

Tourguide



Frankfurt

— City
of Women

MUSEUMS
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Historisches Museum Frankfurt —————

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Historisches
Museum
Frankfurt

— Welcome to the Historical Museum Frankfurt!

Many people have contributed to the city's cultural, political, and social identity. Gender categories have played a large role in society and in people's personal lives in the past, as well as today. Because women were not allowed to hold political office, for example, they were long underrepresented in many sectors. In return, women made their influence known in other areas. With this themed tour the Frankfurt Historical Museum recalls outstanding biographies of women, and commemorates their role in the city's history.

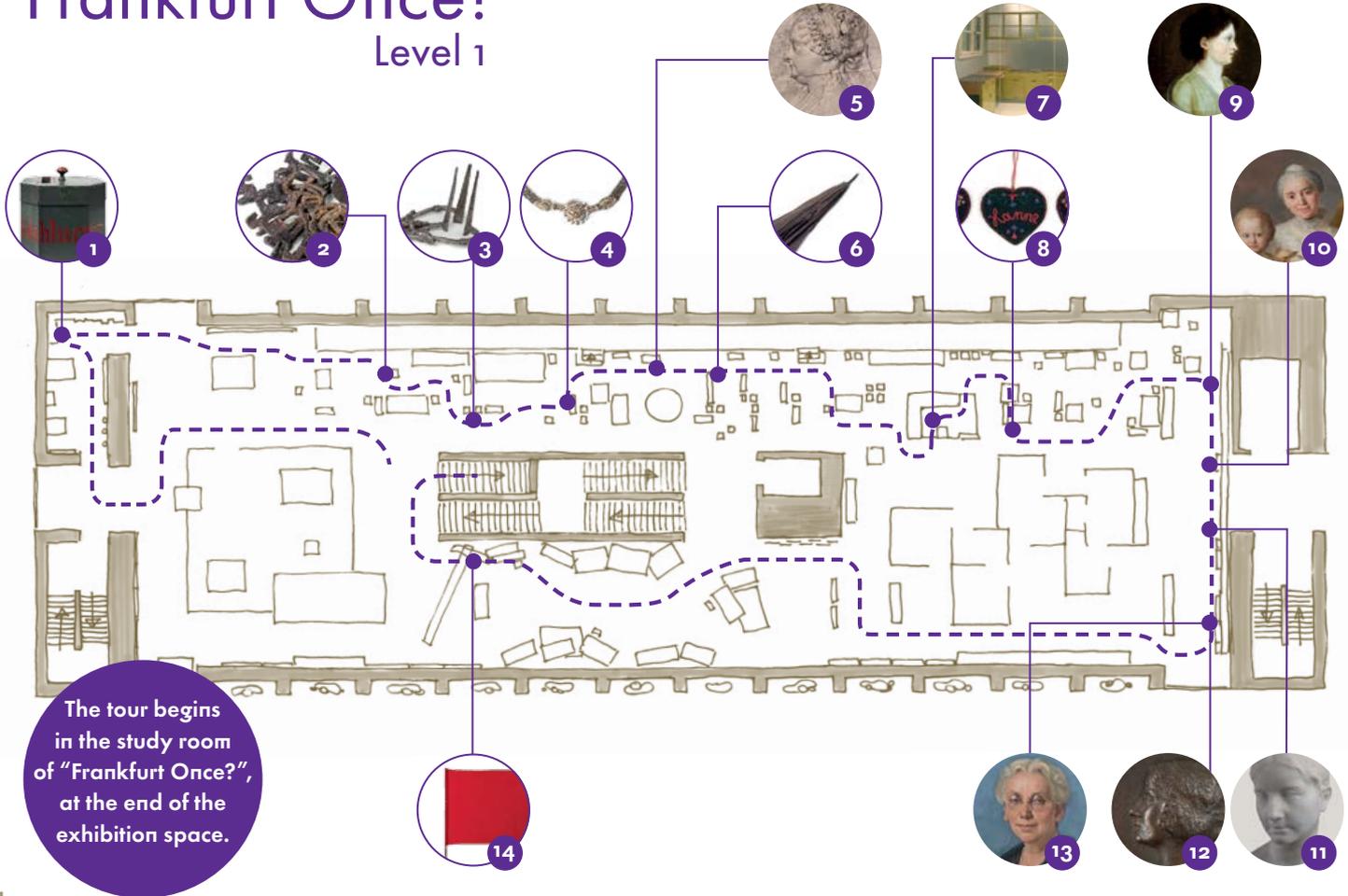
The focus of the tour is on "Frankfurt Once?" with its five theme galleries. Through the objects you will get to know rulers and revolutionaries, donors, researchers, artists and household managers – all of whom represent the history of women and gender.



