



Press Release / Pressemitteilung

April 25, 2024

Museum Without Borders. Art–Design / Dunkerque–Krefeld
Haus Lange Haus Esters and in Krefeld's public urban space
04/28 – 09/08/2024

Opening of the exhibition: April 28 at 11.30 a.m., Haus Lange Haus Esters

Museum Without Borders. Art–Design / Dunkerque–Krefeld brings together two art institutions - the Kunstmuseen Krefeld and the Regional Contemporary Art Collection of Northern France (FRAC Grand Large - Hauts-de-France), based in Dunkerque (Dunkirk). Both aim to bring art and design closer to the public. This year, they are also celebrating 50 years of town twinning – the perfect occasion for a special "aller-retour": the FRAC collection will be visiting Krefeld from April 28 to September 8. The return visit to Dunkirk will take place in 2025.

Art, design and industry connect the two cities Krefeld and Dunkerque, which celebrate their 50-year town twinning this very year. Art and design are also the focus of the collections of both the Kunstmuseen Krefeld and the FRAC Grand Large - Hauts-de-France, one of 22 *Fonds régionaux d'art contemporain*. Since its foundation in 1982, the FRAC has been collecting contemporary art and bringing its collection to various locations in the northern French region. Mies van der Rohe's iconic villas are the ideal site to showcase works from the French collection. Katia Baudin, Director of the Kunstmuseen Krefeld since 2016, directed the FRAC Grand Large - Hauts-de-France from 1997 to 2004 and initiated the strategy of acquiring design in crossover with art as well as inviting artists to create on and offsite site-specific works.

"I am very pleased to have this opportunity to introduce the inhabitants of Krefeld as well as the German public to a very special art institution: the FRAC Grand Large Hauts-de-France, which I had the pleasure of directing many years ago," explains Krefeld museum director Katia Baudin: "The exchange of collections with the FRAC and the border crossing view encourages a change of perspective on the art and design of our times. It also stimulates us to test in Krefeld innovative outreach programs developed by the Frac that truly bring art closer to the public. With Keren Detton, the director of the FRAC in Dunkirk, and her team, we share a similar attitude and goal: Art connects and our museums operate without borders!"

More than 100 works by around 65 artists and designers from the FRAC Grand Large HDF collection, including many interactive, ephemeral and changeable installations as well as experimental design, are temporarily moving into Haus Lange Haus Esters - and with them the unique spirit of this adventurous institution. The heart of the exhibition is set in the two iconic modernist villas and their gardens. Several installations were specially adapted for this unique context and site by the artists themselves. Offsite projects in the urban space are also waiting to be discovered. The focus lies on influential international and French positions from the 1990s to the present day, many of whom are now shown for the first time in Krefeld.

Kunstmuseen Krefeld

Kaiser Wilhelm Museum Haus Lange Haus Esters

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The artists and designers in this group exhibition cross boundaries in an experimental way, critically question the legacy of modernism and incite visitors to take on an active role. They ask: Where, when and how does art take place? What role do everyday life, trends and people play in it? The French perspective of this exhibition project expands our understanding of contemporary art and design developments.

Haus Esters: Art to Dive Into. Everyday Life Moves into the Museum

Haus Esters "flowing spaces" by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe provide the ideal setting to highlight a generation of artists who in the 1990s brought everyday life into the museum and turned the visitors into active participants. Their works were created against the backdrop of the dawn of the digital age, which had an immense impact on our lives by amongst others, dissolving the boundaries between public and private space. In Haus Esters, several rooms showcase installations by important artists that can be associated with Relational Aesthetics. French art critic Nicolas Bourriaud coined this term (*Esthétique relationnelle* in French) for the emerging practices of the time, which often provocatively brought the bustling reality of everyday life into sterile art spaces such as museums. In the former children's room of the Esters family, one can play once again. The installation by Thai artist Rirkrit Tiravanija invites the visitors to play table football together, sit and chat on the sofas and enjoy a cold drink from the fridge. People and their interaction are always a central component of his artworks. In addition to Tiravanija, further internationally recognized artists such as Angela Bulloch, Maurizio Cattelan, Tobias Rehberger and Philippe Parreno from this same generation are also exhibited in Krefeld for the first time.

Haus Lange: Surface Treatment. Mies & Co Critically Scrutinized

Haus Lange, meanwhile, houses a critical and even political spirit. Visitors are greeted by the flickering red neon sign "Please God Make Tomorrow Better" by French artist collective Claire Fontaine, which was created in 2008 during the global economic crisis. What follows, is a focus on artists and designers who reflect on our instable times in which one crisis follows upon the next, who question the legacy of modernism, while in certain cases create hopeful works born out of these crises. French artist Bruno Peinado transforms the Lange family's former living room into a protest stage for minorities neglected by Western modernism. Many of the objects and installations on the upper floor of Haus Lange are of a narrative nature. Their stories show that the homely and cozy and the irritating or even uncanny lie close together, even in everyday life. This narrative moment, in which the object itself becomes the protagonist, is the opposite of the rational modernism pursued by Mies van der Rohe and the Bauhaus. The up-and-coming designers of the 1990s increasingly turned their backs on the industrial functionalism of modernism – as illustrated by Dutch designers associated with the Droog Design label, such as Tord Boontje, Hella Jongerius and Joris Laarman. Their furnishings and objects bring the Haus Lange rooms facing the garden back to life. Younger design studios such as Formafantasma and Thus That further develop upon these critical design attitudes within the framework of the climate crises. They use industrial waste, the residue of modernity so to speak, for their sustainable design projects.

