

Press release

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Bauhaus Infinity Archive

A new installation at the temporary bauhaus-archiv allows visitors to immerse themselves into the world's largest Bauhaus collection with the aid of artificial intelligence.



Photo: Konrad Langer

With approximately one million objects, the Bauhaus-Archiv / Museum für Gestaltung in Berlin is home to a multifaceted, internationally renowned collection, of which only a fraction can be exhibited at any one time. Thanks to continuing efforts to digitalise our holdings, more and more works produced at the Bauhaus are becoming virtually accessible. Not only does this allow us to present works in virtually endless and unconventional arrangements, but also to explore the stories we can tell about them using artificial intelligence (AI).

The Bauhaus Infinity Archive is the result of a collaborative project between the Berlin-based designers ART+COM Studios and *Qurator*, a research project funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). The designers at ART+COM Studios created a so-called “Image Garden”, which visualises objects from the database and allows visitors to navigate the collection of the Bauhaus-Archiv and search for works based on specific visual criteria.

This immersive installation opens at the temporary bauhaus-archiv on 20 January 2022. Inside the walk-in, mirrored box, fitted with two oversized video screens, visitors can select various shapes and colours and trigger algorithms which search for matching objects from over 15,000 entries in the database. In this way, one can discover and analyse previously unknown connections between the various objects.

In the long term, Image Garden aims to explore how AI can support curatorial efforts to analyse content and handle ever greater and complex volumes of data. The software will begin by exploring the possibilities of automatised text and image processing.

“Artificial intelligence is currently a buzzword constantly being mentioned in the cultural sector. However, visitors can rarely delve into the concrete possibilities and limitations of

such automatised processes for themselves. With the Infinity Archive, it's different: the algorithm is directly controlled by the user and presents its interpretations in real time. The navigation through the archive by way of colours and shapes – and not text – provides the user an absolutely unique and sensual connection to these works,” explains Jana Sgibnev, project manager at ART+COM Studios.

In addition to having fun with AI, visitors of the Bauhaus Infinity Archive can also experience “Curated Stories”. These portray the history of the Bauhaus based on key works produced during the 14 years the school existed, or otherwise illustrate the diversity and colourfulness of the objects designed there.

The installation was developed as part of “dive in. Programme for Digital Interactions”, initiated by the German Federal Cultural Foundation and financed by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and Media (BKM) through the programme NEUSTART KULTUR. “We are pleased to support the Bauhaus Infinity Archive,” explained Friederike Zobel, head of the funding programme.

According to Annemarie Jaeggi, director of the Bauhaus-Archiv / Museum für Gestaltung, “an important concern to us while our museum is closed for renovation is to remain publicly visible. With the Bauhaus Infinity Archive, not only can we demonstrate how we are digitally evolving as an institution. We are also creating playful, innovative ways to discover our collection and present items which have never been shown in a public setting before.”

the temporary bauhaus-archiv
Knesebeckstraße 1-2
10623 Berlin-Charlottenburg

Opens 20 January 2022
Mon–Sat, 10 am–6 pm

Free admission

Please read our current [hygiene protocol](#).

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Sincerely yours,

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