

Press Information

The Maker Library Network

12.06. – 04.10.2015

Vitra Design Museum Gallery, Weil am Rhein

In recent years, the »maker movement« has emerged as one of the most important tendencies in design. Based on an amalgamation of DIY culture, participatory design and inspirations from both craft and digital technologies, the movement champions new ways of manufacturing and innovative concepts for everyday objects. This summer, the Vitra Design Museum Gallery presents the exhibition »The Maker Library Network«, which showcases a project by the same name that aims at connecting maker culture globally. It currently comprises twelve Maker Libraries in cities such as London, Cape Town and Berlin. Each Maker Library combines three elements - a workplace, a gallery and a library. The exhibition at the Vitra Design Museum Gallery explains the underlying concept of this global endeavour and presents projects and objects created across the network. At the same time, it is a Maker Library in itself, where international designers and makers beckon the visitor to participate in a lively programme of events.

The Maker Library project was commissioned by the British Council in 2014 with the aim of connecting makers and audiences worldwide. All Maker Libraries are linked via an online platform to enable the sharing of skills and resources. Each Maker Library is led by a librarian who fosters creative, social thinking and learning through making by running a dynamic programme of activities and workshops. A group of international mentors – among them renowned designers such as Tord Boontje or Conny Freyer, co-founder of successful design studio Troika – contribute knowledge and support.

The exhibition at the Vitra Design Museum Gallery examines the growth and the expansion of the Maker Library Network in the context of the maker movement at large. The show explores recent changes in making and design processes, as well as the increasing popularity of open source design. Objects on display include a robotic starling made from cell phones, a 3D-printed breathing head and a flat-pack home-farming hydroponics kit.

During Art Basel week (15.06. – 21.06.2015) the exhibition will be host to a dynamic programme of drop-in workshops and skills demonstrations led by members of the Network. Themes include mask

making, geodesic structures, Himmeli mobile making and African loom work. Additional drop-in workshops will be held on 4 July and 1 August 2015.

Among the workshop leaders are Heath Nash from Cape Town, MAKlab from Glasgow, GRAS studio from Edinburgh and Machines Room from London. The exhibition was curated by Daniel Charny and is a project by the British Council and the Vitra Design Museum.

The exhibition takes place alongside »Making Africa – A Continent of Contemporary Design« (14.03. – 13.09.2015) in the Museum's main building. »The Maker Library Network« is a partnership between Vitra Design Museum and the British Council. For more information on the project and workshop details, please visit www.design-museum.de/makerlibrary and www.makerlibrarynetwork.org.

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An exhibition commissioned by the Vitra Design Museum and
