

## Knie Circus Fashion – One hundred years of costumes in the Textile Museum

7 March 2019 – 19 January 2020

**The exhibition «Knie Circus Fashion» presents costumes from the early twentieth century until today. The gorgeous robes from the holdings of the Knie Family – as much functional work clothing as they are a fashion statement – provide a review of a hundred years of circus history. The show, organised for the «100th Anniversary of the Swiss National Circus Knie», is being presented in the Textile Museum St. Gallen from 7 March 2019 until 19 January 2020.**

Captivating circus! Breathtaking acrobatics, awe-inspiring animal acts and clowns larking about at the edge of the ring are turned into a magical feat for the senses through imaginative and inventive costumes and accessories.

In the early days of the Circus Knie, spangle-covered garments adorned the artistes who toured from one village green to the next to perform under the stars. Beneath the roof of the tent – the circus acquired its first chapiteau in 1919 – the splendid costumes of the artistes likewise form an essential part of the mise-en-scène, giving clown, magician, animal trainer and all other members of the cast their unique character. The costumes are highly functional and reflect as well as toy with contemporary fashions. Unsurprisingly many of the valuable pieces were conceived by famous costume designers and made from exquisite materials.

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Swiss National Circus Knie, the Textile Museum St. Gallen presents a selection of around 90 costumes from the private collection of the Knie family. The garments embody the history of the Circus Knie, which has entranced generations of spectators.

«Knie Circus Fashion» was realised thanks to the generous support of its Presenting Partner, St. Galler Kantonalbank. The exhibition was also funded by the Zürcherische Seidenindustrie Gesellschaft, the Lottery Fund and other sponsors.

Curators/ Scenography: Moritz Junge, Martin Leuthold

Press contact

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**“100 Years of the Swiss National Circus Knie” in the Textile Museum St.Gallen and the Swiss Museum of Transport**

**Presenting Partner**



**St.Galler  
Kantonalbank**



**Press - Information and press conference**

Press releases and images can be found on our website [www.textilmuseum.ch/presse](http://www.textilmuseum.ch/presse). Furthermore, we cordially invite you to our press conference:

**Wednesday, March 6, 2019, 11 am  
Textile Museum St. Gallen**

If you have any further questions or if you would like to register for the press conference, please contact:

Silvia Gross, communications, Textile Museum St. Gallen  
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**100 Years of the Swiss National Circus Knie – Anniversary Exhibitions**

The Textile Museum St. Gallen and the Verkehrshaus – the Swiss Museum of Transport – are joining in the anniversary activities. Both museums are presenting a scenario of circus history in their exhibitions. St. Gallen is putting on a show of costumes; in Lucerne an original circus railway wagon is on display.

**Knie Circus Fashion – One hundred years of costumes  
in the Textile Museum**

Exhibition from 7.3.2019 to 19.1.2020, open daily 10 am – 5 pm

Textile Museum St.Gallen | Vadianstrasse 2 | CH-9000 St.Gallen  
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**Knie on Tour**

In the exhibition «Knie on Tour» the Swiss Museum of Transport is presenting the original circus railway wagon 29 by Margrit Lippuner-Knie, the carriage that received such circus guests as Charlie Chaplin, General Henri Guisan and Carl Zuckmayer. Starting on 26 March 2019

Verkehrshaus der Schweiz | Lidostrasse 5 | CH-6006 Luzern  
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verkehrshaus.ch**We wish to thank**

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