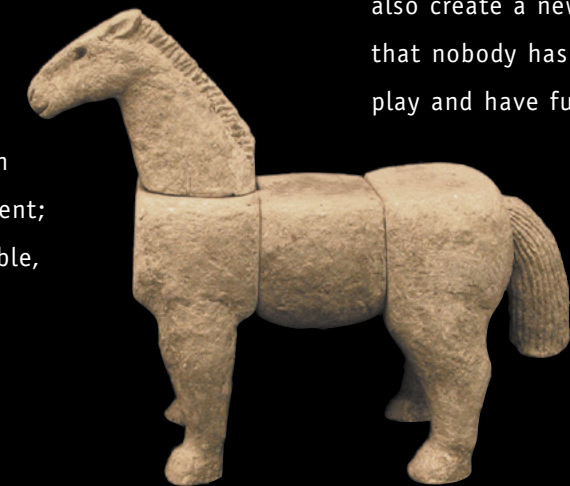




HOMO LUDENS PLAYFUL MAN



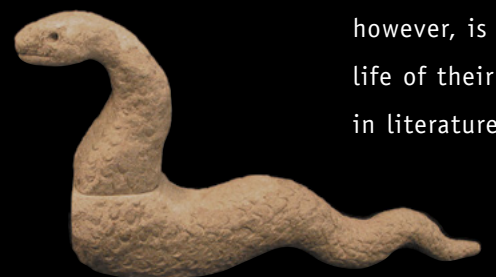
People play all their lives. They build their own world, home, even human relations from pieces. Similarly, without any actual goal in mind and for the sheer delight of testing their wits, they solve crosswords and do jigsaw puzzles. Time and again children build with their Lego blocks something new and different, a chance creation. Often a mistake in building is an important element; it leads to something entirely new, incredible, unexplored and exciting.



Elements are also important in science and art for they are the building blocks of new creations. Art deals with the basic questions of life and the artist is the biggest of all children. By playing he explores the mysteries of our existence. Who am I? Where do I come from?



Bestiarium Construendum is a playful artist's invitation to join in the game. By fitting bits together we can build familiar figures, but also create a new one – our very own creature that nobody has ever seen before! We can play and have fun.



Was it perhaps in this playful way that the imagination created such fabled beasts as the centaur, a man with a horse's body, or Minotaur, who had the head of a bull on the body of a man and an insatiable appetite for human flesh? The figures created required their own stories so man's imagination took over once the pieces were assembled. Perhaps the game could be as probable an explanation as that the centaur arose from seeing a distant rider merging into his mount? People believe what they want... The truth, however, is that these new fantasy creatures began to live a life of their own and gradually acquired a symbolic meaning in literature, heraldry and even children's computer games.



In the Bestiarium Construendum exhibition, the pieces function as an alphabet or syllables. By assembling and interlocking the parts something new is created just like words from letters, and if the player is not content with the ordinary inhabitants of zoos – lions, wolves, fish, crocodiles, eagles – as well as men and women, then he can make his own menagerie of fantasy creatures.



MAKING THE ANCIENT WORLD FAMILIAR



The Bestiarium Construendum looks like the relics of antiquity. The colours and rough surfaces of the cumbersome sculptures convey the feeling of ancient cultures. Archaeological excavations continuously unearth potshards, axe heads, even whole cities, so why not "relics" like these? Especially when you can really create the mythical creatures of the ancient legends familiar to all men...



In the West, the dragon stands for evil and destruction, but in the Far East, especially in China, it has been a sign of good luck since time immemorial...



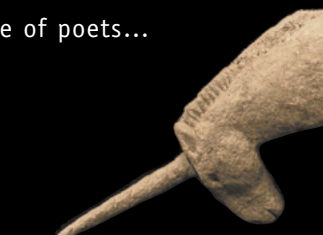
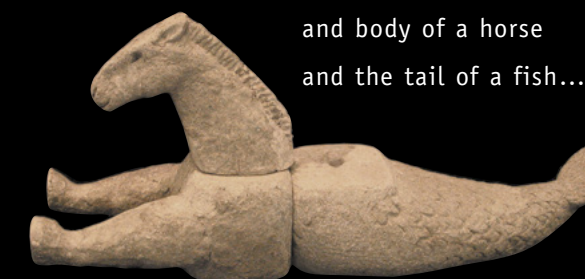
In Greek legend, the winged horse Pegasus carried Bellerophon to victory, but during the Renaissance it became a favourite of poets...



The griffin is a fabled monster, with the head and wings of an eagle and the body of a lion...



The hippocampus has the forefeet and body of a horse and the tail of a fish...



Marine creatures, like mermaids, have mostly been portrayed as half human, half fish...



A stone sculpture of a winged lion, likely a guardian figure from ancient Mesopotamia or Egypt, shown in profile. The lion has a large, rounded body, a thick mane, and large, spread wings. It is standing on four legs, with its front legs slightly apart and its hind legs tucked under. The sculpture is made of a light-colored stone and is set against a dark background.

Sirens, creatures
half-woman and half-
bird, sing sweet songs
to lure seamen to their
fate...

A carved wooden bird, possibly a chicken or turkey, with a large, textured body and a small head. The bird is shown from a side profile, facing right. It has a large, rounded body with a textured surface, a small head with a beak, and a tail with several feathers. The carving is made of light-colored wood and is set against a black background.

A terracotta figurine of a female figure with a goat's head, wearing a long, pleated dress, standing with arms slightly out. The figurine is light brown and has a textured surface. It is shown against a black background.

A clay figurine of a bear standing on its hind legs, wearing a simple tunic. The bear is facing left, with its arms slightly out to the sides. The figurine is made of a light-colored, textured clay.

Two clay figurines from the Taurus mountains. The top one is a lion with a human face and a long, wavy tail. The bottom one is a hybrid creature with a horse's head and front legs, and a lion's body and hind legs.

A clay figurine of a bearded man with a large head and a small body, standing with arms outstretched. The figurine is made of light-colored clay and has a thick, bushy beard and mustache. It has a large, rounded head and a small, stout body. The arms are outstretched to the sides, and the legs are thick and sturdy. The figurine is set against a black background.

Three clay figurines are displayed against a black background. From left to right: a small, rounded, light-colored object; a larger, light-colored clay horse figurine with a textured mane and tail; and a light-colored clay dinosaur figurine with a long neck and tail.

A stone sculpture of a crocodile, likely a crocodile monitor, with a large, flat, fan-like object (possibly a shell or a decorative element) on its back. The sculpture is made of a light-colored stone and is set against a dark background.



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www.reichstein.name

A collection of 11 carved stone artifacts, likely from the Neolithic period, displayed against a black background. The artifacts include: a bird head (top left), a bearded man's head (top right), a long horn (top center), a large central figure with outstretched arms (center), a whale (middle right), a curved object (middle left), a small spiral shell (bottom left), a small animal figure (bottom center), and a curved object (bottom right).

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