

Press Release

Frankfurt / Main, 30.05.2018

Lore Kramer: I couldn't live without ceramics 31 May to 26 August 2018

Press preview: Wednesday, 30 May 2018, 11am

Exhibition opening: Wednesday, 30 May 2018, 7pm

The ceramic works of Lore Kramer (b. Lore Koehn in Berlin in 1926) are intended for practical use. Her bowls, vases, plates, lidded pots and cups don't have their origins in an artist's studio but are products of the thirty-plus years Kramer spent as a teacher at what is now called the Hochschule für Gestaltung Offenbach. An impressive oeuvre thus accumulated which, despite its outstanding quality, long went undiscovered. From 31 May to 26 August, the Museum Angewandte Kunst is staging the first major exhibition of this oeuvre. The show will retrace the path that led Lore Kramer to three-dimensional work, turn a spotlight on her drawing talent, and devote itself to her activities as a teacher at the Werkkunstschule Offenbach, the predecessor institution to the Hochschule für Gestaltung.

Lore Kramer's artistic criteria are functionality and integrity of form. These are principles she shared with her professors Otto Lindig and Gerhard Marcks – who served as masters of works and form at the State Bauhaus in Weimar – but also with her husband, the architect Ferdinand Kramer (1898–1985). Many of her objects are multipurpose or can be combined or stacked in different ways. Kramer moreover achieves perfect craftsmanship in her experiments on the turning wheel and with glazes. The latter, in no way indebted to popular contemporary tastes, shine in vivid colours distinguished by a sense of calm and clarity. Her formal repertoire is based on her profound knowledge of the history of culture, to which she enthusiastically lends material form in ever new and daring endeavours. She draws inspiration from works by the great names in modern design reform, East Asian ceramics, and local traditional arts and crafts.

Following basic artistic training at the Stuttgart Kunstakademie, training as a potter at the Landeskunstschule in Hamburg and numerous teaching and praxis engagements in Germany and abroad, Lore Kramer was appointed head of the ceramics class at the Werkkunstschule Offenbach in 1956. She used her own impassioned work to illustrate the various techniques and possibilities of ceramics production to her pupils. She also worked with them to test the composition and behaviour of different clays and, in long series of experiments, develop new glazes. As the head of a class, she attached importance to teaching her pupils about the methods used in industrial ceramics production. Her pupils designed moulds and forms of their own and learned to cast ceramic elements in standardized sizes and thicknesses. In Kramer's own work, seriality played a decisive role. With impressive precision of craftsmanship, she created groups of nearly identical vessels – for example perfectly stackable jars turned on the potter's wheel. In 1970, she designed the space-saving *3-in-1* service as well as vases and double bowls for the Waechtersbach Keramik company.

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In the early seventies, the Werkkunstschule Offenbach underwent major restructuring and emerged as the Hochschule für Gestaltung, as it is still called today. The curriculum was adapted to conform to modern standards, and ceramics was no longer a subject of study. Already in her days as a ceramics teacher, Kramer had offered lectures, museum visits and excursions in an effort to embed practical craftsmanship in a cultural-historical context. Now she continued her activities at the academy as a professor in the faculty of product design with a focus on design history. When she retired in 1988, her teaching workshop was closed. The products of forty years of ceramics praxis, the foot-operated potter's wheel and numerous plaster moulds were put into storage.

The Museum Angewandte Kunst is showing some 300 works of ceramic in different techniques as well as a large number of Lore Kramer's drawings. Glaze samples and other material from her workshop provide further insight into her working methods. Ceramic objects from the museum collection – selected in collaboration with Lore Kramer – further enhance the show. These earthenware, stoneware and porcelain objects from Japan, China, Korea, Iran and Germany span 4,000 years of ceramics history.

The exhibition catalogue contains 100 colour illustrations and texts by Lore Kramer, Matthias Wagner K, Annika Sellmann and Markus Frenzl.

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Director

Matthias Wagner K

Curator

Matthias Wagner K

Curatorial assistant

Annika Sellmann

Location

Museum Angewandte Kunst
Schaumainkai 17
60594 Frankfurt am Main

Information

T +49 69 212 31286
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www.museumangewandtekunst.de

Opening hours

Tue, Thu-Sun 10 am – 6 pm, Wed 10 am – 8 pm

Admission

12 EUR, reduced 6 EUR
Free for children and teens under 18 and students of the Goethe University Frankfurt, the Städelschule and the Hochschule für Gestaltung Offenbach

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