



Berlin, 10 April 2019

PRESS RELEASE

Museum für Fotografie

Jebensstr. 2, 10623 Berlin

Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat + Sun 11 am – 7 pm, Thu 11 am – 8 pm

Bauhaus and Photography. On New Visions in Contemporary Art

11 April – 25 August 2019

A special exhibition of the Kunstbibliothek – Staatliche Museen zu Berlin in cooperation with the NRW-Forum Düsseldorf and the Kunsthalle Darmstadt, funded by the *Bauhaus heute* Fund of the German Federal Cultural Foundation, the NRW-Forum Düsseldorf, the Hessen State Ministry for Higher Education, Research and the Arts and the Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences

The Staatliche Bauhaus not only plays a key role in the design and construction of art history, but also for 20th century photography. The exhibition *Bauhaus and Photography. On New Visions in Contemporary Art* sets photographic works of New Vision in dialogue with positions of contemporary art. The show is part of the *100 Jahre bauhaus* anniversary program.

How do Bauhaus innovations still contribute to the further development of photographic visual languages and aesthetic concepts today? What role does the photo avant-garde around 1930 play for contemporary artists? The exhibition confronts works of New Vision, as known from the Bauhaus artists László Moholy-Nagy, Lucia Moholy, Marianne Brandt, and Erich Consemüller, with positions of contemporary art. These include groups of works by Thomas Ruff, Dominique Teufen, Daniel T. Braun, Wolfgang Tillmans, Doug Fogelson, Max de Esteban, Viviane Sassen, Stephanie Seufert, Kris Scholz, Taiyo Onorato & Nico Krebs, Antje Hanebeck, and Douglas Gordon.

The historical reference point of the exhibition is the Werkbund exhibition *Film und Foto*, which was shown in 1929/30 in Stuttgart, Berlin and Zurich, among others. László Moholy-Nagy, who had acquired a reputation with his experimental photographic works, curated a space on the history and future of photography at the time. The Bauhaus artist was interested in programmatically investigating the New Vision in photography. The historical exhibition, which can be understood as a kind of manifesto and which interfered in the debate about the significance of photography in art at the time, is virtually reconstructed with over 300 exhibits. In addition, part of the Berlin venue will be presented as a scenographic reproduction. In combination with the photographic works of contemporary artists, the exhibition opens a dialogue between the historical event and the present. Students from the Faculties of Design at Hochschule Darmstadt and will take a look ahead and present their own future-oriented designs, in which they also rely on electronic and digital media.

The exhibition is curated by Kris Scholz, Kai-Uew Hemken, and Christoph Schaden. Film program: Thomas Tode. Picture Selection for the Kunstbibliothek: Christine Kühn.

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The exhibition was on display at the NRW Forum Düsseldorf until March 10, 2019 and will be presented after its Berlin stop at the Kunsthalle Darmstadt from September 29, 2019. A catalog has already been published by Kerber Verlag.

On the subject of typography, the Kunstbibliothek will present the exhibition **“László Moholy-Nagy and New Typography. A Reconstruction of a Berlin Exhibition from 1929”** from 29 August to 15 September 2019 at Kulturforum. As part of *Berlin Bauhaus Week* the historical exhibition by the Hungarian artist Laszlo Moholy-Nagy (1895-1946), *Wohin geht die typographische Entwicklung?* (*Where is Typography Headed?*), will be presented to the public a second time, 90 years after it was first presented by the Staatliche Kunstbibliothek in 1929. For his exhibition, the former Bauhaus master had 78 posters printed with texts and images about the future of typography, which he then gifted to the Kunstbibliothek. By showing these, one of Moholy- a y' m t vat v at v p a tw his time at the Bauhaus Dessau and the New Bauhaus Chicago will thus be illuminated in detail for the first time.

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