

Press release

4th May 2024

Swiss National Museum of Woodcarving, Brienz

Special exhibition 2024 «CHALETS TO TAKE HOME» - on the trail of a popular phenomenon

‘CHALETS TO TAKE HOME’ - Chalets characterise the Swiss landscape in the Alps, chalets trigger longings, chalets offer a high standard of living - these are just three aspects of the phenomenon of the chalet, the typical Swiss house. With the special exhibition ‘Chalets to take home’ from 4 May - 27 October 2024, the Swiss national Museum of Woodcarving is exploring a special feature that triggers warm feelings and amazement, too.

Brienz is the home of woodcarving, and the Swiss Woodcarving Museum is the centre of this vast creation. The museum is a must when it comes to discovering numerous masterpieces from bygone eras, rarities, specialities and an insight into the great world of Swiss woodcarving. Located in the listed premises of Jobin AG on Brienz's main street, this museum of passion is open to visitors from Wednesday to Sunday from May to October. The group exhibition is staged again each year, and today features a wide variety of sculptures, reliefs, sketches, models, music boxes, music automata, the famous wooden chalets and wooden toys, as well as many attractive contemporary creations.

What one or two ‘urbane’ journalists have sometimes called ‘tastelessness’, when guests from all over the world have travelled home with a chalet of portable size in their suitcase, is now an economic factor and an interesting development that spans many valleys and eras.

Chalets are as much a part of Switzerland as watches and chocolate. They still characterise the Alpine landscape today. No wonder enthusiastic travellers want to take ‘their chalet’ home with them - as a small souvenir or even as an entire house from the chalet factory. As a result, the wooden chalet has become a global export and can be found on every continent as a so-called Swiss house.

In Switzerland, they characterise many a village as the dominant building element; elsewhere, the chalet is visible in simple form on an alpine pasture, as sun-drenched family homes in the village or as a sophisticated prestige property in winter sports resorts. The museum already presents several wooden chalets in various sizes and designs.

The special exhibition 2024, which was realised in collaboration with and under the artistic direction of ‘Das Gelbe Haus, Films’ with Carmen Gasser Derungs and Remo Derungs, Chur/Zurich, allows visitors to immerse themselves in the bygone world of the ‘Hüselischnitzler’ around 1880 and traces the success story through to the popular small or large travel souvenir.

Many more stories and information can be found on our website www.museum-holzbildhauerei.ch

(2711 letters)

Supporting images are available to download from the website under Media.

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