

THE CREATIVE BLUR

Between Design Practice and
Design in the Museum

SYMPOSIUM

on the occasion of the retirement
of Sabine Schulze
curated by Tulga Beyerle

October 18-19, 2018

Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe
Hamburg

MK&G

MUSEUM FÜR
KUNST UND GEWERBE
HAMBURG

Since its opening in 1877, the Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe Hamburg (MKG) has collected more than 500,000 objects. Originally founded as a collection of models for use by artists and artisans, the spectrum covered today ranges from antique bronze sculptures to thermoplastic polyurethane jackets from Iris van Herpen's "Phy-Tha-Go-Ras" collection.

Why do we collect and for whom? How can we have an impact on society with our work? In recent years we have systematically reactivated our historical holdings by juxtaposing selected items with contemporary positions, as well as responding to current social issues in special exhibitions that take a critical look at today's consumer society.

On the occasion of the pending change of directors, we want to discuss with experts from the field of design the issues they face in their daily practice. The goal is to determine what an institution like our museum can contribute to their work, both by going "back to the roots" and by asking questions about the future.

We are looking forward to inspirational discussions with, among others

BLESS
Jan Boelen
Daniel Charny
Aric Chen
Hendrike Farenholtz
Konstadin Groic
Mathias Hahn
Ineke Hans
Axel Kufus
Cecilia León de la Barra
Julia Lohmann
Angelika Nollert
Judith Seng
Robert Stadler

Please register by October 10, 2018
by writing to:

symposium@mkg-hamburg.de



The attendance is free of charge and
the conference language is English.

Thursday October 18, 2018

from 12:00 pm	Registration
1:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Greeting Sebastian Giesen Hermann Reemtsma Stiftung
	Introduction Sabine Schulze
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Keynote Daniel Charny
2:45 pm – 3:15 pm	Double Short Lecture Aric Chen – Judith Seng
3:15 pm – 3:45 pm	Double Short Lecture Ineke Hans – Axel Kufus
3:45 pm – 4:15 pm	Double Short Lecture Konstantin Grcic – Desiree Heiss & Ines Kaag (Bless)
4:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Fishbowl Discussion With Bless, Daniel Charny, Aric Chen, Konstantin Grcic, Ineke Hans, Axel Kufus, Judith Seng moderated by Angelika Nollert
5:30 pm – 7:00 pm	Get Together

Friday October 19, 2018

from 10:00 am	Registration
11:00 am – 11:30 am	Keynote Jan Boelen
11:30 am – 12:00 pm	Double Short Lecture Mathias Hahn – Robert Stadler
12:00 pm – 12:30 pm	Double Short Lecture Hendrike Farenholtz – Julia Lohmann
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Keynote Cecilia León de la Barra
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Short Presentations Anais Borie, Aram Lee, Ottonie von Roeder Jon Stam Commonplace Studio forecast-platform.com
2:45 pm – 3:45 pm	Fishbowl Discussion With Jan Boelen, Hendrike Farenholtz, Mathias Hahn, Cecilia León de la Barra, Julia Lohmann, Robert Stadler moderated by Aric Chen
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Summary & Outlook Tulga Beyerle

Jan Boelen *1967, Genk (BE), lives and works in Belgium

Design Critic, University Lecturer and Curator

Founder and Artistic Director of Z33 – House for Contemporary Art, Hasselt (BE)

Curator of the Istanbul Design Biennial 2018

„We still do believe in traditional approaches to education, and we are not just engaging in protest. That would be too easy. We are instead looking for new models and new strategies. We should reflect on this age of artificial intelligence and ask if it gives us the opportunity to develop new ways of exchanging knowledge. We ask if learning an 'attitude' is more important, if we could become more human by allowing our emotion and intuition to form more of a part of our education system. So this is the opportunity of the future that technology can give us - we need to rethink how future systems can respond to that. I hope that traditional places of learning don't become the only places of learning, that architects and designers open their practices to develop educational studios, and that education doesn't always have to be as confined to a traditional academic university. Learning by doing and by action can be more beneficial, rather than learning by listening and reproducing." janboelen.be

Daniel Charny *1966, Jerusalem (ISR), lives and works in London

Creative Consultant, Curator and Educator

Creative Director of From Now On consultants and FixEd, London

Professor of Design at Kingston School of Art, London

"All museums face challenges around finding relevance and connecting with their audiences. Design Museums face the specific challenge of doing this as they collect and exhibit contemporary and modern design, products which are often readily available in the physical and digital shops and show-rooms, seen in magazines, on people and in spaces around the world. At risk of being seen as a part of the consumer market economy, not critically examining but both reinforcing and dependent on the brands they showcase, it's incumbent on Design Museums to stay true to the educational mission that was so central to the origins of institutes such as the V&A. How can Design Museums find a new role which delivers on their potential to understand and equip people to better negotiate the dramatically changing world around us? Only by fully embracing their unique position to material and contemporary culture and delivering that distinct social purpose can they occupy an essential role in the museums landscape." fromnowon.co.uk

Aric Chen *1974, Chicago (USA), lives and works in Shanghai

Curator, Critic and Journalist

Curator-at-Large and former Lead Curator 'Design and Architecture' at M+ in Hong Kong

Guest Curator of "Beazley Designs of the Year" at Design Museum London, 2018

"In Asia, design as a discipline is much younger than in the west. It doesn't have the same history, which makes things complicated for us, but at the same time the benefit to not having such a well-formulated history is that it comes with less baggage. We will try to come out of it without the same biases that other museums might have because of their much longer history."

