

Action sheet A Part 1

Whom can you recognise here?

... THROUGH WHICH CHARACTERISTICS?

1. Take a closer look at the images from the Museum of Islamic Art! The images show rare depictions of people from otherwise barely shown groups along with people from structurally privileged groups. Some social groups can hardly be shown at the museum because they weren't important enough in their societies to be represented.

2. Give each depicted person an identity. As reference points, use the characteristics that you think you recognise. Who might the depicted persons have been? Describe the gender, age, origin, education, social position, etc. What different social groups can you recognise? Are they privileged or disadvantaged? Try to give each of the people a plausible identity...



	This is ...	because ...
Image 1	<hr/>	
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Image 2	<hr/>	
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Image 3	<hr/>	
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Image 4	<hr/>	
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Image 5	<hr/>	
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Image 6	<hr/>	
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Present your ideas.

Action sheet A Part 2

Whom can you recognise here?



1



2



3



4

Action sheet A Part 3

Whom can you recognise here?

5



6



Action sheet A Part 4

Whom can you recognise here?

1 Object **Miniature painting**
 Inventory no. I. 1986.229, Sheet 104a
 Period Late 10th century AH/ late 16th century AD
 Place Iran
 Material Gouache painting on paper
 Size 26.7 cm tall, 17 cm wide

Members of Sufi sects were not allowed to have possessions, which put them in a poor financial position. But they were highly respected in society.

Characteristic Religion, social status, financial position

2 Object **Fragment of figure**
 Inventory no. I. 2659
 Period Around 600 AH/1200 AD
 Place Iran
 Material Plaster and paint residues
 Size 21.8 cm tall, 15 cm wide, 12.8 cm deep

Groups from Central Asia arrived in predominantly Islamic regions at various times. Some became social elites and thus also shaped the ideal of beauty. As such they were also portrayed in art.

Characteristic Geographical origin

3 Object **Book illumination (detail)**
 Inventory no. I. 5/82
 Period Around 936 AH/around 1530 AD
 Place Tabriz, Iran
 Material Paper, watercolours and gold
 Size 47 cm tall, 31.8 cm wide

In book illumination, hair and skin colour often varied. This detail here shows a person with black skin colour as well as a red-haired man.

Characteristic Hair and skin colour

4 Object **Miniature painting**
 Inventory no. I. 4628, p. 193
 Period 823 AH/1420 AD
 Place Shiraz, Iran
 Material Paper, ink, watercolours, gold
 Size 28 cm tall, 19.5 cm wide

Age and diseases were and still are very rarely represented in images. Usually the depictions showed an ideal condition in which there were no physical infirmities, no diseases and no decay.

Characteristic Health, age

5 Object **Miniature painting**
 Inventory no. I. 4601, Sheet 39
 Period Approx. 1050 AH/1640 AD
 Place Northern India
 Material Paper, gouache painting and gold
 Size 18 cm tall, 15 cm wide

Miniature paintings often feature depictions of strangers who aren't from the region in which the works were created. The portraits are so detailed that to this day, you can still see that the young man's short trousers and cape are European garments.

Characteristic Geographical origin

6 Object **Miniature painting**
 Inventory no. I. 1986.229, sheet 127a
 Period Late 10th century AH/ late 16th century AD
 Place Iran
 Material Paper, gouache painting
 Size 26.7 cm tall, 17 cm wide

Education was always a valuable asset in areas shaped by Islam, although it was limited to the upper classes. Since the artworks were usually ordered by the rich, they also often depict the environments of those people.

Characteristic Education

Info sheet

Forms of Discrimination

DISCRIMINATION

Putting people or groups at a disadvantage or devaluing them on the basis of prejudices and marginalising world views is called discrimination. The word “intersectionality” tries to describe discrimination more precisely. In the 1970s, black women in America pointed out that they weren’t just discriminated against due to their skin colour but also their gender. As black women they experience a double marginalisation which neither white women nor black men are subject to. Intersectionality (from the word “intersection” or “overlap”) describes the experience in which the causes of discrimination change, intensify or weaken each other. In Germany, the debate was advanced by black people, women with disabilities, Jewish women and migrants, among others.

