

Press release

23 March 2023

unpacking events

Unpacking Jak R. Maier exhibition programme starts on 29 March 2023

As part of the exhibition *Unpacking Jak R. Maier – The Value of Things* (1 March – 30 June 2023), the Bauhaus-Archiv / Museum für Gestaltung cordially invites the public to participate in a new event series entitled “*unpackings*” at the temporary bauhaus-archiv.

In discussions with experts from the academic and professional fields, the **six-part event series** dives into the exhibition’s themes: Which objects were important to Jak R. Maier? How did they end up in the museum? And in view of limited resources, what objects can we possibly say goodbye to?

The museum team will examine items from the artist’s estate **live** before the eyes of the audience and highlight museum practices which normally happen behind the scenes. The *unpackings* play an integral role in the exhibition. The findings will be documented on site, thereby shaping the focus of the exhibition as more of the estate comes to light.

unpackings

Wed, 29 March 2023, 6:30 pm–8 pm | unpacking 2 – Who was Jak R. Maier?

Wed, 26 April 2023, 6:30 pm–8 pm | unpacking 3 – What does Jak R. Maier’s estate contain?

Wed, 24 May 2023, 6:30 pm–8 pm | unpacking 4 – What can be sorted out?

Wed, 14 June 2023, 6:30 pm–8 pm | unpacking 5 – How is an estate catalogued?

Fri, 30 June 2023, 6:30 pm–8 pm | unpacking 6 – Public finissage

Programme

Wed 29 March | 6:30 pm–8 pm

Who was Jak R. Maier?

Let’s follow the clues! How did Jak R. Maier’s estate end up in the collection of the Bauhaus-Archiv? And what subsequent processes occurred at the museum? We speak with people that work with estates and those who were the first to come in contact with the inheritance of Jak R. Maier.

Annemarie Jaeggi: Director of the Bauhaus-Archiv / Museum für Gestaltung. She accompanied the process of acquiring the estate from the very beginning.

Carsten Klezath: Head of building services at the Bauhaus- Archiv / Museum für Gestaltung. He was present at the first inspection of Jak R. and Marianne Maier's house in Berlin-Reinickendorf.

Miriam Schoofs: Freelance art historian and curator. She deals with the estates of artists and is currently working on the estate of Hanne Darboven.

Carina Burck: Art historian and former research associate of the Bauhaus-Archiv, who was responsible for the initial evaluation of Jak R. Maier's estate. She now works at the Kronberg Academy.

Wed 26 April | 6:30 pm–8 pm

What does Jak R. Maier's estate contain?

The estate of Jak R. Maier consists of drawings, photographs, sculptures and diverse documents. Most of them are decades old and reveal much about Maier's life and career. With guests and colleagues, the team explores Maier's artistic and professional development.

Kristin Bartels: Curator and Head of Collection for Photography and Visual Arts at the Bauhaus-Archiv / Museum für Gestaltung. She will art historically classify the estate.

Anna Schneider: Curator at the Haus der Kunst in Munich. She deals with the legal forms for estates and foundations.

Dr. Friederike Hauffe: Head of WERK- UND NACHLASS-MANAGEMENT at the Berne University of the Arts | Hochschule der Künste Bern. At the University of the Arts in Berlin she gives advanced training in estate management.

Anna Distelkamp: Anna Distelkamp is a lawyer and has been leading the BUA research project "Decision-making processes in the selection of artistic estates" together with Friederike Hauffe since April 2022.

Wed 24 May | 6:30 pm–8 pm

What can be sorted out?

Museums and archives are where today's treasures are collected and preserved for future generations. But is this feasible in times of sustainability and downsizing? The team discusses this problem with various experts and decides together: what stays and what goes?

Felix Sattler: Head curator of the Animal Anatomical Theatre of the Helmholtz Centre (HU Berlin) and co-editor of the publication "Museale Reste".

Nina Samuel: Art scholar at the Humboldt University Berlin and co-editor of the publication "Museale Reste".

Simon Schweizer: Project manager at the Regionalmuseum Chüechlihus in Langnau i.E.,

responsible for the project “Alt sucht Neu” (“Old seeks new”), in which objects are collectively sorted out with the public.

Wed 14 June | 6:30 pm–8 pm
How is an estate catalogued?

First, objects are selected and sorted. Then they are documented for the collection. But what does the process look like? Join the Bauhaus-Archiv staff from the digitalisation and depot management department on a tour of the temporary photo studio. They show how objects are indexed, what aspects must be considered, and what specific conditions apply at the Bauhaus-Archiv.

Florian de Brün: Photographer and reprographer at the Bauhaus-Archiv / Museum für Gestaltung

Natalie Kesik: Collection manager at the Bauhaus-Archiv / Museum für Gestaltung

Fri 30 June | 6:30 pm–8 pm
Public finissage

The estate has been examined, sorted and processed. What has the museum learned, and above all, what remains? The team creates a digital monument dedicated to Jak R. Maier and completes the process of unpacking Jak R. Maier in the same way it began: with a joint game of Memory.

Wencke Clausnitzer-Paschold: Archivist at the Bauhaus-Archiv / Museum für Gestaltung

Unpacking Jak R. Meier
Inherited and Unpacked – The Value of Things
1 March–30 June 2023

the temporary bauhaus-archiv
Knesebeckstraße 1, 10623 Berlin
Mo–Sat, 10 am–6 pm
Free admission

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