

EXHIBITION OVERVIEW 2025

VITRA DESIGN MUSEUM

The Shakers: A World in the Making

7 June to 28 September 2025

In summer 2025, the Vitra Design Museum will present a major exhibition exploring the American Shaker community and their unique design culture. Established in the eighteenth century, the Shakers were a free church community that embraced social equality, communal property, and pacifism, viewing labour and design as crucial expressions of their faith. The Shakers' radically simple, functional objects have had a profound influence on modern design, inspiring generations of artists, architects, and designers up to the present day. Designed by Milan-based studio Formafantasma, the exhibition will showcase a wide range of Shaker furniture, architecture, tools, and commercial goods, drawn primarily from Shaker Museum, Chatham (USA). Works by contemporary artists and designers, including Chris Halstrøm, Christien Meindertsma, and Kameelah Janan Rasheed, enter into dialogue with the historic exhibits, reflecting on the Shakers' enduring relevance. Displayed throughout the show, these specially commissioned works will create moments of interaction and tension, inviting visitors to engage with one of the most compelling community experiments of the past centuries.

An exhibition organised by the Vitra Design Museum, the Milwaukee Art Museum, the Institute of Contemporary Art Philadelphia, and the Wüstenrot Foundation.

In collaboration with Shaker Museum



01

Elder's Rocking chair, Mount Lebanon (NY), USA, c. 1850-70
© Vitra Design Museum, photo: Andreas Sütterlin



02

Entrance Shaker Meetinghouse in Hancock, USA
© Library of Congress, photo: Historic American Buildings Survey, Elmer R. Pearson, 1970



03

Amie Cunat, »Stacked Boxes«, 2018
© Amie Cunat und Hesse Flatow, New York
Photo: Jenny Gorman



04

Chest of Drawers, Mount Lebanon (NY), USA,
c. 1825-50
© Shaker Museum, Chatham, New York

VITRA DESIGN MUSEUM

Catwalk!

18 October 2025 to 15 February 2026

Fashion shows are the magical moments in fashion industry – they are marketing machines and social events, deeply poetic and highly commercialized at the same time. Their images spread across the globe in real time, shaping our cultural memory. Following ever-changing concepts and narratives, they unite stage design, performance, clothing, light, and sound into a temporary *Gesamtkunstwerk*, a total work of art. The exhibition »Catwalk!« explores the fascinating evolution of the fashion show and offers a look behind the scenes: from its beginnings in couturiers’ salons around 1900 to the spectacular events of the twenty-first century; from haute couture to prêt-à-porter; from the era of supermodels to the celebration of diversity; from classic catwalk photography to the virtual fashion show. Through film and photo footage, original runway pieces, invitations, and stage props, the exhibition brings groundbreaking fashion shows back to life – including shows by Alexander McQueen, Balenciaga, Chanel, Comme des Garçons, Dior, Gucci, Helmut Lang, Hussein Chalayan, Martin Margiela, Prada, Yves Saint Laurent, and many more.



05
Maison Martin Margiela, Fashion Show, Spring-Summer 2009
Ready-to-Wear, Paris
© Helmut Fricke



06
Chanel, Fashion Show, Spring-Summer 2015
Ready-to-Wear, Paris
© Helmut Fricke



07
Paco Rabanne, Fashion Show *12 Unwearable Dresses in Contemporary Materials*, Paris, 1966
© Getty / photo: Alain Loison



08
Paul Poiret’s mannequin parade in his garden in Paris, 1910
© Jean Sébastien Baschet L’Illustration
Photo: Henri Manuel

CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

VITRA DESIGN MUSEUM

Nike: Form Follows Motion

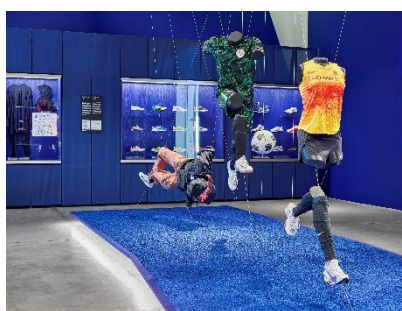
Extended until 18 May 2025

»Nike: Form Follows Motion« is the first comprehensive museum exhibition about Nike, the world's most revered sports brand. The exhibition at the Vitra Design Museum explores the company's trajectory from a grassroots start-up to a global phenomenon. The focus is on Nike's design history: from the company's beginnings in the 1960s and the design of its famous »Swoosh« logo in the early 1970s to the innovative Nike Air soles as well as current research on future materials and sustainability. Following the Olympic and Paralympic Summer Games in Paris and the European Football Championship in Germany, the exhibition emphasises the importance of sports for design innovation and social change while also shedding light on the almost mythical devotion to sneakers and sportswear in popular culture and social media. The exhibition was initiated and produced by the Vitra Design Museum and is curated by design historian Glenn Adamson.



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Vitra Design Museum with Nike exhibition, 2024
© Vitra Design Museum, photo: Bernhard Strauss



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Installation view »Nike: Form Follows Motion«
© Vitra Design Museum, photo: Bernhard Strauss



11

Sketch of Nike Air Max, Tinker Hatfield, 1986
© Nike, Inc.



12

Nike Shox, early mechanical prototype, 1981
© Nike, Inc.

VITRA SCHAUDEPOT

Science Fiction Design: From Space Age to Metaverse

Until 10 May 2026

Numerous science fiction films – from »Star Trek« and »2001: A Space Odyssey« to »Blade Runner« – are populated by classic designs that have shaped our image of the future. In reverse, many designers of objects destined for some type of imagined future seek inspiration in the genre of science fiction. The fascinating dialogue between science fiction and design is the subject of the new annual presentation in the Vitra Schaudapot. Under the title »Science Fiction Design«, over 100 objects from the museum's collection are staged in a futuristic display by the visual artist and designer Andrés Reisinger. Supplemented by selected works from the realms of film and literature, the show presents a range of examples from the early twentieth century to the so-called Space Age of the 1960s and '70s, and even further to recent design objects that have been conceived exclusively for the virtual worlds of the metaverse.



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Andrés Reisinger, *The Shipping*, Deep Space, 2021
© Reisinger Studio



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Installation view »Science Fiction Design«
© Vitra Design Museum, photo: Mark Niedermann



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Still image from the film set of *Things To Come*, 1936
© Vitra Design Museum Archive



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Joe Colombo, *Sella*, 1964/65
© Vitra Design Museum, photo: Jürgen Hans

As of 21 November 2024, subject to change

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