

**'netherlands ⇔ bauhaus – pioneers of a new world'**

**9 February – 26 May 2019**

**'netherlands ⇔ bauhaus', with over 800 Bauhaus objects and works of art is the final major survey exhibition at Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen before its renovation. This year - 2019 - is the centenary of the founding of the Bauhaus, the legendary art and design school. 'netherlands ⇔ bauhaus – pioneers of a new world' offers a unique insight into the inspiring interaction between the Netherlands and the Bauhaus.**

Through works of art, furniture, ceramics, textiles, photographs, typography and architecture, 'netherlands ⇔ bauhaus' – pioneers of a new world' reveals the influence of the Bauhaus in the Netherlands, and vice-versa. The school, which was established by Walter Gropius in 1919, immediately set itself apart with its urge for innovation, idealism, ambitions and creativity. Artists such as Paul Klee, Wassily Kandinsky, László Moholy-Nagy and Oscar Schlemmer were members of the teaching staff, but Dutch pioneers such as Theo van Doesburg, J.J.P. Oud, Mart Stam, Paul Citroen and Piet Zwart contributed to the character of the Bauhaus as well. The Bauhaus was based on the ideal of bringing attractive and functional design within everyone's reach: this radical formal idiom and the innovative production techniques that came with it are still highly influential today. The Bauhaus body of thought was disseminated via a network of people, exhibitions, journals, conferences, education and workshops – not just in Germany but in the Netherlands as well, especially after the closure of the Bauhaus in 1933.

#### **Bauhaus in Rotterdam**

In the 1920s, Rotterdam was the most important city for the Nieuwe Bouwen style (the Dutch take on the International Style) and the city where modernism featured most prominently in its architecture and design. Social housing projects by Rotterdam's City Architect J.J.P. Oud caught the attention of many German architects, including Walter Gropius. Cees van der Leeuw, director of the Van Nelle Factory, also became friends with the founder of the Bauhaus. Marcel Breuer, a former Bauhaus tutor, designed the Rotterdam branch of De Bijenkorf department store in 1957, a building that is emblematic of the city's post-war reconstruction.

On a series of Sundays in March and April, a short lecture and guided tour of six exceptional architectural locations, including the Kiefhoek housing estate, the Parklaan apartments and the Sonneveld House city villa, serve to illustrate the relationship between Rotterdam and the Bauhaus. A shuttle bus will ride between the Museumpark and the Van Nelle Factory. The performing arts are represented by Scapino Ballet, Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra and others, in a collaborative fringe programme that includes mini lectures in the galleries, Bauhaus music and theatre, performances and workshops.

#### **Symposium**

From 13:00 to 17:00 on the afternoon of Thursday, 11 April, Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen will host a Bauhaus symposium at the Arminius conference and debating centre, at which Dutch experts will shed light on background stories as well as new research about the 'netherlands ⇔ bauhaus' network.

#### **Publication**

The exhibition is accompanied by a scholarly publication edited by curator Mienke Simon Thomas and design historian Yvonne Brentjens, with contributions by 21 experts from Germany and the Netherlands. Available in Dutch and English for €34.95 at the Museum Shop and via the webshop.

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### **Partnerships**

The exhibition has been made possible by gifts from the legacy of Cor de Wit and Sjoukje de Wit-Jelsma and by the generous support of the BankGiro Lottery, the Blockbuster Fund, Mondriaan Fund, the Prince Bernhard Culture Fund (thanks in part to the Breeman Talle Fund), the Goethe-Institut, the Gifted Art Foundation, the Boijmans Business Club, Boijmans Corporate Members, the Van Eyck Circle, Rotterdam. Make it Happen. and the City of Rotterdam. Works have been loaned by, among others, the Fondation Beyeler in Basel, the Von der Heydt Museum in Wuppertal, the Klassikstiftung in Weimar, the Josef and Anni Albers Foundation in the USA, the TextielMuseum in Tilburg, the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam, the Gemeentemuseum in The Hague, and dozens of private collectors.

### **Boijmans Van Beuningen in Transit**

From 2019, Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen is in Transit. When the museum building closes for renovation in the early summer of 2019, the collection will remain accessible to the public in several ways. For '[Boijmans Next Door](#)', eleven exhibitions in eight museums in Rotterdam will include works from the museum collection. Works from the collection can also be seen abroad, in a range of touring exhibitions. Starting with the 2019 school year, the 'Boijmans in the Classroom' education programme will bring artworks to the classrooms of Rotterdam schoolchildren. Furthermore, great efforts are being made to establish a site in Rotterdam South, an experimental space for younger generations. Until May 26, the exhibition wing of the museum will remain open, displaying exhibitions on Bauhaus, Co Westerik, and highlights from the collection.

### **Boijmans Van Beuningen Depot**

In the meantime, construction of Depot Boijmans Van Beuningen – the world's first publicly accessible art storage facility, set to open in 2021 and which will house the complete collection of 151.000 artworks – continues. Visitors to the Depot Boijmans Van Beuningen will have the choice to enter with or without a guide and will be able to watch what are usually the 'behind the scenes' activities of a museum, witnessing at first hand the extreme care devoted to each artwork and the attention to detail that is dedicated to responsibilities such as conservation, restoration, transportation and research. Offering unparalleled transparency into the active role that a museum carries within society, into what it is that a museum does and how a museum cares for its extraordinary holdings, the Depot will become a world reference point for buildings with a public mandate, providing a unique space for exploration, interaction and discovery. Together with the soon to be renovated Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, the Depot will be a new icon for the city of Rotterdam and an example of the city's continual self reinvention.

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