In "Frankfurt Now!" the tour will guide you through the Library of the Generations, where you can find personal recollections of the women's movement. Further women are presented at three stops in the Collectors' Museum, including a saint, who acted as a role model for middle class families around the year 1500.

Frankfurt Once?

Level 1



The tour begins in the study room of "Frankfurt Once?", at the end of the exhibition space.

—¹ Women's Suffrage!



Women were allowed to vote and be elected to office in Germany for the first time on January 19, 1919. After the World War and the German revolution in 1918 a new electoral law was proclaimed: through equal, secret and direct elections, all women and men above 20 years of age could now choose their representatives in the National Assembly. 37 women were elected to office and participated in the drafting of the democratic constitution. 17.7 million eligible women voters had been mobilized to go to the polls. With only 15 million eligible male voters, the election's outcome depended crucially on women. To cast a vote a closed envelope with the ballot, filled out in secret in an adjoining room, was to be placed into the ballot box, according to the national electoral law of November 30, 1918.

Continue on to the gallery "100 x Frankfurt" (purple) and object no. 10 ▷



—² Keychain

We can no longer trace which chests, cabinets or boxes could be opened with these 32 different sized keys – or even who owned the keychain. But one thing is sure: if a woman wore a bunch of keys like this clearly visible on her belt, she demonstrated her so-called "key authority". This made it clear who ran the household and had sole access to the chests or boxes. The handover of the keys from a husband to his wife following marriage was a legal tradition around 1400.

Continue to object no. 19 ▷



3 Obstetrics Has Always Been Women's Work

Since the Middle Ages midwives have been involved in maternity care and childbirth in Frankfurt. They were advised and monitored by women from the upper classes, which was regulated in an ordinance from 1578. "Sworn women", who had medical knowledge, were added in the 17th century. They received compensation from the city and were required to be ready at any time for birthing mothers of all religions. It was only in the mid-18th century that pregnancy and birth were established as specialized fields in academic medicine. Since women were not allowed to study, the midwife profession became increasingly devalued, and doctors took over their position as obstetrician.

Continue to object no. 24 ▷



4 "Best of all women"

In Judaism the woman plays a central role: whoever was born of a Jewish mother is him or herself Jewish. The marriage between man and woman was (and is) also imbued with many rituals. In the late Middle Ages the custom evolved among Jewish couples in German-speaking countries, to send a belt to each other on the eve of the marriage. The spouses wore these often elaborately crafted pieces only on the day of their wedding. The special eyelets on the belt were interlocked with each by the bride and groom at the conclusion of the ceremony, as a sign of their eternal bond.

Continue to object no. 34 ▷

5 The Perfect Hostess



Running a complex household, receiving guests and representing, while also maintaining her own passion for music, literature and theatre—this is what the life of Catharina Elisabeth Goethe (1731–1808) would have looked like within high society in the 18th century. As the mother of Johann Wolfgang, she also had to take care of the numerous guests from home and abroad who visited her famous son. Even after Goethe left Frankfurt for Weimar, some of the guests continued to come. They appreciated Frau Goethe as a highly educated and entertaining host, and an attentive observer of Frankfurt society.

The small box with hair and bobbins for lace-making is a memento of her, preserved by her servant.



Continue to object no. 45 ▷

6 A Revolutionary's Umbrella

Henriette Zobel (1813–1865) was one of the women who, during the March revolution of 1848 and German National Assembly, began to break out of her prescribed domestic role and take interest in politics. She regularly attended the National Assembly as a spectator in the Paulskirche, and was also at the opposition rally on the Pfingstweide in 1848, where a demonstration against the Prussian-Danish armistice resulted in the murder of right-wing conservative parliamentarians Prince Felix of Lichnowsky and General Hans von Auerswald. Henriette Zobel was considered the ringleader of the assailants and was sentenced to 16 years in jail. She had allegedly killed the general with her umbrella, although he had died from a gunshot wound.



