

# Universalmuseum Joanneum Presse

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## Grasping the World (Donald Preziosi) Austrian Museum Day 2011

In cooperation with Museumsbund Österreich und ICOM Österreich  
24.-26.11.2011

In 2011, the Joanneum celebrates the bicentenary of its founding as a universal museum. The Styrian State Museum is one of the oldest, largest and most diverse museums in Austria. Its collections, exhibitions and locations reflect the universal horizons and interpretational function of museums. The tie-up between the Bicentenary celebrations and Austrian Museum Day was intended to focus attention on this concept at this most important annual meeting of museum staff. All museums regardless of size, focal point of their collections and type have to do with the dialectics of identity and otherness, origin and future, nature and culture remembering and forgetting, ours and not ours. Confidence in the idea of an encyclopaedic classification of the world and forging a comprehensive narrative of it is waning.

But not the idea of a place single-mindedly reaching out – always open-mindedly, however tentatively and with the possibility of failure in mind, yet always striving for the new – to reflect our relationship with the world and find our bearings in it.

Museums are hybrid institutions where collecting, disciplinary research and exhibition activity work together – like their architectural and social spaces and history, plus the experiences, visual enjoyment and wishes of visitors – to make up the unending theatre of the significance of things.

### organisation

**Museumsakademie**

Universalmuseum Joanneum

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MUSEUMSBUND ÖSTERREICH

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