

26.10.2019–16.02.2020, ZKM Atrium 1+2

ifa touring exhibition *The Whole World a Bauhaus*

To celebrate the centenary of the Bauhaus this year, the ifa touring exhibition *The Whole World a Bauhaus* at the ZKM | Center for Art and Media Karlsruhe reflects movement and home of the avant-garde of classical modernism, which at the beginning of the 20th century radically changed all areas of free and applied arts and architecture.

The title is programmatic: »The Whole World a Bauhaus« is a quotation from Bauhaus student and teacher Fritz Kuhr (1928). He was a student at the Bauhaus from 1923 to 1927, worked in the mural painting workshop from 1928 to 1929, and then taught drawing at the Bauhaus until 1930. The quotation alludes to the fact that the Bauhaus redefined the parameters of art, crafts, and technology, when Walter Gropius declared the aim of design to include the whole spectrum of design and also social practice in every sense.

The State Bauhaus was founded in Weimar in 1919. Designs originating in this period are still produced today. How did the Bauhaus become the epitome of modern design and an avant-garde way of life?

In October 2019 the exhibition *The Whole World a Bauhaus* will celebrate its German premiere at the ZKM. The touring exhibition of the ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen) has already been on display in the United States and South America. It includes case studies of the avant-gardes in Buenos Aires, Casablanca, Mexico City, Moscow, Santiago de Chile, USA, Stuttgart, and Karlsruhe. This evidences that the Bauhaus was not an exclusive establishment, but instead, there were avant-gardes in many places around the world, which understood themselves as the motors of a new social, cultural, and political development.

The first part of the exhibition focuses on the years between 1919 and 1933 in Weimar, Dessau, and Berlin. The section *Floating* shows how Bauhäusler explored motifs of weightlessness and how glass and steel frame construction became a visionary goal of design. The section *Experiment* presents objects that resulted from materials and spatial research, and whose dimensions, proportions, and tested materials were also geared to mass production. The *Total Work of Art* looks at the synthesis of all the arts, of art and science, and of art and utility objects. The section *Community* presents key objects that document daily life at the Bauhaus, including their famous parties.

The section *New Man* demonstrates that the Bauhaus was not only oriented on a leftist utopia. Here, images of people are presented who also explored other radical new political and philosophical directions. *Art, Crafts, Technology* presents the Bauhaus workshops and their products and *Radi-*

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Location
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Opening
Fri, 25.10.2019, 7 pm, ZKM Foyer

Press Contact

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cal Pedagogy looks at the structure of education at the Bauhaus. Transcultural relations are explored in the section *Encounters*, which were promoted via guest lecturers, visitors from all over the world, a comprehensive ethnographic collection, and also through the quest to find new forms in design.

In the second part of the exhibition, the Bauhaus is presented in a global context. The focus changes from Germany in the Weimar Republic to the globally active avant-gardes, which in the 1920s developed their own responses to upheavals in society. Artists had different, individual motivations to engage with the Bauhaus and its actors; what they took from it they brought forth again under different auspices — a transcultural process which in Santiago de Chile, for example, took place against the background of nationalist politics; in Mexico City as a response to rapid industrialization; and in Casablanca in the post-colonial environment. Here the exhibition title *The Whole World a Bauhaus* charges curators and scholars conducting research on the Bauhaus, especially on the appropriation of Bauhaus concepts, ideas, and methods, to expand their endeavors to the global context.

Brochures accompanying the exhibition are available in German and in English. The exhibition catalogue will be published in German and English by Hirmer Verlag in October 2019.

Artists featured in the exhibition (selection):

Marianne Ahlfeld-Heymann; Anni Albers; Josef Albers; Gertrud Arndt; Leo Baron; Rudolf Baschant; Herbert Bayer; Heinrich-Siegfried Bormann; Marianne Brandt; Marcel Breuer; Edmund Colleini; Erich Consemüller; Christian Dell; Friedl Dicker; Franz Ehrlich; Lyonel Feininger; T. Lux Feininger; Carl Flieger; Walter Gropius; Josef Hartwig; Florence Henri; Hubert Hoffman; Johannes Itten; Ernst Kállai; Wassily Kandinsky; Peter Keler; Paul Klee; Kurt Kranz; Fritz Kuhr; Mikhail Larinov; Otto Lindig; Gerhard Marcks; Carl Marx; Hannes Meyer; Ludwig Mies van der Rohe; Moses Mirkin; Else Mögelin; Lucia Moholy; László Moholy-Nagy; Johann Niegemann; Richard Oelze; Lisbeth Oestreicher; Walter Peterhans; Grete Reichardt; Hajo Rose; Oskar Schlemmer; Arthur Schmidt; Joost Schmidt; Kurt Schmidt; Lothar Schreyer; Umbo (Otto Umbehrr); Theo van Doesburg; Iwao Yamawaki.

Wladimiro Acosta, Anton Anděl, Pompeu Audvert, Nassim Azarzar, Catherine Bauer, Michael van Beuren, Sheldon Cheney, Horacio Coppola, Víctor Delhez, Él' Lisickij, Juan Legarreta, Hugh Ferriss, Mathias Goeritz, Moisej Ginzburg, Iosif Grušenko, George Howe, Adolf Hölzel, Abdellatif Laabi, Nikolaj Ladovskij, Ivan Leonidov, William Lescaze, Vladimir Majakovskij, Alejo Martínez, Mohamed Melehi, Franz Möller, Richard J. Neutra, Mustapha Nissaboury, Juan O'Gorman, Victoria Ocampo, Carlos Isamitt, Ljubov' Popova, Alberto Prebisch, Xul Solar, Grete Stern, Aleksandr Rodčenko, Vladimir Tatlin, Joseph Tokayer, Antonio Vilár, Vincent Weber

Artistic director (ifa): Valérie Hammerbacher

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Curator of the touring exhibition *The Whole World a Bauhaus*:

Boris Friedewald

Curators of contributions to regional focal points for the exhibition at the ZKM | Center for Art and Media, Karlsruhe:

Enrique X. de Anda Alanís, Mexico City, Mexico

Silvia Fernández, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Margret Kentgens-Craig, USA

Alexander Klee, Stuttgart, Germany

Salma Lahlou, Casablanca, Morocco

David Maulen, Santiago de Chile, Chile

Christiane Post, Moskau, Russia

Curator of the contribution of the ZKM | Center for Art and Media for the station at the ZKM | Karlsruhe: Peter Weibel

Scenography: Studio Ilke Penzlien with Peter Kortmann and Robert Müller
Graphics: HIT

Project Management at ZKM: Hannah-Maria Winters

An ifa exhibition (*Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen*)

in collaboration with the ZKM | Center for Art and Media Karlsruhe

ifa (*Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen*) is Germany's oldest intermedia-ry organisation for international cultural relations. It promotes peaceful and enriching coexistence between people and cultures worldwide. ifa supports artistic and cultural exchange with exhibition, dialogue, and conference programmes, and it acts as a centre of excellence for international cultural relations. It is part of a global network and relies on sustainable, long-term partnerships. The ifa is supported by the Federal Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany, the state of Baden-Württemberg, and its capital Stuttgart. www.ifa.de

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