Continue to object no. 68 ▷



—⁷ Not Just Reduced to the Kitchen

Margarete Schütte-Lihotzky (1897–2000) was a member of the designer team around Ernst May, who as the head of the urban housing department in the 1920s developed the “New Frankfurt”. The female architect from Vienna is the inventor of the “Frankfurt kitchen”, the world’s first integrated kitchen, of which about 10,000 were installed. Schütte-Lihotzky has additionally become known worldwide through her numerous draft designs and projects, especially for social housing. The Frankfurt painter Lino Salini drew a portrait of her at her workplace: “The First Female Frankfurt Architect at the Urban Planning Office” – and not only here was she the first.

Continue to object no. 78 ▷



—⁸ Symbolic Figure of the Resistance

From 1991 to 1995 the city of Frankfurt awarded the Johanna Kirchner Medal to a total of 147 people who had resisted the NS Regime and helped persecuted persons between 1933 and 1945. The prize was named after the Frankfurt Social Democrat Johanna Kirchner, who as a member of the Resistance in France was arrested in 1942, extradited to Germany, and executed on June 9, 1944 in Berlin-Plötzensee. She made the hearts in jail from cloth for her daughters, Lotte and Inge, and wrote in her last letter to them: “Be happy and be brave, there will be a brighter future for you [...]. Farewell.”

Continue up to the front of the room, into the area “Faces” (blue-grey) ▷



—⁹ Unconventional Romantic

Karoline von Günderrode (1780–1806) led an extraordinary life for her time, and created a remarkable body of literary work. When she was only 17 years old she entered the secular Frankfurt convent for women, the Cronstetten Hynspergischen Damenstift. Karoline von Günderrode longed for a self-determined life and violated conventions of the time. She drew attention to discrimination against women and restrictions on their freedom, especially concerning access to scholarship and education. She was also active as a writer, and wrote some of the most beautiful poems of European romanticism. She took her own life in 1806.



10 Family Manager

Paula Maria née Allesina (1725–1791) was the daughter of a wealthy silk merchant family. Because she had no brothers, her husband Franz Maria Schweitzer became a partner, then owner of the silk wholesale business, and took on her family name. The Schweitzer-Allesinas were one of the richest families in Frankfurt, and commissioned a magnificent city palace for themselves on the Zeil. Paula had 14 children, and was responsible for the domestic workers and the large household, which was also a social gathering point in Frankfurt. Mozart performed in their private music room in 1790; Goethe was also one of their regular guests. The large-format oil painting from 1758 shows Paula with husband and four of her 14 children.

11 Natural Scientist, Women's Rights Advocate, Donor and Peace Activist



The white marble bust in the gallery "Faces" portrays Anna Edinger (1863–1929). Her multi-faceted work still deserves special recognition today. She was among the major benefactors of the Frankfurt University, and was active in the Frankfurt Jewish

women's movement, as well as for nationwide governing bodies such as the Federation of German Women's Associations. There she struggled for the improvement of the rights of women, in particular combating female poverty. She was also one of the participants at the 1915 International Women's Peace Congress at The Hague, which opposed the First World War.



12 Democrat and Rebel

Tony Sender (1888–1954) played a major role in the 1918 revolution in Frankfurt. As an opponent to the war and union member, she prepared the civilian overthrow in November, and then became involved in the revolutionary workers and soldiers councils. She became a member of the Frankfurt City Council in 1919, representing the Independent Social Democratic party. The democrat and rebel was politically active on a comprehensive range of issues. From 1920 on she was a member of the Reichstag and moved from Frankfurt to Berlin. In 1933 she was forced to flee Germany from the Nazis.

13 First Woman City Councillor



Meta Quarck-Hammerschlag (1864–1954) had fought for women’s rights in the Frankfurt women’s movement since the end of the 19th century. She campaigned particularly for the social equality of women. With the introduction of women’s suffrage in 1918, Meta Quarck-Hammerschlag was able to become active as a politician. She was seated in 1919 as the first woman in the Frankfurt municipal administration. In 1926 the Frankfurt artist Otilie W. Roederstein portrayed the then 62-year old municipal politician and women’s rights activist.

