

Press release

Contemporary textile design in the Bauhaus-Archiv / Museum für Gestaltung

In a special exhibition, the Bauhaus-Archiv is revealing different ways in which textiles can be used.

Berlin, 15 March 2016. A special exhibition on ‘Textile Design Today – from Experiment to Series’, focusing on the design and use of textiles, can be seen at the Bauhaus-Archiv / Museum für Gestaltung from 16 March to 5 September 2016. The exhibition is showing current developments in the fields of fashion, architecture and interior design, as well as vehicle interiors. Basic characteristics of textiles such as colour, material and structure are examined, as well as the innovative potential of cultural reinterpretations and a return to traditions. The panorama of objects presented ranges from innovative, sustainably produced textiles made of natural materials or recycled plastics to 3D-printed clothing and functional smart textiles. The exhibition is accompanied by a lavishly illustrated catalogue and an extensive programme of events.

Along with works by established designers such as Hella Jongerius, Moritz Waldemeyer and Janne Kyttanen and textiles from renowned design companies such as Freitag, Kvadrat and Création Baumann, the exhibition is also showing experimental coursework and final project pieces from the textiles course at Burg Giebichenstein Kunsthochschule in Halle. ‘Burg Giebichenstein and the Bauhaus were very closely related in terms of content and there were lively exchanges between them. In their teaching work, both reforming art colleges continually emphasized the link between the arts and crafts. And the Burg is still continuing this tradition today,’ explains Annemarie Jaeggi, Director of the Bauhaus-Archiv / Museum für Gestaltung.

The exhibition was organized to celebrate the centenary of the founding of Burg Giebichenstein in 2015, as a collaborative project between the Bauhaus-Archiv / Museum für Gestaltung and the textiles course in the Department of Design at Burg Giebichenstein College of Art in Halle.

The exhibition approaches the wide range of current textile design under seven major headings: tradition, cultural transfer, colour, material, technology, smart textiles and sustainability. In many of the works, reflection on traditional methods of working that have been developed and passed down over many generations helped inspire new approaches to design that are being further developed today – partly using machines. Craft techniques such as lacemaking and embroidery are being placed in new contexts, and almost-forgotten skills from other cultures – such as the special *ikat* weaving technique from Aleppo – are being revived. Experimentation with new technologies and unusual materials is another prerequisite for creating innovative designs. Yarn manufactured from milk and textiles made of beeswax, as well as textiles produced using 3D printing, are only a few examples of the numerous new approaches that are presented in the exhibition. From the field of smart textiles, materials can be seen that muffle noise, and also interactive fabric that reacts to movement. The exhibition also examines colour as an expression of cultural and personal identity, along with its perceptual, technical and aesthetic properties.

Many of the exhibits emphasize the aspect of sustainability in contemporary textile design, which can be achieved for example using a targeted selection of materials or production methods.

Catalogue

Textile Design: from Experiment to Series, 2015, ed. Bettina Göttke-Krogmann, 248 pp., numerous illustrations, German and English. Price: € 32

Supporting programme (selected, in German)

Wed. 6 April, 7 p.m.: 'Textiles as a Market of the Future – from the Household to Outer Space', Panel discussion, € 6, concessions € 3, free of charge for members and students, registration: visit@bauhaus.de

Wed. 25 May, 7 p.m.: 'Green Fashion – Niche or Mass Market?', Panel discussion, € 6, concessions € 3, free of charge for members and students, registration: visit@bauhaus.de

Wed. 15 June, 7 p.m.: 'Textile Design Today: Learning from the Bauhaus?', Panel discussion, € 6, concessions € 3, free of charge for members and students, registration: visit@bauhaus.de

Wed. 6 July, 7 p.m.: 'Current Fashion Design from Berlin', Special event with young designers, € 6, concessions € 3, free of charge for members and students, registration: visit@bauhaus.de

Burg Giebichenstein Kunsthochschule Halle

The art college was founded in Halle in 1915. Today, more than a thousand international students are matriculated there in courses on art and design. The basic studies programme combines theory and practice, and there are laboratories and workshops on site.

The Bauhaus-Archiv / Museum für Gestaltung

The Bauhaus-Archiv / Museum für Gestaltung in Berlin is committed to the research and presentation of the history and influence of the Bauhaus (1919-1933), the twentieth century's most important school of architecture, design and art. Its exhibitions feature the world's most comprehensive collection of objects related to the school's history and all aspects of its work. Serving as a laboratory and platform for debate, the Bauhaus Archive engages in current issues of contemporary architecture, design and art. A new museum building for the Bauhaus-Archiv is being erected over the next few years to coincide with the centenary of the founding of the Bauhaus in 2019.

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