

PRESS RELEASE

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March 13, 2026

Edward W. Godwin and Oscar Wilde: Dandy Decadence and Modernity  
Exhibition from April 2 to August 30, 2026

We cordially invite you to the PRESS PREVIEW for the exhibition, which will take place on Wednesday, April 1, 2026, at 11 a.m., at the Bröhan Museum.

- The exhibition is dedicated to two outstanding protagonists of the Aesthetic Movement, whose cult of beauty provided a significant impetus for the emergence of modern design. Drawing on the exemplary fusion of art, design, and lifestyle cultivated by Godwin and Wilde, the exhibition sheds light on the aesthetic and social foundations of a movement that remained influential beyond the 19th century and had a lasting impact on the development of design.

Edward William Godwin (1833–1886) was one of the most radical and influential designers of Victorian England. His furniture designs shaped a new, intellectually grounded design culture within the context of English Aestheticism. At a time when the interior increasingly became a stage for individual taste, Godwin created furniture that was not merely representative, but an expression of an idea. He sought a synthetic unity of form, function, and cultural meaning.

The writer Oscar Wilde (1854–1900) was a close friend of Godwin. As an iconic figure of Victorian England, he shaped the spirit of his age between dandyism and decadence. Godwin and Wilde were kindred spirits whose artistic work was, in each case, an expression of comprehensive education and an extraordinary thirst for knowledge. Both aspired to an aesthetic permeation of everyday life and its transformation into art.

As polymaths, they combined architectural-theoretical knowledge with a profound understanding of art and cultural history. This intellectual breadth runs through their entire body of work and makes them kindred style icons whose fame extends far beyond the boundaries of individual disciplines. In the exhibition, they enter into a dialogue of ideas and designs. Through numerous outstanding loans, the artist is presented as a dandy poised between decadence and modernity.

Supported by the Ernst von Siemens Art Foundation:

“We are delighted to support the comprehensive catalogue accompanying this exceptional exhibition project. The exhibition and catalogue honor Edward W. Godwin and Oscar Wilde not only as historical figures, but also as sources of inspiration for contemporary questions in design and design history,” said Dr. Martin Hoernes, Secretary General of the Ernst von Siemens Art Foundation.

Media partners: Wall GmbH, radio3, Dinamix, tip, The Berliner

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## ACCOMPANYING PROGRAMME

### Exhibition opening

Wed 1 April, 6 pm, free admission, no booking required

### Free public guided tours (museum admission not included)

every Saturday at 3 pm; no booking required

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### Digital Curator-led Tour

On Monday 13 April at 6 pm, there will be a live tour on Instagram @broehan\_museum

### Free public guided tour (museum admission not included) as part of Berlin Design Week 2026

Fri 29 May, 4 pm, no booking required

### Free "Family Sundays"

Every third Sunday of the month, 11 am, for children (ages 5–12) and their families, 90 min., registration required at: [vermittlung@broehan-museum.de](mailto:vermittlung@broehan-museum.de), Tel: +49 (0)30 32690625

### Dandys & Drinks

Experience the elegance and extravagance of the Victorian Aesthetic Movement.

After a curator-led tour of the exhibition, the evening concludes with a cocktail—outdoors, weather permitting.

Fridays: Apr 24, May 8, Jun 26, Jul 17, Aug 14, Aug 21, 6 pm

Tour including one cocktail: €25 per person, no registration required

### Summer Festival

Fri, June 12, from 6 pm

### Long Night of Museums

Sat, August 29, from 6 pm

### Happy Wednesday

Reduced admission every first Wednesday of the month

### Bookable Group Tours

For our exhibitions, you can book private tours. Whether a group tour, curator-led tour, or exclusive evening tour, we offer the right option for you.

Duration: 60 min

Cost: €80 / €120 / €200 (plus museum admission)

For more information and registration, visit: [www.broehan-museum.de/vermittlung](http://www.broehan-museum.de/vermittlung)

Exhibition Curators: Dr. Tobias Hoffmann, Fabian Reifferscheidt M.A., Theresa Augustin M.A.

Exhibition Design: Katleen Arthen

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Press and Public Relations: Corinna Kleis M.A.

Education and Mediation: Nils Martin Müller M.A.

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Opening Hours: Tue to Sun, 11 am – 6 pm, and on all public holidays (closed on Whit Monday)

Admission: €9, reduced €6

Happy Wednesday: On the first Wednesday of each month, a flat rate of €4 applies for all.

Tickets can be purchased online at [www.broehan-museum.de/service](http://www.broehan-museum.de/service) or on-site.

- A catalogue accompanies the exhibition, published by Wienand Verlag: 248 pages, German/English, numerous illustrations. Price: €28 at the museum shop.

For inquiries, including additional information and image material, please contact Corinna Kleis at [pr@broehan-museum.de](mailto:pr@broehan-museum.de).