Continue to the “Flag Gallery” (dark green), passing the dark blue cabinets ▷

14 Frankfurt Women’s Council



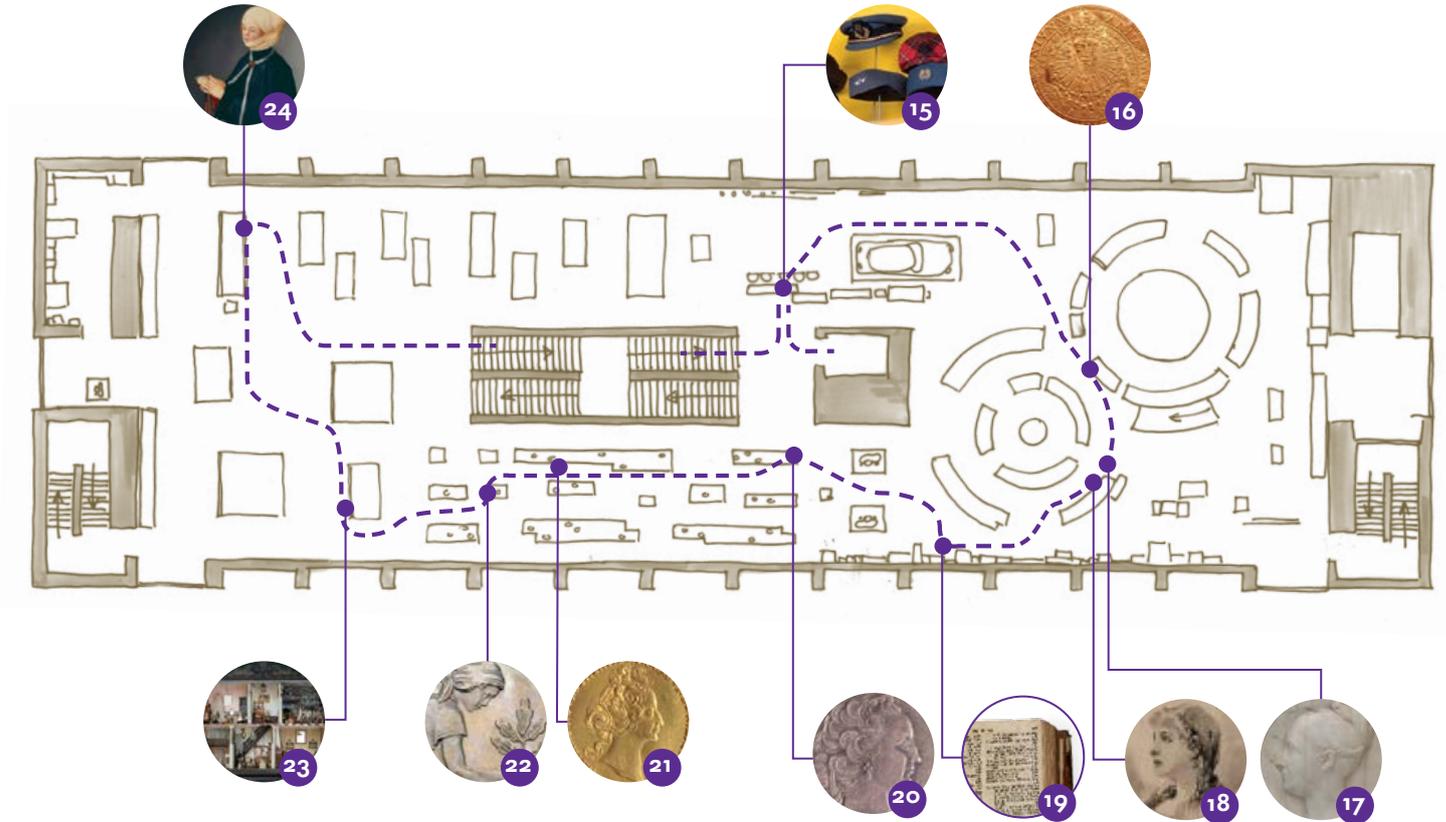
The “Frankfurt Women’s Council”, founded in 1968, was part of the second German women’s movement, which arose at this time. Their slogan “personal is political!” was especially provocative. It meant more

than just the participation in political decisions through elections and offices. It was argued that issues such as sexuality and child-rearing, viewed previously as “private”, should now be discussed openly. In connection with the dispute over Paragraph 218, which regulated the termination of pregnancy, large demonstrations called for the right to self-determination for women.

Use the central staircase or the elevator to level 2, entering the area “Crossings” (yellow) ▷

Frankfurt Once?

Level 2





—¹⁵ Keep Smiling

The most visible sign of membership to a specific airline is the smart, fashionable uniform, topped with the appropriate headwear. A stewardess or flight attendant, as the profession is called today, still has to struggle with many prejudices: ideally she should be young and pretty, and just like a good fairy anticipate every wish of the passenger. With the rise of mass tourism the profession has also changed, and become altogether more complex. But the clichés remain...

