

Press release

EXHIBITION OVERVIEW 2022

VITRA DESIGN MUSEUM

Plastic: Remaking Our World

26 March to 4 September 2022

Plastics have shaped our daily lives like no other material: from packaging to footwear, from household goods to furniture, from automobiles to architecture. A symbol of carefree consumerism and revolutionary innovation, plastics have spurred the imagination of designers and architects for decades. Today, the dramatic consequences of the plastic boom have become obvious and plastics have lost their utopian appeal. The exhibition »Plastic: Remaking Our World« at the Vitra Design Museum will examine the history and future of this controversial material – from its meteoric rise in the twentieth century to its environmental impact and to cutting-edge solutions for a more sustainable use of plastic. Exhibits will include rarities from the dawn of the plastic age and spectacular objects of the pop era as well as numerous contemporary designs and projects ranging from pragmatic product innovations to solutions for cleaning up the oceans and bioplastics made from algae or mycelium.

An exhibition by the Vitra Design Museum, V&A Dundee, and maat, Lisbon

Hello, Robot: Design between Human and Machine

24 September 2022 to 5 March 2023

Science fiction becomes reality: robotics has begun to shape our everyday lives. Examples range from delivery drones and disability robots, to internet bots and the race for the latest humanoids among global tech giants. The 2017 exhibition »Hello, Robot: Design between Human and Machine« has been the Vitra Design Museum's most successful exhibition ever and will now return to Weil am Rhein at the end of its world tour in an updated version. It will address the great strides that have been made in robotics in the past few years, but also look at related risks, as elections and public opinion have become the target for manipulation by algorithms and artificial intelligence. Next to robots used in the home, in industry, or in healthcare, the exhibition presents media installations, computer games, and examples from literature and film. It shows how the robotics boom is changing our lives – and how design is changing robotics. At the same time, it broadens our awareness of the ethical and political questions raised by robotics today.

VITRA DESIGN MUSEUM GALLERY

Precious Plastic

26 March to 4 September 2022

For the first time, the Vitra Design Museum Gallery will serve as an additional venue for the major exhibition at the Vitra Design Museum. A satellite to »Plastic: Remaking Our World« in the main building designed by Frank Gehry, »Precious Plastic« addresses the issue of recyclability and is organised around the eponymous Dutch initiative launched by Dave Hakkens, which supplies open source plans for machines that allow people to take recycling into their own hands. The display gives fascinating insights into different types of plastic and the complex technologies used for recycling and upcycling processes. These often hidden processes offer great potential as an endless source of inspiration for designers, manufacturers and anyone interested in contributing to a world with less (or better) plastic!

VITRA SCHAUDEPOT

Colour Rush: An Installation by Sabine Marcelis

14 May 2022 to 14 May 2023

The new annual exhibition in the Vitra Schaudapot will address the role of colour in design. It is conceived in collaboration with Dutch designer Sabine Marcelis who is known for her poetical and precise use of reflecting surfaces, colour gradients, and refraction in her works. The Vitra Design Museum has invited her to stage the museum's collection from an entirely new perspective in one simple and bold gesture: For the exhibition »Colour Rush«, Marcelis will arrange around 400 collection objects by colour rather than chronology, thus showing fascinating cross-references between different periods and styles while at the same time providing visitors with an overwhelmingly novel experience of colour in design. The presentation is complemented by historical and contemporary objects and documents from the museum archives that illustrate the crucial role that colour has in the most different fields of design.

CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

Here We Are! Women in Design 1900 – Today

Until 6 March 2022, Vitra Design Museum

Be it in furniture design, fashion design, industrial design, or interior design, women have contributed crucially to the development of modern design, both creatively and commercially. And yet books about the history of design often fail to mention them. The exhibition »Here We Are! Women in Design 1900 – Today« at the Vitra Design Museum seeks to help redress the balance. Presenting women designers from the past 120 years, it tells a new, many-voiced story of design against the background of the struggle for equal rights and recognition. Around eighty women in design are showcased in the exhibition, including protagonists of modernism like Eileen Gray, Charlotte Perriand, Lilly Reich, and

Clara Porset, business leaders like Florence Knoll and Armi Ratia, but also lesser-known figures like the social reformer Jane Addams. Contemporary positions and future outlooks are represented by such designers as Matali Crasset, Patricia Urquiola, Julia Lohmann, as well as the collectives Matri-Archi(ecture) and Futuress.

Memphis: 40 Years of Kitsch and Elegance

Until 27 February 2022, Vitra Design Museum Gallery

The Memphis group was one of the most unusual phenomena to appear in the world of design in recent decades. It emerged in the winter of 1980/81, when a group of young designers eager to break away from the dogmas of functionalism and industrial design formed around the Italian architect and designer Ettore Sottsass. The group's first collection, presented at Milan's Arc'74 gallery in September 1981, was an international sensation. Characterized by garish colours and wild patterns, the Memphis designs seemed to have walked straight off the pages of a comic book and gave rise to a completely new look in which popular culture, advertising aesthetics, and post-modernism merged in a crazy medley. The exhibition »Memphis: 40 Years of Kitsch and Elegance« at the Vitra Design Museum Gallery celebrates the fortieth anniversary of the group's foundation through its creations, presenting furniture, lamps, bowls, drawings, sketches, and photographs that give insight into the world of Memphis. Exhibits include works by such well-known members as Ettore Sottsass, Michele De Lucchi, George Sowden, Martine Bedin, Michael Graves, Barbara Radice, Peter Shire, Nathalie Du Pasquier, and Shiro Kuramata.

Spot On: Women Designers in the Collection

Until 8 May 2022, Vitra Schaudapot

The Vitra Schaudapot presents more than 400 key works from the collection of the Vitra Design Museum. Annual focus topics provide room for current debates and changing displays. The first focus topic, »Spot On: Women Designers in the Collection«, will be on display until May 2022. Under its rubric, the Vitra Schaudapot has been transformed into a laboratory for exploring the role of women in furniture design and questioning the museum's own collection practice. New acquisitions from designers including Patricia Urquiola, Johanna Grawunder, Gunjan Gupta, and Studio Front will be juxtaposed with historical objects from the archives, for example pieces illustrating the legendary collaboration between Ray and Charles Eames.

As of 19 January 2022, subject to change

Press contact

Vitra Design Museum
Communications
T +49.7621.702.3153
E communications@design-museum.de

BUREAU N
Gabriela Ecke
T +49.30.6273.6104
E gabriela.ecke@bureau-n.de

Press images (download)

www.design-museum.de/press-images