



Press Release/Pressemitteilung

***Produktive Räume. Kunst und Design aus Krefeld* (Productive Spaces: Art and Design from Krefeld)**

Haus Lange, Haus Esters, Krefeld | March 26–September 10, 2023

Opening: Sunday, March 26, 2023, 11:30 am

Press conference: Thursday, March 23, 2023, 11 am, Haus Lange, Haus Esters

To celebrate the 650th anniversary of the city of Krefeld, the Kunstmuseen Krefeld are staging a comprehensive exhibition of contemporary art and design under the theme of *Produktive Räume* (Productive Spaces). Around 90 exhibits by more than 50 visual artists and designers of different generations who either live in Krefeld or have received valuable inspiration from the city are on display in Haus Lange and Haus Esters. With paintings, sculptures, objects, photography, video installations and performances, as well as items from the worlds of product, communication and social design, the presentation offers a concentrated snapshot of the city's broad creative output. We would like to express our special thanks to the Sparkassen-Kulturstiftung Krefeld, whose generous support has made the exhibition possible on this scale.

The exhibits have been selected and arranged according to a concept that understands space as a factor of production. The exhibition examines how art and design approach space from a variety of perspectives—whether social, political, communicative, economic or virtual, physical or conceptual. At the same time, it takes into account the unique architectural character of Haus Lange, Haus Esters, and their gardens: their fluid spatial concept not only dissolves the boundaries between inside and outside, stasis and movement, but also represents the modern and more liberal image of society that emerged in the 1920s. Ludwig Mies van der Rohe's outstanding architectural ensemble thus becomes a platform for the city's creative scene.

"Preparing this exhibition was a great pleasure for all of us," explains Katia Baudin, director of the Kunstmuseen Krefeld. "The mere fact that we received well over 100 applications demonstrates the diversity of the work taking place in the ateliers, studios, and workshops of this city, as well as at the Niederrhein University of Applied Sciences. Through intensive discussions with the team and dialogue with numerous artists and designers, we have created an exhibition that we are very proud of."

Haus Lange is dedicated to visual art, Haus Esters to design, and there are also some works to be found in the gardens. In Haus Lange, the different works are arranged in thematic groups. Areas of focus include urban space, the interplay between sculpture and space, and our social living spaces. The rooms in Haus Esters are divided into categories: product design, social design, communication design, and ceramics. A separate area is dedicated to the renowned design group Kunstflug. betont.es will run a workshop zone for visitors during the first half of the exhibition; Julia Timmer will take over the space during the second half.

In the outdoor space, some of the works can be activated or used as seating.

Kunstmuseen Krefeld

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Educational Program

The exhibition is accompanied by a comprehensive anniversary program involving the participating artists and designers. In addition to numerous guided tours and artist talks, there will also be studio visits, workshops, and special vacation and family programs on offer. We have several late openings (KunstImPuls) and other events where our cultural program is enhanced by music and literature. One example of this is our collaborative event with the Niederrheinisches Literaturhaus on April 26, where bestselling author Susanne Kliem, aka Kristina Hauff, who grew up in Krefeld, will read from her novel *In blaukalter Tiefe* (In the Cold Blue Depths). Further exhibition activities and projects are linked to other events in the city, such as the Kultur findet Stadt festival in early June. As part of the Kulturrucksack NRW program, our *Art Planet Krefeld* project will give children and young people the opportunity to visit some of the artists and designers in their studios, take part in a summer academy in the gardens of Haus Lange and Haus Esters, and exhibit their own works in the museum (Studio 2, KWM). We have also devised a program for schools, kindergartens, and day care centers that allows participants to discover the cultural richness of the city of Krefeld in fun and exciting ways.

Catalogue

A publication will be created over the duration of the exhibition that continues the historical tradition of the ring binders published by the Kunstmuseen Krefeld in the 1960s and 1970s. Up-and-coming Krefeld design office Formkultur are responsible for the graphic design, while texts by renowned critic Barbara Hess and design expert Gerrit Terstiege as well as the curators will document and reflect on the exhibition.

Artists on display in Haus Lange:

Hans Joachim Albrecht, Barbara Adamek, Soya Arakawa, Gaby Baltha, Frank Bernemann, Otto Boll, Mechtild Brahms, Astrid Busch, Volker Döhne, Simon Erath, Uwe Esser, Setsuko Fukushima, °dorisundgilla/2zkdb°, Sibylle Gröne, Gerhard Hahn, Wolfgang Hahn, Brigitta Heidtmann, Maike Jansen, Doris Kaiser, Gudrun Kemsal, Thomas Klegin, Mathias Lanfer, Lydia Mammes, Monika Nelles, Thomas Pöhler, Claudia Reich, REICHRICHTER, Matthias Schamp, Martin Schüten, Nicole Schwarzbach, Susanne Specht, Birgitta Thaysen, Johannes Trittien, Finn Wagner

Designers on display in Haus Esters:

Hermann Becker, betont.es, Lennart Ebert, Manfred Emmenegger-Kanzler, Formkultur, Kerstin Froch, Michael Grandt, Amanda Haas, Norbert Krause, Kunstflug, NIRUK, Nika Rams, Florian Saul, Raphael Schmitz, Antje Schwittmann-Schops, sputnic Visual Arts, Vera Stassen, Julia Timmer, Petra Wolf, Julia Zejn

Curatorial Team

Katia Baudin, Magdalena Holzhey, Thomas Janzen, Michael Krajewski, Sylvia Martin
Design advisory committee: Kerstin Plüm, Wienke Treblin and Thomas Turowski

The Kunstmuseen Krefeld would like to thank the Sparkassen-Kulturstiftung Krefeld for their generous support.



S-Kulturstiftung Krefeld
Die Stiftungen der Sparkasse Krefeld

Cultural partner



Visit us:

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The Kunstmuseen are a cultural institution of the city of Krefeld.

Admission is free for children and young people under 18.