Continue to the area “Emperor-makers” (red) ▷



—¹⁶ First female Emperor

Archduchess Anna of Austria-Tyrol (1585–1618) was married at the age of 26 years to her cousin. Her husband Matthew was crowned in Frankfurt in 1612 as Emperor. Just two days later she was also coronated with great ceremony by the Prince Elector of Mainz, becoming the first woman to be crowned Empress in Frankfurt. This was an exceptional step, carried out at the explicit request of the Emperor. The future Imperial couple sat as models for the preparation of commemorative medals in Frankfurt. These medals were given away during the coronation of the Emperor. Empress Anna died childless in 1618, three months before her husband.

The tour continues in the area
“People’s Representatives” (grey) ▷



¹⁷ Early Revolutionary

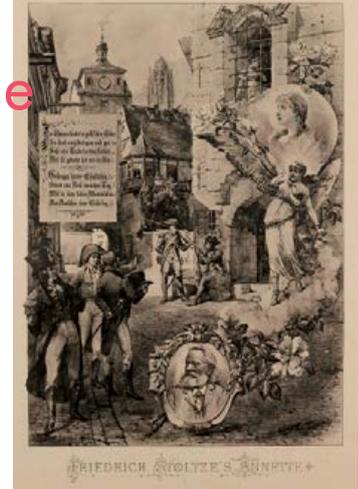
Without women the revolution of 1848 would be unthinkable. Starting in the 1830s, in the so called pre-March or Vormärz period, women were already involved in attempting to overthrow the monarchies, and fighting for freedom and democracy. Many women took part in the 1833 Frankfurt Wachensturm (Storming of the Guardhouse), including Eva Bunsen.

Her husband, George Bunsen, and his brothers organized the rebellion against the German Confederation. After the uprising on April 3, 1833 failed, Eva Bunsen, along with other revolutionaries, was subjected to interrogation in February 1834 and barely managed to escape prison.

¹⁸ Woman Storming the Guardhouse

The family Stoltze fought actively for press freedom and democratic rights in the revolutionary period of the 1830s and 1840s.

Annette Stoltze, along with her brother, the poet Friedrich Stoltze, came in contact with revolutionary circles very early on at the restaurant of their parents “Zum Rebstock” (The Grapevine). After a failed attempted uprising, the storming of the Frankfurt guardhouse (Wachensturm) in 1833, she was caught trying to free captured revolutionaries, and in 1834 was sentenced to four weeks detention. She died in 1840, most likely from the effects of her imprisonment, at just 27 years of age.



The tour continues in the area “Communication”, letter “M” (brown) ▷



19 Entrepreneurial spirit

In the 17th century, there were a few number of women in Frankfurt, such as Anna Catharina Latomus (?–1656), who were distinguished by their great business acumen. When her husband, the famous publisher Sigismund Latomus died, she continued to run the publishing company herself for over 25 years. On the basis of her considerable entrepreneurial skill the periodical publication Messrelationen (Fair Relations) gained a monopoly position in the city. When she died in 1656, her daughters Anna Kunigunde Engelhardt and Maria Magdalene Steindecker continued the publishing house with their respective husbands. Despite much controversy, the publication of Messrelationen remained in the family until 1711.

The tour continues in the area of “Empire of Coins” (petrol) in the first showcase on the right ▷

20 Powerful Ruler

Maria Theresa of Austria (1717–1780) was one of the most influential monarchs in Europe. As Archduchess of Austria, and Queen of Hungary and Bohemia, she led the government of the Habsburg monarchy by herself, and was also the mother of 16 children. By travelling from Vienna to Frankfurt, staying for three weeks and following the action from a throne in the Frankfurt Cathedral, she achieved that her husband Franz I was elected and crowned German Emperor in Frankfurt in 1745. She did not have herself crowned as Empress. As ruler over Tyrol, she had coins minted there with her image. The exhibited coin piece is a 15 kreutzer or ¼ thaler piece.



Continue to the last display case on the right ▷

—²¹ Princess Abbess of Quedlinburg

Anna Dorothea of Saxony-Weimar (1657–1704) was the reigning princess and abbess of the imperial abbey in Quedlinburg. This convent for women was an important centre that provided for learned women of nobility. Anna Dorothea was chosen abbess in 1684, and was confirmed by Emperor Leopold I. In this position she had far-reaching powers and many domains. As a sovereign ruler, Anna Dorothea had among other things the right to mint her own coins. Exhibited here is the Golden

Ducat from 1704, commemorating the death of Abbess. The coin was also legal tender in Frankfurt.



