



Press Release / Pressemitteilung

Alternatives for Living

Blueprints for Haus Lange Haus Esters

Act 1: Utopia

5 May 2019 – 26 January 2020

Opening: 5 May 2019 11.30 a.m., Haus Esters

Press Conference 2 May 2019, 11 a.m., Haus Esters

The project *Alternatives for Living. Blueprints for Haus Lange Haus Esters*, which the Kunstmuseen Krefeld initiated to mark the Bauhaus Centenary, is going into its next phase. The first of three exhibitions will open on May 5. To tie in with the overarching theme of “Utopia”, seven of the sixteen artists, architects and designers taking part have created new works for Haus Lange. A variety of alternative models for living was the result of a critical engagement with our global digital society and a focus on current challenges such as resource and housing shortages. As a physical manifestation of a Utopia, the modern architecture designed by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe enters into a dialogue with the installations and works.

Act 1: Utopia – participants

BLESS, Franck Bragigand, Dunne & Raby, Olaf Holzapfel, Andreas Schmitt, Apolonija Šušteršič, Christopher Kulendran Thomas

When he designed Haus Lange and Haus Esters in the late 1920s, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe (1886 – 1969) created an architecture that was in keeping with a new and modern attitude to life. His villas were aimed at a prosperous segment of society that had embraced the visions of the modern era. In many places, however, housing developments in the Modernist style were also intended to spawn a better society thanks to their clear structure and functional furnishings. “The private Haus Lange and Haus Esters, which are testimony to the Modernist architectural style of the nineteen twenties, are particularly suitable for thinking about future ways of living”, says Kunstmuseen Krefeld Director Katia Baudin, who is curating the Alternatives for Living project in collaboration with Dr. Magdalena Holzhey and Dr. Sylvia Martin.

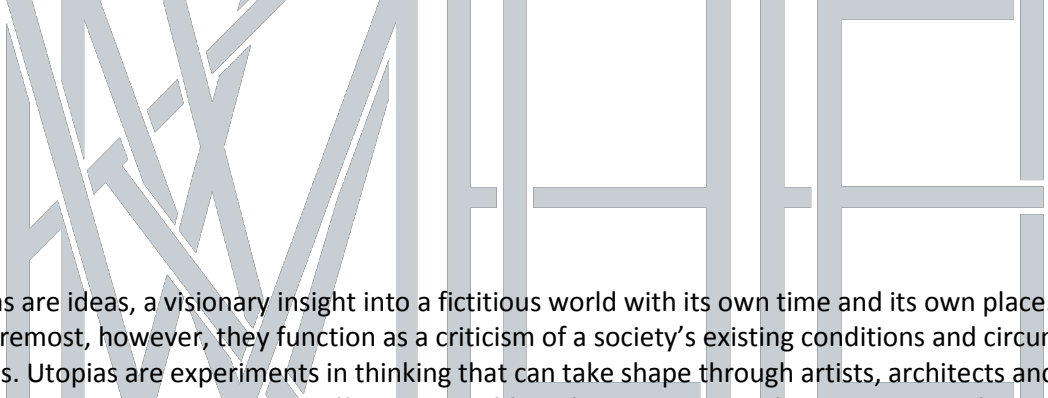
The buildings we live in and the ways in which we live together have always been part of utopian thought. In Utopia, the 1516 work written by the English scholar and diplomat Thomas More (1478-1535), private property was entirely abolished and houses were declared common property. Switching houses was another model that was designed to give concrete form to the vision of an ideal community that makes do without private property.

Kunstmuseen Krefeld

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Utopias are ideas, a visionary insight into a fictitious world with its own time and its own place. First and foremost, however, they function as a criticism of a society's existing conditions and circumstances. Utopias are experiments in thinking that can take shape through artists, architects and designers. Our global society today offers plenty of food for critical and reflective thought: from the exploitation of natural resources and climate change to overpopulation, housing shortages and the challenges posed by the digital age.

The projects

Engaging with Mies van der Rohe's specific material language, the design studio **Bless** (Désirée Heiss, *1971, lives in Paris, Ines Kaag, *1970, lives in Berlin) designs all kinds of objects – everything from suitcases to items of furniture. The French artist **Franck Bragigand** (*1971, lives in Amsterdam) takes discarded furniture and everyday objects that he finds and uses a space and color concept to imbue them with new life, thereby critically questioning human production in an era of material surplus. Design duo **Dunne & Raby** (Anthony Dunne, *1964, Fiona Raby, *1963, live in London) create entirely new models of the world featuring fictitious geography in the form of globes that demand a shift in perspective in the home environment. The room-filling installation created by the artist Olaf Holzappel (*1969, lives in Berlin) addresses the distinction between public and private space in today's uniform digital zone in which the relationship between the collective and the individual is redefined. The sculptor **Andreas Schmitten** (*1980, lives in Dusseldorf) puts forward for discussion some alternative concepts for the Haus Esters and Haus Lange facades and gardens; some of these will be realized in Act 2: Mobility. The Slovenian architect and artist **Apolonija Šušteršič** (*1965, lives in Lund and Ljubljana) explores the legacy of the Modernist architectural style in social housing; during the course of her project she will put her research into concrete practice in Krefeld. Working together with the curator Annika Kuhlmann, the British artist **Christopher Kulendran Thomas** (*1979, lives in London) is designing a model for communal home ownership; following the car sharing principle, the idea is to allow flexible living all over the world for a flat-rate price.

Ongoing

Dialogue: Participation and Science, Haus Esters
until 18 August 2019

Architektur as a Living Body, Haus Lange
bis 26.01.2020

Outlook

Akt 2: Mobility
07.07.2019 – 26.01.2020, Garden Haus Lange Haus Esters

Akt 3: Dystopia
15.09.2019 – 26.01.2020, Haus Esters

Epilogue: Bauhaus Living Today and Tomorrow
01.2020, Haus Lange Haus Esters

Sponsors and Partners

The project Anders Wohnen is supported by



The Act 1: Utopia is supported by



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Partner for photography



Cultural Partner




Visitor's address

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Joseph-Beuys-Platz 1
47798 Krefeld

Kunstmuseen Krefeld

Kaiser Wilhelm Museum Haus Lange Haus Esters



Opening hours

Haus Lange Haus Esters

Tuesday, Thursday to Sunday 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Wednesday 3 – 9 p.m.

Kaiser Wilhelm Museum

Tuesday to Sunday 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

On the special holiday opening hours, see www.kunstmuseenkrefeld.de

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