Hendrike Farenholtz *1956, Hamburg (GER), lives and works in Hamburg

Carpenter, University Lecturer, Workshop in Hamburg since 1989

„As a museum visitor, I enjoy the subtle relationships between contemporary art and sometimes very old craftsmanship, that come to light in the collection of the MKG. In collaboration with Verena Wriedt, I work with young prisoners as a university lecturer. The MKG showed their work, which was extremely meaningful to these young men. The museum as a forum for confrontation – and as a place for intensive studies and a temporary stage for the designers of Hamburg.“ hendrike-farenholtz.de

Konstantin Grcic *1965, Munich (GER), lives and works in Munich and Berlin

Industrial Designer, Design Studio in Munich since 1992, relocated to Berlin in 2018

„Displaying my work in a gallery does not make me an artist. The objects still remain design objects. The gallery creates an unusual context. That is a challenge. The empty space, the white walls, the neon lights, the grey floors – all of that creates a glorification that is unusual to my work. My furniture is usually displayed in a showroom of a furniture store, on a convention, in someone's home or in public spaces. The context of an art gallery is interesting for me, but primarily because I can play with it.“ konstantin-grcic.com

Mathias Hahn *1977, Osnabrück (GER), lives and works in London

Product Designer, Design Studio in London since 2006,

Co-Founder of OKAYstudio collective

„To me, it is important that design is always understood in the context of society and culture, beyond dogmatic definitions – as a 'cultural tool'. The synergies with art, architecture and interaction are what makes design so extremely fascinating. Objects tell stories. I am interested in new typologies that are relevant for those who use them. Products that are legible and have their own identity while at the same time allowing room for interpretation.“ mathiashahn.com

Ineke Hans *1966, Zelhem (NLD), lives and works in Arnheim, London and Berlin

Designer, Professor for Product and Process Design at Universität der Künste, Berlin

„When you design something nowadays, you always have to question yourself if it is actually necessary. We produce so much and already have everything we need: We already sit on a chair, we own a table and a million cups. When I make something new, there has to be a good reason to make it. To me, it is important, that something innovative is created: a new material or a new technique. But you can also find innovation in social interaction or context. 30 years ago, families sat down for dinner at a round table, today, people sit down alone in front of the TV or laptop. We therefore find ourselves in a different reality, a different everyday world and we need to provide different products for it, too.“ inekehans.com

Axel Kufus *1958, Essen (GER), lives and works in Berlin

Carpenter, Designer, Professor for Design at the Universität der Künste, Berlin

"By now, the elegant design of circuits is the biggest challenge – especially for design. To create these circuits and to integrate them in existing ones – which took nature billions of years to develop – requires the highest level of caution and a sensible close-up view, it requires transdisciplinary understanding and multi-perspectival foresight, incredible intelligence and broad-awake trials. It is our chance that at some point, we reach an elegance in creation of value and participation that through its culture-crossing appeal, could dethrone the 'higher, faster, further' that is reigning to this day." kufus.de

Cecilia León de la Barra *1975, Mexico City (MX), lives and works in Mexico City

Industrial Designer, University Lecturer, Author and Curator
Curator of the ZONA MACO Diseño design fair, Mexico City

"Design museums today are faced with the challenge of presenting narratives through objects so that spectators may understand their history through a mnemonic experience. This process will surely provide the opportunity to look forward and pose new and relevant questions about design and its place in our daily lives." zsonamaco.com

Julia Lohmann *1977, Hildesheim (GER), lives and works in Helsinki

Designer, Professor at the Aalto University, Helsinki

„I design objects that question both the way we consume resources and the reason why we design. Design should prevent us from becoming deaf toward the world and instead demand us to think about how we live our lives." julialohmann.co.uk

Angelika Nollert *1966, Duisburg (GER), lives and works in Munich

Art Historian, Director of „Die Neue Sammlung – The Design Museum“ / Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich

„We at 'Die Neue Sammlung' are always obliged to contemporary design. This founding vision still shapes the objectives of the institution to this day. Naturally, we can never claim completeness. I would love to collect smells or sounds in the future, as well, as they are so characteristic for so many products. For example, the sound of a computer drive or the smell of the inside of a car." dnstdm.de

Judith Seng *1974, Karlsruhe (GER), lives and works in Berlin and Gothenburg
Designer, Design Studio in Berlin since 2005

„I'm interested in the question of what objects do to us. I want to further 'investigate', meaning that I want to creatively and experimentally reflect socially relevant topics. Together with interesting co-operation partners." judithseng.de

Robert Stadler *1966 Wien (AUT), lives and works in Paris

Industrial Designer, Design Studio in Paris since 2001

Curator of the exhibition "Typecasting" for Vitra in the Salone del Mobile in Milan, 2018.

„My work follows various different directions and therefore I am often asked how I position myself in the art or design context. Apart from the fact that this question assumes a clear separation between the two areas, which I regard as outdated, I clearly see myself as a designer. A designer, who, however, does not solely dream of chairs and lamps." robertstadler.net