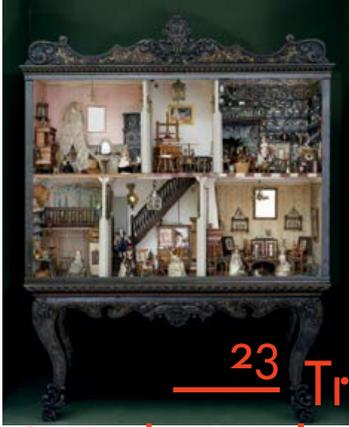
Continue to the last coin display case in the middle ▷



—²² Germany's Most Famous Tree Planter

For the most part, men graced the D-Mark coins in the Federal Republic of Germany. But the most popular coin was the 50-Pfennig piece, which from its launch in 1949 until 2001 was minted over 2 billion times. On the coin a woman plants a small oak tree, symbolising the humble beginnings of Germany after the Second World War. The kneeling woman with the head scarf was long held for the idealised image of a post-war "Trümmerfrau" (women who cleared away rubble). The real story behind the "50-Pfennig woman" only became known in the 1980s: the artist Gerda Jo Werner from Oberursel had stood as model for her husband, the designer of the coin.

Continue in the area of "Stories about Money" (silver) ▷



23 Training Gender Roles

Susanna Maria d'Orville (1735–1800), was given the dollhouse as a present in the mid-18th century. As a young girl, she was not supposed to simply play with it. The dollhouse served to train role models, with girls learning this way at an early age how to run the household. In a playful manner she would manage the budget, organize and process food, or instruct personnel. Part of playing also involved practising how a housewife receives and hosts guests. The furnishings of the dollhouse were adapted over time to contemporary tastes – girls were supposed to learn using a realistic model.

Continue to the showcase “Balance” ▷

24 Donor of the Dürer Altar

Catherine von Melem (*1518) brought her assets and noble origin into her marriage with Jakob Heller (approx. 1460–1522). Her mother was the Frankfurt noblewoman Gredgen von Dorfelder, her father of the wholesale merchant Johann von Melem, from Cologne. The parents erected the Stone House at Am Markt, between Römerberg and the Frankfurt Cathedral, and were most likely the richest family in Frankfurt around 1500. In 1517 Emperor Maximilian I stayed at their residence. The couple commissioned the famous Nuremberg painter Albrecht Dürer in 1507 with an altarpiece for the Dominican Church of Frankfurt, which included Catherine's commemorative plaque. That was just one of numerous endowments by the couple, which all revolved around their eternal salvation, art, education, and charity.



Continue via the central staircase to level 3. ▷

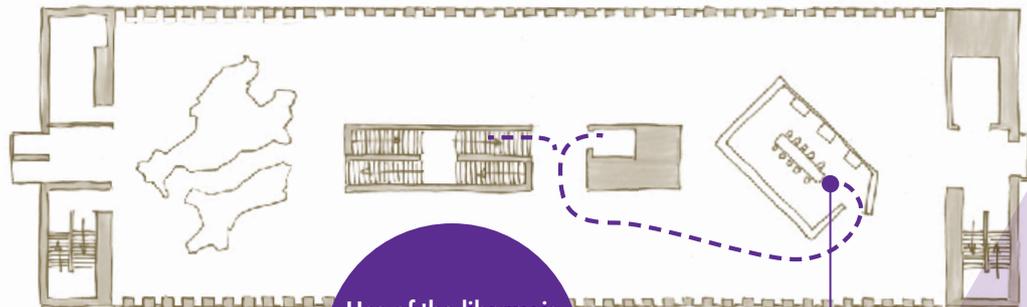
Frankfurt Now!

Level 3

25 The "Library of the Generations", 2000–2105

The Library of the Generations is an artistic remembrance project by Sigrid Sigurdsson. It is an inter-generational project planned for the duration of 105 years and designed as an "open archive", with entries from the recollections of 200 persons and groups who all have a connection to Frankfurt.

Some of the authors, for example Sylvia Kade or Cornelia Schneider, deal with the theme of the women's movement. Monika Seifert und Erika Sulzer-Kleinemeier focus on the alternative child day-care movement. At the media station you can hear one the first documentaries on the topic, from the year 1969.



