



## Press Release / Pressemitteilung

### *Alternatives for Living*

Blueprints for Haus Lange Haus Esters

17 March 2019 – January 2020

Opening: 17 March 2019, 11:30 a.m.

Press conference: 14 March 2019, 11 a.m., Haus Esters

How do we want to live, how can we and must we live, today and in the future? What forms of cohabitation are conceivable? What potentials, hopes and fears are connected to the globalised, mobile, digital society? In conjunction with the yearlong *Alternatives for Living* project, the Kunstmuseen Krefeld invited 16 international artists, designers and architects to develop alternative forms of domestic living for Haus Lange and Haus Esters. The two villas will be transferred at the same time into an active forum for lively dialogues.

The start of the projects simultaneously marks the reopening of Haus Lange and Haus Esters, both of which have been extensively renovated over the course of the last two years. As a unique ensemble of modernist architecture, the protected historical villas provide the impetus for interdisciplinary thinking and practical designing – approaches already formulated as a social vision by the Bauhaus in the 1920s.

Homes tell us much about the character of a society. When Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, the last director of the Bauhaus, planned Haus Lange and Haus Esters in the late 1920s and furnished them as total works of art together with Lilly Reich, he was already attempting to realise the utopia of modern living. By inviting artists, designers and architects to develop site-specific works for the villas, the *Alternatives for Living* projects focuses attention on the community life of tomorrow – visions of the future, conceived on the basis of a critical observation of our present-day reality. Over the course of the coming year, diverse aspects and chapters will be brought together to form a large-scale staging. Utopian, dystopian and mobile drafts of domestic living will be put up for discussion in three exhibitions. An extensive accompanying programme comprising Augmented Reality, lectures, film evenings, open classrooms, fablabs, performances and much more shed light on the architecture of the newly renovated houses, confronting the historical domestic culture of the 1920s and 1930s with questions concerning the present-day living situation as well as the possibilities and challenges offered by recent technologies.

Kunstmuseen Krefeld

Kaiser Wilhelm Museum Haus Lange Haus Esters

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As museum director Katia Baudin says, 'We are creating a forum that integrates our visitors into a multifaceted occurrence and gives everyone the opportunity to explore future forms of domesticity and visionary life models.'

*Alternatives for Living* is a part of the national cooperative project 'Bauhaus 100'.

### Programme

#### Prologue: Mixed Reality

17 March – 14 April 2019 Haus Lange

Employing the means of Augmented Reality, visitors will be able to experience the living situation of the 1930s, demonstrating Ludwig Mies van der Rohe's visionary domestic concept.

#### Architecture as a living body

17.3.2019 – 26.01.2020 Haus Lange

The structure, materiality and uses of Haus Lange and Haus Esters, which have been served as exhibition venues for contemporary art since 1955 and 1981, respectively, have frequently been altered. These transformations are reflected in two rooms based on such source material as documents, photographs, plans and models.

#### Dialogue: Participation and science

17 March – 18 August 2019 Haus Esters

The topic of *Alternatives for Living* will be discussed, taught, presented and performed in a crossover of art, design and architecture. The Raumlabor artists group structures Haus Esters with modular furnishings, lending it a new and different domestic quality that makes one want to spend time here.

#### Exhibition: Act 1 Utopia

05 May 2019 – 26 January 2020 Haus Lange

The first part of the UTOPIA – DISTOPIA – MOBILITY trilogy begins in May 2019 in Haus Lange. Artists, designers and architects realise new living concepts for the spaces in the villa designed by Mies van der Rohe and develop visionary notions of cohabitation, free from actual social or material prerequisites.

#### Exhibition: Act 2 Mobility

7 July 2019 – 26 January 2020 Gardens Haus Lange Haus Esters

In July 2019, the exhibition format extends out into the outdoor space around the two houses, where new installations have been developed for the gardens. As a special highlight, the artist Andrea Zittel will transform the former garden house of the Esters family into a café.



Exhibition: Act 3 Dystopia  
15 September 2018 – 26 January 2020 Haus Esters

Beginning in September, utopian designs will be shown in Haus Lange that respond to the dystopian approaches on display in Haus Esters. The result is a dialogue between the two houses that addresses the potentials, dreams and nightmares of cohabitation in the future as seen from various perspectives.

Epilogue: Living Bauhaus today and tomorrow  
January 2020

Protagonists and public come together one more time at the fulminate Bauhaus celebration.

Artists, designers, architects:

Banz & Bowinkel, Bless, Franck Bragigand, Dunne & Raby, Didier Faustino, Michal Helfman, Tamara Henderson, Olaf Holzapfel, Christopher Kulendran Thomas, Laura Lima, Christodoulos Panayiotou, Raumlabor, Andreas Schmitten, Slavs and Tatars, Apolonija Šušteršič, Andrea Zittel

Curators:

Katia Baudin, Dr Magdalena Holzhey, Dr Sylvia Martin

Project management: Julia Reich

Printable images in conjunction with the *Alternatives for Living* project can be found at our homepage [www.kunstmuseenkrefeld.de](http://www.kunstmuseenkrefeld.de)

Sponsors and Partners

The *Alternatives for Living* project is supported by



# AWMILHE

The prologue Mixed Reality is supported by



Act 1 Utopia is supported by



With the generous support of the Bureau des arts plastiques des Institut français and the French Ministry of Culture.

Act 2 Mobility is supported by



Partner for photography and media art



Cultural partners



## Visitor's address

Haus Lange Haus Esters  
Wilhelmshofallee 91-97  
47800 Krefeld


Kaiser Wilhelm Museum  
Joseph-Beuys-Platz 1  
47798 Krefeld

## Opening hours

Haus Lange Haus Esters  
Tuesday, Thursday to Sunday 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Wednesday 3 – 9 p.m.

Kunstmuseen Krefeld

Kaiser Wilhelm Museum Haus Lange Haus Esters



Kaiser Wilhelm Museum  
Tuesday to Sunday 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

On the special holiday opening hours, see [www.kunstmuseenkrefeld.de](http://www.kunstmuseenkrefeld.de)

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