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Press release

Modernism on the Main:

Studio exhibition on the Frankfurt Art School at the Bauhaus-Archiv / Museum für Gestaltung

Within the framework of its permanent exhibition on the Bauhaus, the Bauhaus-Archiv is now presenting a studio exhibition on the Frankfurt Art School, its links to the Bauhaus and its integration in the design programme and network of the New Frankfurt.

Berlin, 25 July 2016: From now on the Bauhaus-Archiv / Museum für Gestaltung is presenting the studio exhibition “The Frankfurt Art School – Modernism on the Main”, which will run until 27 February 2017 and provide new insights into its extensive collections. The Bauhaus-Archiv holds the world’s largest collection related to the Bauhaus and, for decades, it has also been researching and collecting material from individuals and institutions playing a parallel or subsequent role in reforming art. These include the Frankfurt Art School, which was reformed in 1923 and had close thematic and personal ties to the Bauhaus: several members of the Bauhaus, such as Adolf Meyer, Christian Dell, Josef Hartwig and Karl Peter Röhl, became teachers at the art school on the Main. The exhibition presents works by students and teachers, with some of the objects being presented publicly for the first time.

A massive town-planning project formed the core of the New Frankfurt: from 1925 to 1930, more than 12,000 flats, administration buildings and communal social facilities were created in the modernist style. Numerous renowned architects, such as Walter Gropius or Mart Stam, were involved in the town-planning programme headed by Ernst May. The New Frankfurt strove to redesign every area of life and also encompassed fields including interior design, typography and graphic art.

In addition to the municipal administration, numerous private and public individuals and institutions were involved in the New Frankfurt, and these included the Frankfurt Art School. The reformist educational concept of its director, Fritz Wichert, united the departments of fine and applied art. Wichert additionally strove to establish close links between the art school and industry, business and the municipal administration, and these often led to collaborative projects.

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