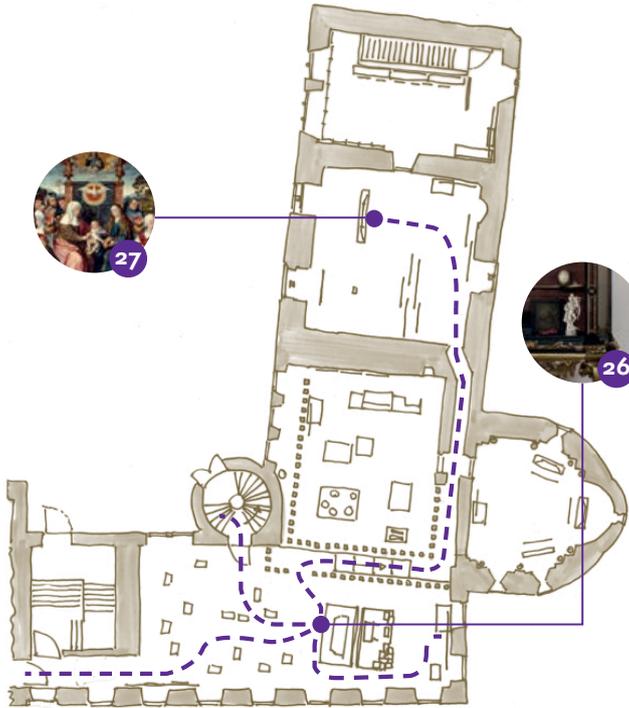
Use of the library is possible with advance reservation, ask our staff!



Continue via the central staircase or elevator to level 0, and then back into the foyer and into the Collectors' Museum, level 1. ▷

Collectors' Museum

Level 1



26 Collector and Donor



Catharina Elisabeth von Barkhaus (1696–1749) was the youngest of seven children from a traditional Frankfurt patrician family. She was married twice, with both marriages remaining childless. From her first husband, Anton Philipp Glock (1694–1721), she

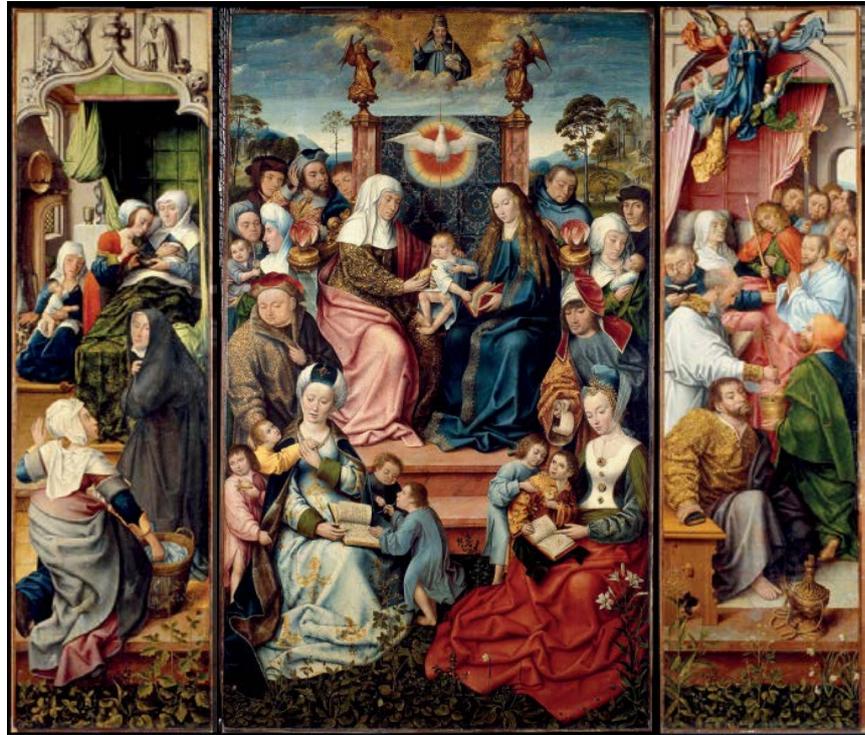
inherited a large coin collection, which she donated to the collection of the Frankfurt municipal library. Together with her second husband, Heinrich von Barkhaus (1691–1752), she acquired precious hand-crafted and exotic objects, which she displayed in an art cabinet. Her portrait was the only one of a woman included in the municipal portrait collection of major donors and Frankfurt scholars, exhibited at the City Library in 1749.

