**In the universe of modelling**

FASZINATION MODELLBAU Friedrichshafen with Real Steam

Indoor meeting & LEGO fan exhibition, 3 to 5 November 2023

*The halls were already buzzing on the first day of the trade fair, with around 46,000 visitors, significantly exceeding the previous year's result. With FASZINATION MODELLBAU, the Real Steam Hall Meeting & the LEGO fan exhibition, Messe Friedrichshafen was transformed into a fascinating universe of model making at the beginning of November.*

**Variety of hobbies**

Whatever your heart beats for: Friedrichshafen brought together the diversity of hobbies in their most beautiful form from 3 to 5 November 2023: Model aircraft, ships and trucks, RC cars, race copters, airships, steam engines, railways, plastic and cardboard models and the LEGO worlds. Andreas Wittur, authorised signatory of the organising Messe Sinsheim, puts it in a nutshell: "While other trade fairs are becoming increasingly specialised and thus fragmented, we are taking the opposite approach with our concept: nowhere else can you experience such a wide range of hobbies - from works of art made from Lego bricks to steam models weighing several tonnes, from RC turbine jets to snow groomers."

**Unique in the world**

To make such a mega-event possible, a corresponding infrastructure was needed. And here too, FASZINATION MODELLBAU Friedrichshafen topped everything with the Real Steam Hall Meeting and the LEGO fan exhibition: with no less than ten (!) huge halls on an area of almost 70,000 m², it was the largest event of its kind. And that's not even counting what was going on outside: for example, the "FMT Stars of the Year" air show, which took place on the gigantic grounds of Friedrichshafen Airport, embedded in regular scheduled flight operations. Something like this only happens at FASZINATION MODELLBAU.

The world's largest transportable water basin at this trade fair was also an absolute exception: On an area of 400 m² and almost one metre deep, not only majestic RC sailing ships and steamers, but even RC submarines were sailing here. This year, the Real Steam Hall Meeting also more than lived up to its name: For the first time, over 100 steam locomotives came together here, including a 2.7 tonne historical model.

**Enthusiasm from all sides**

However, such an exceptional trade fair is not just a material feat of strength. It is based on enthusiasm, commitment and a great deal of passion. "Firstly, we would like to thank the 46,000 visitors. And then to the many companies, exhibitors, clubs and model builders who gave their audience three fascinating days full of unforgettable experiences," says a delighted Sascha Bürkel, Model Building Fair Project Manager at Messe Sinsheim.

The feedback from exhibitors is unanimous. "We were extremely pleasantly surprised, experienced a lot of interest and made good sales. It was great," says Thomas Neumann from ROCO/Fleischmann. Sarina Brand from ScaleArt summarises: "The response was very good, the enthusiasm for model making is currently very strong. We met a lot of knowledgeable people, but also new people, and our conclusion is positive across the board. Eric-Michael Peschel from Märklin is also very satisfied: "The audience was great, many people also came from Switzerland and Austria. Our railway play area was used by the many families with their children without interruption."

"The trade fair was a complete success. FASZINATION MODELLBAU even exceeded our expectations with its international audience. We'll be back," remarks Thorsten Rechthaler from aero-naut. Matthias Krick from Krick Modelltechnik states: "This trade fair is always a pleasure for us and we always enjoy attending." And Andreas Bittlinger from Carrera/Revell says: "We've been exhibiting in Friedrichshafen for a long time - and this year we feel that our presence has been confirmed. We are very satisfied and want to be there again next year."

**By the way: The next FASZINATION MODELLBAU will take place again with the International Model Railway Exhibition and the Real Steam Hall Meeting from 1 to 3 November 2024 in Friedrichshafen. Make a note in your diary now!**

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