

BRÖHAN-MUSEUM

Landesmuseum für Jugendstil, Art Deco und Funktionalismus

PRESS RELEASE

21 April 2022

glass – hand formed matter

Exhibition from 5 May to 7 August 2022 at the Bröhan-Museum, Berlin.

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Backed by art colleges, glass factories and cultural institutions, the international project *glass – hand formed matter* aims to explore new perspectives for manual glass production in Germany and Europe. Glassmakers, artists, designers and students from Berlin and the German states of Brandenburg, Saxony-Anhalt and Thuringia as well as from Finland and Sweden have come together to reinterpret and further develop the millennia-old craft of glassmaking. Working on issues of contemporary relevance using analog as well as digital tools, they searched for innovative, aesthetic, functional and sustainable approaches to the material in the numerous workshops and artist residencies of participating glassworks. This artistic investigation of new possibilities and the objects created during the process have been brought together in the exhibition travelling from the Bröhan-Museum to the Finnish Glass Museum in Riihimäki and the Glass Factory in Boda, Sweden.

In addition to fascinating new objects – most of which are presented for the first time – the exhibition features films as well as semi-finished products and tools alongside other materials, making manufacturing processes visible and tangible respectively. The show also includes works by six project fellows and their artistic investigations of various aspects of glass – the material as well as its production. Looking beyond the physical exhibits, the exhibition aims to enable visitors to experience the tacit knowledge of the glassmaking craft.

Participants:

Grant holders: BOOM!, Tue Greenfort, Ingela Johansson, Riikka Latva-Somppi and Un/making Studio, Penttinen & Remes, Anette Rose; other exhibitors: Maria Bang, Hanna Hansdotter, Tacit Dialogues, Kirsti Taiviola, students and graduates of Aalto University Helsinki, Konstfack Stockholm, Burg Giebichenstein Kunsthochschule Halle and weißensee kunsthochschule berlin.

The work of project fellow **Anette Rose** is a tribute to the skills of glassmakers and the tacit knowledge of the craft. Complementing her series *Encyclopedia of Handling* with the module *Glassmaking*, she captures the course of movement involved in the creation of a glass object, as produced at the Glass Factory in Boda, Sweden.

Project fellow **Ingela Johansson's** *Cut off Colliers*, a work of artistic research in the form of an installation showing videos and glass objects, explores the migration history of German glass workers of the Sudeten and the influence of their craftsmanship on the German and Swedish glass industry. Johansson

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tells a story about Bohemian costume jewelry and traditional glass techniques in relation to anti-fascist craft cooperatives.

Co-founders of the Finnish glass platform Spekulo – an initiative for improving the network of glassmakers in Scandinavia – and creators of the project Wonder, **Anu Penttinen** and **Helmi Remes** realized experimental glass knots in their work *Anatomy of a Knot* using the opportunities provided by the Harzkristall glass manufactory.

Swedish-born artists' collective **Boom!** drew inspiration for their contribution from Lauscha, a place of traditional glassmaking in the Thuringian Forest with a unique tradition of Christmas tree ornament production. A stylized gear wheel as a carrier of glass objects represents the collaboration of the five artists, each bringing their own forms and symbolism to the hand-blown glass pieces. All individual parts of the work are necessary to keep the mechanism going.

Tue Greenfort produced his work at the Glass Factory in Boda, Sweden. He uses hand-formed glass to create a new awareness of aquatic life. Evoking associations with the famous Blaschka glass models, Greenfort's glass objects mediate between art, science and the perception of nature.

The emissions and legacies of the glass industry in the form of contaminated soils and landscape shaped by human hands are the topic of works by *Un/Making Soil Communities*, an artistic research project by **Kristina Lindström** and **Åsa Stahl**, together with Finnish artist **Riikka Latva-Somppi** from the group Working with Soil. They visualize a future glass craft and design with a more responsible treatment of natural resources.

Funded by the Kulturstiftung des Bundes and by the Bundesregierung für Kultur und Medien. Other supporting organizations: Gerhard Bürger Foundation, Aalto University Helsinki, Kunststiftung Sachsen-Anhalt, Kulturstiftung des Freistaats Thüringen, The Glass Factory SE, Finnish Glass Museum FI, Museum Baruther Glashütte, Farbglashütte Lauscha DE, Glasmanufaktur Harzkristall DE.

Artistic director and curator of the exhibition: Barbara Schmidt, weißensee kunsthochschule berlin

Project assistance and mediation concept: Julia Wolf, weißensee kunsthochschule berlin

Public relations: Corinna Kleis M.A.

Education and outreach: Nils Martin Müller M.A.

Assistance public relations/education and outreach: Alexandra Koronkai-Kiss M.A.

The exhibition is accompanied by a catalog of 264 pages costing 28,- €.

Opening hours: Tuesday to Sunday 10am to 6pm and on all holidays (closed on Whit Monday)

Admission: 8,- €, reduced 5,- €.

Tickets can be purchased online at <https://www.broehan-museum.de/service/#/> or on-site.

Please send inquiries concerning further information and visual material to Corinna Kleis,

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