

The Taste of images

(Working title)

From 28th October 2026 to 18th April 2027
Mucem – J4 – Level 2 (1,000 m²)

Curatorship

Jérémie Koering, Professor at the University
of Fribourg (General Curator)
Raphaël Bories, Curator of the Beliefs and Religions
Department at the Mucem (Associate Curator)



Illustration from the Brothers Grimm tale Hansel and Gretel,
19th to 20th centuries, Mucem.
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To eat an image. What a curious notion! And yet we have been feasting on them since the earliest days of Antiquity, and still do, across Europe and the Mediterranean. So how can such an attitude be explained? Why choose to absorb an image, to take it within oneself at the risk of destroying it, rather than observe it calmly from afar? What meanings dwell within this act, this singular experience of the image? And what does such behaviour reveal about ourselves and the worlds we inhabit?

To ingest a figurative object is to welcome into oneself a force that can heal, protect or transform. But it may also become a way to learn, resist, play, dream, and take part in the shared life of devoted communities. This exhibition sets this practice in dialogue with the rich array of imaginaries (religious, philosophical, literary, artistic and political) that shape it, tracing a journey from metaphorical absorption to the literal consumption of images.

Featured Artists

Nicolas Boulard, Bernardino Campi, Alonso Cano, David Cronenberg, Honoré Daumier, Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres, Michel Journiac, Dennis Oppenheim, Meret Oppenheim, and Brett Ratner...

Typologies

Paintings, wood or stone sculptures, engravings, photographs, films, communion wafers, waffles, figurative cakes, sculpted foods, moulds...

Works from the Mucem In its cold rooms, the Mucem holds an exceptional collection of figurative cakes, many of which will be shown in this exhibition, along with moulds, popular prints, photographs and ethnographic films from its collections.

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