

PRESSEMITTEILUNG

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From Arts and Crafts to the Bauhaus: Art and Design - A New Unity!

Exhibition dates: January 24–May 5, 2019, Bröhan-Museum, Berlin

Opening: January 23, 2019, 7 p.m.

The fairy tales and myths around the Bauhaus are legion. Concepts like Bauhaus style or the "Bauhaus idea" have become bromides in current design discourse. The Bauhaus itself has become a myth, an icon of modernism, mistakenly considered both its pinnacle and its starting point. The exhibition "From Arts and Crafts to the Bauhaus: Art and Design, A New Unity" seeks to clear up many of these myths and in the framework of the jubilee program 100 Years of Bauhaus to provide a contribution to categorizing the Bauhaus in terms of design history.

How free can form be? How much does it need to account for the demands of function? Is design an art form? And should design work more with artisans or with industry? Does modernism need a style? These questions, immediately associated with the Bauhaus, were already discussed fifty years before in the British Arts and Crafts movement. At the moment of its founding in 1919 and during its initial years in Weimar, the Bauhaus is not a milestone of design history, but the next step in this debate that shaped design all across Europe. The ideas and concepts of the Bauhaus and its design language were not strokes of genius without antecedents. After the end of the First World War, they were a logical continuation of developments that began fifty years earlier in the British Arts and Crafts movement. With designers like Dresser, Godwin, and Morris, a new approach to design emerged that in its theory and practice explored the interdependence of art, craftsmanship, design, and industry and paved the way for modernist design. At the moment of its founding in 1919 and during its initial years in Weimar, the Bauhaus is not a milestone of design history, but the next step in this debate that shaped design all across Europe.

To mark the centennial anniversary of the founding of the Bauhaus, the exhibition at Bröhan-Museum will explore the prehistory of the Bauhaus and contextualize it within the Europe-wide emergence of modernism. It will show decisive steps in this development including the Glasgow School, Vienna Jugendstil, Deutscher Werkbund, and the Dutch group De Stijl leading up to the Bauhaus in Weimar and Dessau. With around 300 highlights—furniture, graphic design, metal art, ceramics, painting—from fifty years of design history, the exhibition will seek to explain this pan-European discourse on design. The exhibition will show how the Bauhaus was influenced by the concepts from this development and how difficult it was to develop an independent formal language from this wide range of positions.

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Bröhan-Museum
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Landesmuseum für
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Magazin, Exberliner.

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Education and Outreach: Nils Martin Müller

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

Admission: 8 €, reduced 5- €, admission free every first Wednesday of the month, made possible by Deutsche Wohnen SE

A catalogue (German/English) will be published to accompany the exhibition: 368 p., 40 € (museum)

In case you have any questions or would like additional visual material, please contact: Corinna Kleis,
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