

Press Release

Frankfurt / Main, 26.05.2014

**Elementary Parts: From the Collections
from 10 May 2014**

Press preview: Wednesday, 7 May 2014, 11 am

Exhibition opening: Saturday, 10 May 2014, 7 pm

For the first time since its reopening in April 2013, in a presentation entitled *Elementary Parts: From the Collections*, the Museum Angewandte Kunst is now featuring a permanent show with approximately seventy-five selected objects from all of the museum's collections. The latter comprise rich holdings of craftwork from Eastern Asia, Islamic art, design, graphic art and book art spanning some five millennia and originating in different parts of the world. By international standards, these collections stand out especially by virtue of the superb quality of their individual works, as well as their overall heterogeneity.

In the spirit of the Museum Angewandte Kunst's repositioning under the direction of Matthias Wagner K, this presentation has set itself the task of critically questioning museological modes of presentation. In keeping with classical methods of cataloguing, the museum's holdings have hitherto been organized according to period, geographical origins, date of execution, material, production manner, style or maker. We are now countering this approach – the practice of sorting objects primarily according to historical criteria – with the question as to whether it does not ultimately limit the viewer's fantasy and thought, and prevent the possibility of a museum as a place for timely and untimely reflections in the sense of Friedrich Nietzsche's *Gay Science*.

For one year now, curatorial praxis at the Museum Angewandte Kunst has been different. In exhibitions of varying durations, the concern is with reflections on processes, themes and fields of tension related to applied art. The new presentation *Elementary Parts: From the Collections* is lending these activities a constant and a centre. Rather than arranging the selected objects according to a particular mode of interpretation or museological category, each *elementary part* is emancipated from its confinement to representation of the traditional museum order and made available for openness of contemplation and other ways of thinking. The director and curators of the Museum Angewandte Kunst and members of the Kunstgewerbeverein Frankfurt am Main e.V. have chosen objects from all areas of the collection, all parts of the world and all epochs, to present them untethered by traditional classifications and make them accessible in their uniqueness.

The result is a dynamic setting reminiscent – architectonically speaking – of an explosion of the zero hour, developing from within its own centre. A characteristic work of the European Renaissance such as the lectern box with its mother-of-pearl decorations and engraved scenes from Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, a Chinese vase of the Ming Period, Peter Ghyczy's orange *Garden Egg Chair* of the year 1968 – these and many other works await discovery. A special highlight of eighteenth-century furniture art – the ingenious multi-functional table by Abraham and David Roentgen, which can be used as a writing desk, vanity table, music stand

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or reading lectern – is found in the vicinity of the serpent-shaped *California Loop* from the Studio Glass Movement, a child of the 1960s and '70s expressive of effusive joie de vivre, and at the same time a work of technical mastery. The precious handwritten psalter dating from thirteenth-century Provence encounters – among other things – a design object such as Dieter Rams's radio-phono combination SK 4 of 1956.

With its uncompromising juxtapositions of disparate things, the presentation guarantees impartial insights into the core of the collection, the museum's heart chamber, as it were. It shows its objects in a primal state, before thematic classification of any kind, as *elementary parts* of which each speaks on behalf of its own potential. In their entirety, they embody a reservoir of ever new reflections and all the many possible themes of current and future exhibitions.

In the presentation *Elementary Parts: From the Collections*, the Museum Angewandte Kunst is exposing its curatorial praxis to view, offering its visitors an opportunity to re-encounter familiar objects and make new discoveries – and inviting one and all to engage in “gay science”.

In due time, the presentation will expand spatially in two phases to include additional objects from the Museum Angewandte Kunst collections.

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Director

Matthias Wagner K

Objects selected by

Dr. Eva Linhart, Prof. Dr. Klaus Klemp, Dr. Sabine Runde, Dr. Stephan von der Schulenburg, Matthias Wagner K
and members of the Kunstgewerbeverein Frankfurt am Main e. V.

Exhibition architecture

Matthias Wagner K, David Beikirch

Location

Museum Angewandte Kunst
Schaumainkai 17
60594 Frankfurt am Main

Information

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Opening hours

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

Admission

9 EUR, reduced 4.50 EUR

Press contact

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Press and Publicity

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