches Hygiene-Museum in Dresden** to explore some of the issues and challenges associated with incarceration.

The exhibition

PRISON looks at incarceration from all angles - from imprisonment and exclusion to detention conditions, social reintegration and restorative justice. Each of these equally compelling notions serves as a reminder that incarceration is a complex and multidisciplinary issue. In addition to exploring the historical, philosophical, anthropological and sociological aspects of incarceration, the exhibition features artistic contributions.

The selected artists elicit both the discomfort and the fascination associated with prisons. The exhibition presents the work of photographers such as **Grégoire Korganow, who shot freely and extensively in French prisons from 2010 to 2013; Mathieu Pernot, with his series *Les Hurlleurs*; and Valerio Bispuri, who photographed in Italian prisons. It also comprises several art installations, including *Temps mort* by Mohamed Bourouissa, a film constructed around phone messages exchanged between the artist and two inmates; *Purgatory*, by Jesse Krimes, who served time himself; and a remarkable work by artist Jean-Michel Pancin, created out of fabric bundles tossed over prison walls by family and friends**

yet caught in the barbed wire or left unclaimed in a prison yard. The exhibition also shows video footage of a number of people who have had direct experience with the prison world.

The exhibition will familiarize visitors with penitentiary life and its denizens through multimedia screens, art displays and even a temporary cinema showing a montage of movies that have shaped the public's view of prison.

A significant part of the exhibition space is set aside for objects crafted by inmates either secretly or in supervised workshops. These include small statues called **kachinas** that were created by female inmates in Champ-Dollon Prison in Geneva; a pizza oven found in Andreas Baader's cell; and a luxury purse on which Mexican inmates tattooed Frida Kahlo's face.

Exhibition design

The bold and unconventional exhibition design was developed by Zurich-based firm **Holzer Kobler Architekturen**. Visitors will be struck by the exhibition's green walls and three orange-barred prison cells - each of which highlights a particular aspect of imprisonment without resorting to parody. The cells are arranged around an open space where possible alternatives to incarceration are explored.

PRISON delivers a reflection on incarceration that goes beyond the prison walls and highlights the paradoxes of contemporary society. It also forces us to stop and consider our shared responsibility in perpetuating a system that so regularly makes the headlines.

In partnership with:



PRISON

Opening: Tuesday, February 5 at 6:30pm

Temporary exhibition from 6 February to 18 August 2019

Images and the complete press kit can be downloaded at:

<http://www.redcrossmuseum.ch/en/press/temporary-exhibition/>

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