

## **Special exhibition “~~Stereotypes~~ Neanderthal”**

### **Neanderthal Museum**

**November 23, 2024 - August 31, 2025**

Muscle-bound, wild men in fur clothing, hunting mammoths with spears. We all know this image of the Neanderthal man. In popular genres such as exhibitions, pictures, books and films, stereotypes are used again and again and still are. But do these stereotypes reflect the Neanderthal communities as a whole? Do they reflect their diversity and their different living conditions, abilities and tasks? Where are the women? Where are the older people? Where are the children? What tasks did they perform in the communities? How were roles distributed within the groups? Or were there no fixed roles at all? These and other topics are the focus of the new special exhibition “~~Stereotypes~~ Neanderthal” at the Neanderthal Museum, Germany. In a provocative way, the exhibition organizers question our current ideas about prehistoric Neanderthal communities and the extent to which we may need to change our perspective. With a contemporary design developed by Studio Quack and immersive experiences by media design studio 2av, this exhibition offers fascinating new insights into a little-known world of the Neanderthals.

The international exhibition team of archaeologists has collected all the scientific data on Neanderthal women, children and older people and uses this as a basis to approach the members of the Neanderthal communities that have received little attention to date. A selection of rarely or never before shown exhibits illustrates the basis on which the research works. In short and comprehensible texts, the exhibition organizers explain what is known or where questions remain unanswered. There are special texts for children that explain the topics in a child-friendly way. Adults and children can have fun learning new knowledge at the many hands-on stations.

In addition to the scientific part, a highlight of the exhibition is the accompanying audio tour. Archaeologist and successful author Rebecca Wragg Sykes (Kindred. Neanderthal Life, Love, Death, Art) has written the audio texts for the exhibition. She has developed four Neanderthal female figures based on known finds, who tell stories about their eventful lives. They talk about births, the loss of children and family members, hunting, everyday tasks and encounters with other people. At the beginning of the exhibition, one of four randomly selected Neanderthal women will accompany you through the exhibition. At each station of the exhibition, guests learn more about her life, connect with her and join her on an emotional journey into the past.

The exhibition is suitable for the whole family. A special program accompanying the exhibition also offers special offers for groups and school classes.

After the end of the exhibition in the Neanderthal Museum, the exhibition will go on tour and continue to be shown in other museums as a traveling exhibition.