From the museum to the city and to the people

In keeping with the nomadic spirit of the FRAC, this exhibition transcends the museum walls: some works of art can be encountered in the villas' gardens as well as in the urban space. On the terrace of Haus Esters, Tobias Rehberger's *Seascapes* invites visitors to literally immerse themselves in his artwork. Miriam Bäckström's photo series for billboards, *Apartments*, irritate Krefeld's public space with their revelation of private home settings. Over the course of the exhibition, further works of art will be activated around the city, providing passers-by with surprising moments and inviting them to explore the public space.

Curator of the exhibition: Katia Baudin, Director of the Kunstmuseen Krefeld

Curatorial project management: Juliane Duft
Assisted by: Polina Scerbonos

FRAC Grand Large - Hauts-de-France in Dunkirk

Founded in 1982, the Regional Contemporary Art Collections (FRAC) are public institutions that collection international contemporary art, make it known to the public and promote awareness of current forms of creativity in an original way. The FRAC Grand Large's extensive collection of art and design includes important works from the 1960s to the present day. The FRAC organizes exhibitions predominantly within the region, but also beyond it, working with recognized art venues or institutions such as media centers, schools or community associations. In 2013, the FRAC and its collection moved into the new building designed by French architects Anne Lacaton & Jean-Philippe Vassal on the former shipyard site on the North Sea coast of Dunkirk.

Artists and designers included in the exhibition:

Saâdane Afif, Céline Ahond, Volker Albus, Miriam Bäckström, Aldo Bakker, Jurgen Bey, Walead Beshty, Olga Boldyreff, Tord Boontje, Ronan & Erwan Bouroullec, Berlinde de Bruyckere, Angela Bulloch, André Cadere, Stéphane Calais, Pier Giacomo & Achille Castiglioni, Maurizio Cattelan, Helen Chadwick, Pierre Charpin, Céline Condorelli, Angela de la Cruz, Jesse Darling, Honoré D'O, Florence Doléac, Latifa Echakhch, Pauline Esparon, Didier Faustino, Sylvie Fleury, Claire Fontaine, Front Design, Piero Gilardi, Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster, Joseph Grigely, Fabrice Gygi, Lise Haller Baggesen, Ineke Hans, Leni Hoffmann, Jakob + Macfarlane, Hella Jongerius, Dirk van der Kooij, Kueng Caputo, Joris Laarman, Stéphane Magnin, matali crasset, Mathieu Mercier, Bruno Munari, Yves Netzhammer, Tony Oursler, Olgoj Chorchoj, Erez Nevi Pana, Nefeli Papadimouli, Philippe Parreno, Bruno Peinado, Daniel Pflumm, Andrée Putman, Julien Prévieux, Radi Designers, Philippe Ramette, Tobias Rehberger, Tejo Remy, Denis Santachiara, Bruno Serralongue, Gabriel Sierra, Florian Slotawa, SMARIN, Robert Stadler, Simon Starling, Studio 65, Studio Formafantasma, Studio Thus That, Rirkrit Tiravanija, Tatiana Trouvé, Gilles & Vincent Turin, Isabelle Vannobel, Maxim Velcovsky, Barbara Visser, Vogt + Weizenegger

Educational program and program for schools and daycare centers

An integral part of the exhibition is a dynamic public program that invites all visitors to participate and get involved. In addition to regular formats such as dialogue tours, workshops and family activities, special guided city tours of artworks from the FRAC collection in Krefeld's urban space, participatory neighborhood meetings and picnics will be proposed throughout the summer in cooperation with local associations and institutions. Art and design will not just be shown in a passive manner: artworks in the gardens of Haus Lange Haus Esters and in the urban space will be activated and become places for communication and mutual understanding. Various talks with artists and designers complete the program. As part of two major KunstImPuls events, the free monthly evenings at the Kunstmuseen Krefeld, this summer the exhibition will become an inspiring setting for celebrating together with open-air live music, workshops and much more.

The education and outreach program for schools offers workshops at the interface of art and design, in which connections between art and everyday life will be developed. Art and design open up different perspectives, so that a sensitive approach to topics such as diversity will be approached in a vivid and playful way. For middle and high schools, special didactic, bilingual materials (German and French) supplement the regular offerings with proposals for interdisciplinary teaching units and projects.

Art education program: Thomas Janzen, Eva Caroline Eick

Museum Without Borders is an exhibition project designed as a collection exchange between the Kunstmuseen Krefeld and the FRAC Grand Large - Hauts-de-France. In 2024, the FRAC collection is on display in Krefeld; in 2025, the collection of the Kunstmuseen Krefeld will be presented at the FRAC Grand Large in Dunkerque. This special collaborative project was initiated and realized under the artistic direction of Katia Baudin, Director of the Kunstmuseen Krefeld and Keren Detton, Director of the FRAC Grand Large - Hauts-de-France.

We would like to thank our sponsors for their generous support of the exhibition: The Sparkasse Cultural Foundation of Sparkasse Krefeld, the ADAGP Paris, the Minister for European Affairs, International Affairs and Media of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia and Head of the State Chancellery with the "Europa Schecks" initiative of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia as well as the Institut Français and the Fonds Perspektive für Zeitgenössische Kunst und Architektur. We are also very pleased about the new media partnership with the Franco-German cultural channel Arte. Last but not least, we would like to thank our partner Ströer Media for the fruitful collaboration.

Visit

KUNSTMUSEEN KREFELD

Kaiser Wilhelm Museum

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The Kunstmuseen Krefeld are a cultural institution of the city of Krefeld.
Admission is free for children and young people under the age of 18.