

# BRÖHAN-MUSEUM

Landesmuseum für Jugendstil, Art Deco und Funktionalismus

## PRESSEMITTEILUNG

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PRESS RELEASE: 14 October 2019

### **Nordic Design. The Response to the Bauhaus**

Exhibition at Bröhan-Museum, Berlin, October 24, 2019–March 1, 2020

Opening: 23 October 2019, 7 p.m.

Press conference: 23 October 2019, 11 a.m.

To conclude the year of the Bauhaus centennial, Bröhan-Museum will be holding the exhibition “Nordic Design. The Response to the Bauhaus”, looking at the reaction of the Nordic countries to German functionalism. The show presents the Scandinavian path to modernism, which involved an intense engagement with the ideas of the Bauhaus.

A very idiosyncratic and independent interpretation of functionalism develops in Nordic countries. Not the avant-garde form is paramount, as is often the case in Germany, but the custom-tailored solution to a challenge. The problem needs to be analysed first, before a design solution can be found. Scandinavian functionalism does not remain avant-garde for this reason, but, equipped with national characteristics, becomes an identity-forming constant of the Nordic nations.

Beginning with the Finnish architect and designer Alvar Aalto, then moving on to the founder of Swedish functionalism Sven Markelius and the internationally celebrated Danish designers Hans J. Wegner and Arne Jacobsen, the exhibition’s emphasis will be placed on the 1950s and 1960s. Beside developments specific to each country, childhood, democratic design, and “hygge”, themes common to all four countries, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, and Norway, will also be present. The exhibition will conclude with futuristic designs by Verner Panton, Eero Aarnio, and Marimekko that marked the final break of the Nordic countries with functionalism. Around 150 works - furniture, graphics, glass, textiles - will be on display, mainly from major national and international lenders.

The subject of the Bauhaus has been a focus at Bröhan-Museum over the course of the year. In early 2019, we presented the exhibition “From Arts and Crafts to the Bauhaus. Art and Design—A New Unity!”. While this show spotlighted the path of the English arts and crafts movement to the Bauhaus, the exhibition “Nordic Design. The Response to the Bauhaus” dealt with the impact of German modernism on the design of the Nordic countries. The Bauhaus was only one of the projects of the German modernism that was discussed in Nordic countries. As reception in the 1920s and 1930s shows, the Bauhaus was then far from its nimbus as a beacon it is described as today.

On the occasion of „100 Jahre Bauhaus“. Supported by: Dänische Botschaft Berlin, Norwegische Botschaft Berlin, Botschaft von Finnland Berlin and Schwedische Botschaft Berlin. Media partners: Wall GmbH, rbb Kultur, Yorck Kinogruppe, tip Berlin Magazin domus, H.O.M.E., Dinamix.

Bröhan-Museum  
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Landesmuseum für  
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befreit nach § 4 Nr. 20a UStG

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Exclusive for the duration of the exhibition: pop-up store with highlights of Nordic design to touch, try and buy.

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Curator of the exhibition: Dr. Tobias Hoffmann

Assistant Curator: Julia Hartenstein M.A.

Exhibition design: Katleen Arthen, Colya Zucker

Press and publicity: Corinna Kleis

Education and Outreach: Nils Martin Müller

Assistant Press and Publicity/Education and Outreach: Sylvia Hinz

Opening hours: Tues.–Sun., 10 a.m.–6 p.m., all holidays

Admission: 8 €, reduced 5- €,

A catalogue (German/English) will be published to accompany the exhibition: 295 p., 30 € (museum)

In case you have any questions or would like additional visual material, please contact: Corinna Kleis,  
email: [pr@broehan-museum.de](mailto:pr@broehan-museum.de), tel.: +49/(0)30/32690612