INTERSECTIONALITY IN THE MUSEUM

Intersectionality thus describes the experiences of multiple discrimination in a society. This can’t necessarily be traced to objects in a museum. Museums exhibit cultural artefacts of a society but not a society itself with its respective standards and views. If only few written sources exist, research is forced to derive assumptions about the social conditions at the time of their creation from the preserved depictions and objects. Which conclusions this leads to also depends on the perspective of the researchers and their particular opinions and standards. If they are disadvantaged themselves, they might be more sensitive to discrimination. If they in turn are rarely discriminated against, they may not notice marginalisation as much.

Action sheet B Part 1

Where do you see yourself?

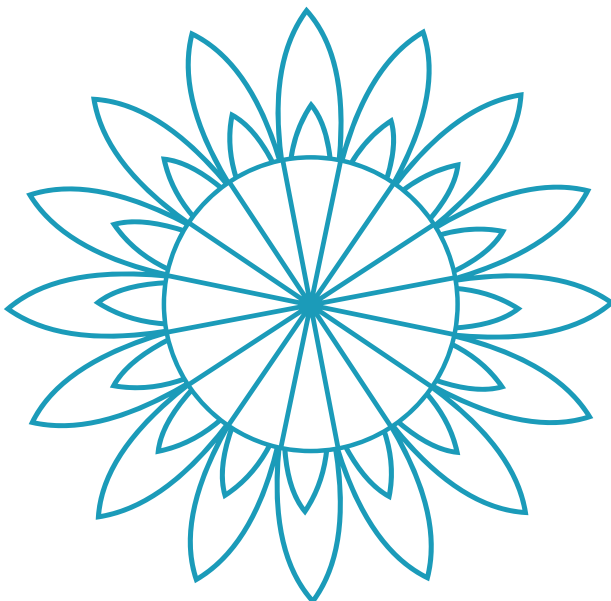
WHICH PETALS REPRESENT YOU?

You'll find the power flower on the next page. The inside of the flower shows characteristics that are part of human identity and that all humans have. At the same time, these are differentiation categories that aren't determined by nature but by society, which makes them changeable (e.g. the distinction between skin colours is relative). Nonetheless, these categories are effective in every person's reality. The inner, smaller petals stand for the structurally preferred characteristics, while those in the exterior, larger petals represent the generally disadvantaged features.

