

GRASSI

MUSEUM OF APPLIED ARTS LEIPZIG

PRESS RELEASE

CULTURAL AFFAIRS. Art without Borders Exhibition 10th of June – 3rd of October

Since time immemorial, the exchange of cultures has had an effect on their art, crafts, and design. **CULTURAL AFFAIRS** focuses on different forms of cultural encounter. Cultures are not understood here as something homogenous and separated from other cultures but are characterized by their mix and their pluralism. The GRASSI Museum of Applied Arts shows jewelry, fashion, ceramics, and textiles as well as graphic and industrial design by contemporary designers and artists who either travel themselves or have a global or transcultural biography. The focus on the present and on the future shows that collaborative, international, and intercultural projects are becoming increasingly important in these days of cultural pluralism and heterogeneity. More than 60 examples of 50 exhibitors from more than 40 countries together with 2 projects of 4 international Universities show, that in the past centuries as in our own, increasingly networked world, art and design have been inconceivable without transcultural encounters.

CULTURAL AFFAIRS has three focal points: **Global Interrelations, Transcultural Encounters, The World in Motion**

Global Interrelations

The positions presented in this part of the exhibition make it clear how interrelations of material, form, and design leave their mark on cultural identity. The examples range from translations and reinterpretations of African wax prints by way of collaborative projects in various fields to the appropriation of objects and patterns from other cultural spheres. "Global Interrelations" are also forms of translation, mixtures, and unpredictable results of the meeting of cultures or objects.

Transcultural Encounters

New perspectives and possible alternative histories or translations are at the center of this chapter. Every object reveals traces of its voyages—whether the choice of a particular technique, a specific material, or its transformation and reinterpretation into a completely new object. Some of the artists and designers themselves live in two or more countries and see themselves as mediators between them. But it is not even necessary to travel far to find these signs: We live in a global, networked society in which the origin of objects often cannot be clearly determined, and the definition of cultural identity becomes ever more flexible and fluid.

The World in Motion

Migration and mobility in a postmigrant society are at the center here. The positions represented stand at the dividing line between design and political activism and are dedicated to themes such as racism, intersectionality, globalization, and participation in society. Artists and designers who have themselves moved through the world or who live in a mobile way allow that experience to flow into their own work. Collaborative projects, sometimes with an experimental and transcultural approach, play an important role and serve here as examples of a never-ending process of the transformation of culture and society. This chapter focuses on the themes of global mobility, cultural identity, and societal change.

Catalog for the exhibition

Deutscher Kunstverlag, 176 pages, German/English, 29 Euro

Program

For all events, the guidelines for the number of participants and hygiene requirements are subject to change. Get the latest information at www.grassimak.de

Opening oft the exhibition

Wednesday, 9th of June, 5 pm – 10 pm with live-broadcast of Sphere Radio with various conversations, panels, concerts and DJs

Press conference

Tuesday, 8th of June, 11 am

Duration oft the exhibition

10th of June – 3rd of October

Curator

Silvia Gaetti/ Curator of Asian Collections GRASSI Museum of Applied Arts

Design of the exhibition

UNGESTALT/ Leipzig

Graphic design

Dona Abboud/ Berlin

Opening Hours of the museum

Tuesday – Sunday, public holiday: 10 am – 6 pm, closed on Monday

Entrance fee

8 € for adults, reduced 5,50 €, groups with more than 8 people 6 €, kids and young people under 18 years of age: free of charge

Leipzig, 29th of April 2021

If you have any questions, please contact:

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