

Press Release

Frankfurt/Main, 29.05.2020

New additions to the permanent presentation *Elementary Parts: From the Collections*

The permanent presentation *Elementary Parts: From the Collections* reopened last week with new works on display. Since 2013, the presentation assembles extraordinary works from our collections spanning some five millennia and originating from different parts of the world in a sort of heart chamber of the Museum. The arrangement of the more than 80 exhibits follows neither themes, eras, styles nor places of origin. What unites them is that, for all their diversity of design, they are works of applied and visual art. Thus, a dynamic space is created. Instead of walking well-trodden paths, visitors are invited to marvel at what they see. We invite visitors to partake in joyful science and discovery, make comparisons, and associations that re-fresh their way of thinking.

Among other works, the Sylva Lounger, which was created in 2018 by the artist Mike Bouchet, who lives in Frankfurt/Main, is a new addition to the permanent presentation. With just a few precise changes, he has transformed a common shopping cart, as developed and used by Sylvan Goldman in the Humpty Dumpty supermarket in Oklahoma City 83 years ago, into a comfortable deck chair without denying its unmistakable origin. *Tabula Rasa* (1987) is one of the most famous design pieces by the design duo GINBANDE. At first glance, the table and benches are reminiscent of the beer bench concept. However, the bench and table can be re-adjusted by an extendable scissor construction, which allows the length to be flexibly adjusted from 0.5 to 5 metres. Whether it is just two people or a dozen, this piece of furniture allows for spontaneous group gatherings through its inherent possibility for expansion. From the permanent Fashion collection, the object *Die Spinnenfrau* ("The Spider Woman") by the designers Annelie Augustin and Odély Teboul is now presented in the *Elementary Parts*. The piece was already on display as part of the exhibition *Outer Dark. Continuing after Fashion* in 2013/14. This spider-like creature, a multi-legged doll, is dressed in a carefully chosen selection from various collections by the designers. They were inspired by the spider installation *Maman* by the artist Louise Bourgeois as well as the dolls created by Hans Bellmer.

A small cabinet exhibition presents 15 recently purchased objects from the Jewish collector Ottmar Strauss. The Museum was able to acquire the objects from his heirs with funds from the newly implemented municipal acquisition budget. The exhibits are all Chinese export porcelain from the Qing Dynasty. Due to his persecution as a Jew during the National Socialist regime, Ottmar Strauss was forced to auction off the porcelain together with his extensive art collection in the mid-1930s. The vases, bowls and plates as well as the paperweights in the shape of lions and the figurine of a Daoist immortal were acquired by the collector of East Asian Art Carl Cords, who then donated his collection to the Museum für Kunsthandwerk (now the Museum für Angewandte Kunst) in 1943. The provenance researcher at the Museum, Dr. Katharina Weiler, recently discovered that the porcelain was part of an estate that had been looted during the Nazi Regime and that had remained illegally in the Museum's inventory for more than seven decades. The cabinet exhibition provides an

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insight into the Museum's current provenance research project, which is funded by the German Lost Art Foundation in Magdeburg until autumn 2022.

Since the Museum cannot offer guided tours due to the measures to contain the Coronavirus until further notice, it has since produced three videos with the support of the City of Frankfurt's Department of Cultural Affairs and the Urban Media Project agency, that bring the permanent exhibition *Elementary Parts* to the virtual stage: Director Matthias Wagner K and Deputy Director Grit Weber introduce two new additions to the presentation; furniture restorer Christian Dressen guides us through the elaborate restoration work on the Frankfurt Kitchen from 1929, which has been made available to the Museum on permanent loan by the AGB Frankfurt Holding. The third video brings the popular workshop format GestalterKids directly into your living room as GestalterKids@Home. The videos are available on the Museum's website and social media channels.

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Director

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Opening hours

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

Admission

12 Euro, reduced 6 Euro

The reduced admission price applies school and university students, persons with disabilities and their escorts and unemployed persons. Valid identification required.

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