1. THINK ABOUT GERMAN SOCIETY.

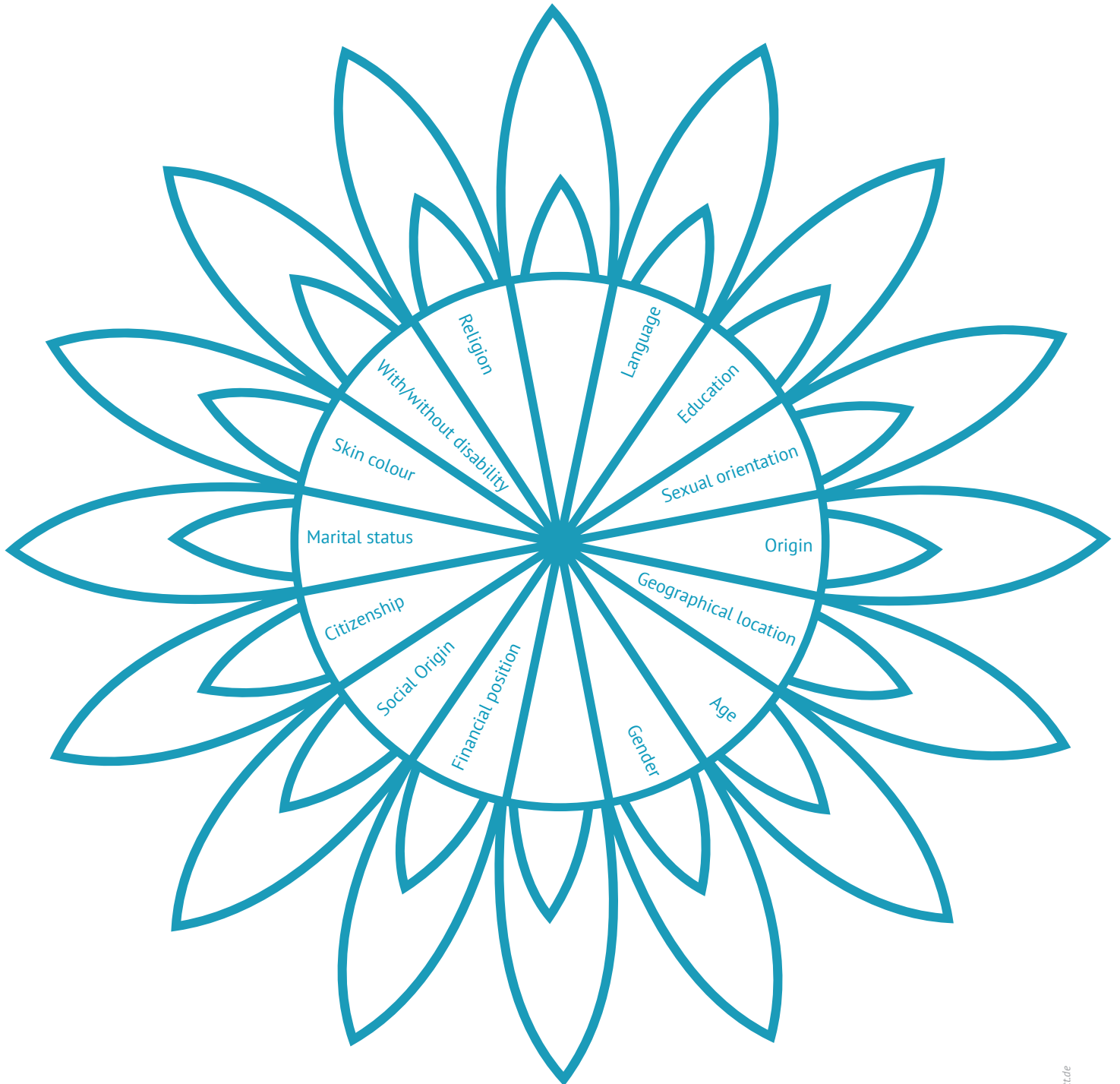
Think about which characteristics or social groups you want to enter into the interior leaves and which in the exterior ones! You can also add a category in the centre or add more petals...

2. THEN HIGHLIGHT THE FIELDS THAT REPRESENT YOU!



Action sheet B Part 2

Where do you see yourself?



The Power Flower stays with you and doesn't have to be shown.

Action sheet B Part 3

Where do you see yourself?

DISCUSS!

It's important to know your own positioning before you can deal with power structures. Becoming aware of yourself and discussing differences enables empathy for others and responsible and fairer action.

GETTING STARTED

- Which allocation was difficult for you and which one wasn't? Why?
- What does it feel like to be in the inner or outer group?
- Does the division of the flower into disadvantaged/not disadvantaged coincide with your feelings?

SIGNIFICANCE OF AFFILIATIONS

- Are there situations, correlations or groups in which an advantage turns into a discrimination or a discrimination into an advantage?
- Do all the categories in society have the same weight? Which have more significance and what is the cause of this?



CHARACTERISTICS OF AFFILIATIONS

- Is the affiliation with the categories your own, voluntary decision or was the affiliation assigned from the outside?
- Who decides what is outside and what is inside?
- Can the affiliation with the categories be changed?

DEALING WITH POWER RELATIONSHIPS

- How can you still be powerful in a disadvantaged position?
- How can you sensibly use power to change imbalances of power?