

STAPFER HAUS:

Lenzburg, 31 October 2020

Press Release

New exhibition at the Stapferhaus in Lenzburg: 'Gender & Sex. Discover now' from 1 November 2020

Gender & Sex. It's everywhere: in our minds and in our bodies, down at the local and out on the pitch, at the office and in bed – and it's always a hot topic. The Stapferhaus in Lenzburg has dedicated its forthcoming exhibition to this topic and now invites visitors to embark on a fascinating journey of discovery. How does gender actually come about? What is it that makes some of us women, and others, men? And what goes beyond that?

Blossoming out of the Stapferhaus entrance is a huge, brightly coloured flower. Stepping through it into the Stapferhaus, visitors enter a world filled with diversity, initially gazing deep into the human body to land among cells, chromosomes and hormones. As the next few doors open, it becomes clear there is far more to gender than mere biology. It's about culture and society, education and role models, the past and the present.

Here visitors have the opportunity to discover themselves, and gender, in all its facets. They stroll their way through worlds of pink and pale blue, try out gender-specific poses, stand on a sloping floor surrounded by equality statistics, and find out that Stone Age women actually hunted, and why men once wore high heels.

The exhibition creates an inspiring sensory space to engage with the topic of gender in a fun and entertaining way. It's about roles and work, power and order, ideals of beauty, and sexuality. And everyone gets to have a say: young and old, women, men, and persons in between or outside those two categories. Even our genitals have something to say, as it were, in a manner as humorous as it is poetic.

Fifty years after women obtained the right to vote, the time seems right in Switzerland to address the gender issue fundamentally and in all its nuances. The new Stapferhaus exhibition invites everyone to engage with the topic of gender at the personal and social level. It opens up new prospects and creates a sensuous space for dialogue in a lively and heated debate.

GENDER & SEX is scheduled to run from 1.11.2020 to 31.10.2021. At the Stapferhaus, right next to Lenzburg railway station

Scenography: Rappaport Szenographie Architektur GmbH, graphics: Studio Roth&Maerchy AG

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Exhibition Text and Key Visuals



For some, it's not colourful enough; for others, it's already too much. Where some see red, others feel all warm inside. Be that as it may, the subject of gender never leaves anyone cold. But how does gender actually come about? How do we love and live? What is it that makes some of us women, and others, men? And what goes beyond that?

At the GENDER & SEX exhibition you'll discover more than worlds of pink and pale blue. You'll find out what a piano keyboard has to do with equality, and why men once wore high heels. You'll become acquainted with fresh perspectives – and have a say in how we want to live out our gender today, and in the future.

'Gender & Sex. Discover now' from 1 November 2020 to 31 October 2021
Stapferhaus, Bahnhofstrasse 49, 5600 Lenzburg, Switzerland

Opening hours: Tuesday to Sunday, 9 am to 5 pm, Thursdays until 8 pm
In German, with English and French subtitles

'Gender & Sex. Discover now'

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Photos of the exhibition will be available from October 20: stapferhaus.ch/medien

The exhibition has been made possible thanks to the kind support of:



About the Stapferhaus

At the Stapferhaus we like to focus on the big issues of the day: the issues that shape our lives, affect our country, and make the world go round. We invite visitors to discover exhibition experiences that appeal to all the senses and to join in the discussions in our events, workshops and courses.

It is a forum, a place of dialogue, of inspiration and fun-based insights to which all are welcome: the young and young-at-heart, experts and amateurs, advocates and opponents. Those who spot opportunities in social change and those for whom social change evokes a sense of unease. All those keen to gain a better understanding of themselves and the age we live in.

The home of the Stapferhaus is a pioneering new building at Lenzburg railway station. A venue geared towards content, mediation formats, and the general public. Hewn from timber the architecture is designed with change in mind. Walls can be rearranged, floors opened up, staircases shifted, and the façade and forecourt adapted accordingly: a vast stage for tackling the relevant issues of our own age.



The new premises have been sited right next to Lenzburg railway station since 2018. (Architecture: pool Architekten, Zurich)



The Stapferhaus provides some 1,400 square metres of space that can be transformed into a new sensorial experience for every exhibition.



For the FAKE exhibition, it was Pinocchio that greeted visitors in the forecourt ...



... for GENDER & SEX, the tour begins once they have entered through the giant flower on the first floor.