Continue through the row of columns, up the low stairs, along the narrow aisle into the Dalberg room (red) ▷

27 The Holy Family as Bourgeois Ideal

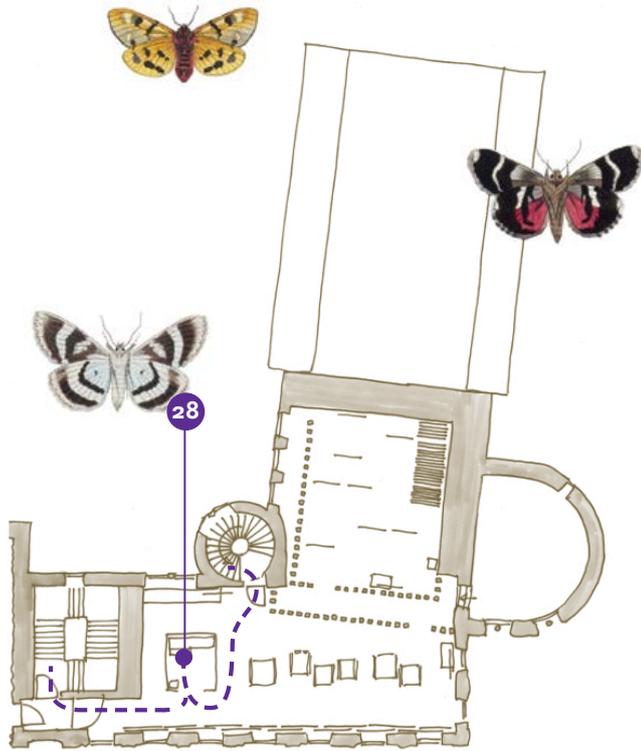
The St. Anne Altar was produced in 1504 for the Dominican Church of Frankfurt, and is a highlight of the Frankfurt Historical Museum. Located on the central panel are Saint Anne (as a dignified matron with white hood), her daughter Maria (as Virgin Mother with open hair), as well as the Baby Jesus surrounded by the Holy Family. The worship of St. Anne was widespread in Frankfurt around the year 1500. The bourgeois elite saw their own values ideally reflected in the close association linking St. Anne with the Holy Family.

At the same time there were also theological disputes about the role of Mary in the divine plan of salvation, revolving around the themes of Original Sin and the Immaculate Conception. There was also an intense



debate surrounding her mother Anne and the circumstances of her pregnancy with the future Mother of God.

[Back to the historic spiral staircase on level 3](#) ▷



Collectors' Museum Level 3



28 Three thousand butterflies

Marie Eleonora Hochecker (1761–1834) was trained in her father's workshop as a landscape painter. Following the death of her parents at the age of 19, she was forced to provide for herself and her brother, and took on commissioned work. For the collector and banker Johann Christian Gerning (1745–1802) she completed illustrations of over 3000 butterflies. They were published in Paris in an eight-volume scientific work on European butterflies, the "Papillons d'Europe". Copper etchings of all butterfly images were made according to her drawings, then hand-coloured by her.

Finished! Please visit the Museum Café, enjoy food and drinks and take a look around in the Museum Shop ▷

— www.frankfurterfrauenzimmer.de

is the digital continuation of the exhibition “Blickwechsel (Changing Views) – Frankfurt Frauenzimmer around 1800” in the Historical Museum, from 2007, and is continually maintained. Biographies and further information about women in Frankfurt can be found here (only in German).

All photos by HMF: Uwe Dettmar: p. 9, 28, 32, 37; Stefanie Kösling: p. 35; Frank Plate: p. 10; Horst Ziegenfusz: p. 3, 6-8, 11-21, 24, 26, 33, 38-39, 41; Idea, concept, illustrations: Susanne Gesser; Texts: Anne Gemeinhardt, Susanne Gesser, Nina Gorgus, Dorothee Linnemann, Jan Gerchow; Translation: James Lyons; Graphics: Gardeners.de

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Parking Dom/Römer

▷ **Opening hours**

Tue - Fri 10 am - 6 pm, Wed 10 am - 9 pm,
Sat + Sun 11 am - 7 pm

▷ **Tickets**

8 € / 4 €

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28 € / 18 € / 10 € Museumsufer-Ticket

Two-day ticket valid on two consecutive days (34 museums)

▷ **Visitor service and guided tours**

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Mo - Thur 10 am - 3.30 pm, Fri 9 am - 4 pm

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