

Press release

“As things are now” (Vom Stand der Dinge)

International design exhibition at Wilhelm Wagenfeld House, Bremen

24/05 to 29/09/2013

How can the state of things be captured in today's globalised and mostly digitalised product world? It is the ancient topic of food and table culture, which concerns people all around the world. It is best compared to early decades, since only by comparison, the present may be clearly defined.

What has changed since the 20th century or particularly since the 1950s to 1970s, when Wilhelm Wagenfeld and his contemporaries successfully traced the social changes in this field? With which concepts do today's significant, internationally successful designers react to new behaviour, eating habits and desires of users all around the world? Are there still companies initiating useful innovations and implementing designs on a high level, or do designers have to become their own producers and publishers?

Based on the work of three classics of modernism, Wilhelm Wagenfeld, Tapio Wirkkala and Timo Sarpaneva, which are located at the beginning of the exhibition, 11 established designers of different ages have been invited to display their work. They described their way of thinking, their thoughts on social changes, their designs and preferences, the meaning of old and new materials, techniques, decors, etc. by selected industrial products and an extensive survey.

In the end, each of them was asked if Wilhelm Wagenfeld's approaches, which went far beyond planning the respective product, are still relevant and viable to them today.

The designers were able to comment on their designs in written form and also with sketches, models or liberal works. Huge showcase tables, incorporating the material, are formed as closed “islands”, illustrating the works of the respective participant in an objectively analytical or a poetically narrative manner. The visitors are invited to explore the mainly very contrary concepts and product worlds: Strict, thoughtful forms of use meet playful objects without recognisable utility. Organic, sculptural objects stand next to classic forms with old or innovative decors and glazes of highest mastery. This “school of vision” allows for deep insights into the thoughts of modern designers.

Another independent “narrative thread” is the accompanying project of the autonomous photographer Tanja Jürgensen. She provided people from different social backgrounds and occupations in Bremen with objects and has also photographed them in their personal environment. A minimally staged visual language was chosen for the encountered situations, which, in its outcome, approaches commercial product photography, while its content is oriented towards the title of the exhibition. In its entirety, the images show a focused view on encountered behaviour patterns, life styles and living conditions.

Thus, an authentic, exciting image has evolved from many different approaches, in a manner which has never been seen before.

The participants:

Aldo Bakker (The Netherlands)
Sebastian Bergne (Great Britain)
Naoto Fukasawa (Japan)
Ruth Gurvich (France)
Alfredo Häberli (Switzerland)
Ineke Hans (The Netherlands)
Kap-Sun Hwang (South Korea/Germany)
Hanna Krüger (Germany)
Polka (Austria)
Timo Sarpaneva (Finland)
Barbara Schmidt (Germany)
Scholten & Baijings (The Netherlands)
Wilhelm Wagenfeld (Germany)
Tapio Wirkkala (Finland)

The loaners:

Alessi S.p.a. (Italy)
Heinrich Averwesser (Germany)
B&B Italia (Italy)
Thomas Eyck (The Netherlands)
Georg Jensen (Danmark)
Herend Porzellan (Hungary)
Iittala (Finland)
Kahla Porzellan (Germany)
Hanna Krüger (Germany)
Lobmeyr (Austria)
Particles Gallery (The Netherlands)
Porzellanikon, Deutsches Porzellanmuseum (Germany)
Porzellanmanufaktur Fürstenberg (Germany)
Porzellanmanufaktur Nymphenburg (Germany)
Rosenthal, Germany
Royal VKB, The Netherlands

and the designers

„As things are now“

International Design-Exhibition at Wilhelm Wagenfeld House from 24/5 to 29/9/2013
(Opening at Thursday, 23th of May, at 18.00 pm)

Tuesday 15 to 21, Wednesday – Sunday 10 to 18, Monday closed

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