



# GRASSI

Museum für  
Angewandte Kunst  
Einrichtung der Stadt Leipzig

## Press Release

07.11.2024

### **FUTURES. Material and Design of Tomorrow 21th November 2024 - 24th August 2025 at GRASSI Museum of Applied Arts**

**Humanity has always been fascinated by ideas, visions and versions of the future. The new special exhibition offers an exciting insight into visionary designs and future-oriented materials that could permanently change the way we live, design and consume. In view of global challenges such as resource scarcity, the climate crisis and social injustice, the focus is on the role of design as a driving force for change and innovation.**

150 years after the museum's foundation, the exhibition focuses on the potential of design, going far beyond aesthetics and functionality. In collaboration with international artists and designers, the exhibition explores how creative processes can contribute to developing new solutions for the challenges of the future. The exhibition is divided into three chapters and provides an insight into the "futures" - a term that emphasizes the multitude of possibilities and scenarios that lie ahead of us.

#### **What if ...**

The first chapter of the exhibition shows proposals from the fields of art and design, which use speculative methods to make different futures visible and tangible. Symbiotic, post-human, and interspecies relationships are the focus. We question the role and responsibility of humans within the ecosystem. The emphasis is on cooperation with microorganisms, cohabitation with animals and plants, or the protection of Martian inhabitants. Visitors encounter not only post-apocalyptic futures, but also positive and desirable ones. Nevertheless, one thing is clear: human behavior must change fundamentally, and swiftly.

*With works by: Juliana Schneider, Superflux, Alexandra Fruhstorfer, Institute of Queer Ecology, Pei-Ying Lin, Studio Circology, Nonhuman Nonsense, Bea Brücker & Vincent Goos, Theresa Schubert, Studio Johanna Seelemann, Near Future Laboratory*

#### **Ready Made Future**

Some futures are already here. Materials and products on the market today come from an already existing economic circulation. The Berlin office *Haute Innovation*, which identifies itself as an agency for future materials, has made a selection of samples and products. These materials come from urban and biological waste, agricultural and forestry by-products, and renewable raw materials, among other sources. Organic fabrication is another promising design field that promotes the use of and collaboration with living organisms.

*With contribution by among others: Charlett Wenig in cooperation with Max-Planck-Institut für Kolloid- und Grenzflächenforschung, Ecovative: Air Mycelium foam, Blue Blocks: seawood, eco-soft-fibre: Bioschaum, Krill design: 3D-print with fruit peels, Norskin: products from fish skin, Qmilk: Proteinfasern, Golden Compound: bio degradable plant pots, Grown Bio: furniture from mycelia*

#### **Material\_Lab**

Research with microorganisms such as bacteria, fungi and algae is currently a growing field that offers exciting possibilities. These organisms produce materials with unique properties, through

biotechnological processes. Although research approaches at universities and design studios vary, there is a shared goal: rethinking the relationship between humans and the environment. Traditional resources such as plants and animals are finite, which is why it is future-oriented to view living beings as partners instead of exploiting them. Materials produced in this way can be sustainably returned to the same cycle. In the Material\_Lab, visitors can look over researchers' shoulders and follow the process from concept to possible end product.

*With contribution by: Burg Giebichenstein Kunsthochschule Halle (Saale), weißensee kunsthochschule berlinBerlin, Hochschule Anhalt Dessau, Freie Universität Bozen, Envisions & TextielLab, Studio Klarenbeek & Dros*

## **Program (selection)**

To accompany the special exhibition **FUTURES. Material and Design of Tomorrow**, the GRASSI Museum of Applied Arts is offering an exciting and diverse program that gives visitors the opportunity to explore the themes of the exhibition in greater depth. In workshops, lectures, guided tours and discussion rounds, you can actively participate and learn more about forward-looking approaches in the field of design and materials research.

### **FILM Series: Viele Morgen (Many Tomorrows)**

In Cooperation with Cinémathèque Leipzig

Starting with people and their relationship to the environment, materials and design, the film series presents different visions from film history pointing the way to the future.

Every third Tuesday of the month in the Cinémathèque Leipzig, Karl-Liebknecht-Str. 109.

Dates: 17.12.2024, 21.01., 18.02., 18.03., 15.04., 20.05.2025, at 7.30 p.m.

More information: [cinematheque-leipzig.de](http://cinematheque-leipzig.de)

### **BOOK CLUB**

In the "Earthseed" book club hosted by Leipzig artist Karoline Schneider, participants will read and discuss books dealing with futures, ecology and symbiosis in the original language and in translation. Among others with texts by Octavia Butler, Lynn Margulis and Robin Wall Kimmerer.

Every first Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m.: 08.01., 05.02., 05.03., 02.04., 07.05.2025

More information: [earthseed@posteo.com](mailto:earthseed@posteo.com)

### **Guided Tours and Workshops**

Curator's tours on:

- Wednesdays, always at 6 p.m.: 29.01., 26.02. (EN), 26.03., 30.04. (EN), 28.05., 25.06.

- Fridays, always at 5 p.m.: 13.12 und 27.12.

- Sundays, always at 1 p.m.: 24.11.2024, 19.01., 16.02., 16.03., 13.04., 11.05. (EN), 08.06., 13.07., 24.08.

WORKSHOPS like „Fungi - Grow your own Art“ (23.11.), „Boden-Ständig in die Zukunft“ (28.11), „Designing for More than Human Futures“ (07.12.), „Moor-Labor“ (19.01) or "Zukunft für Alle. Reise in das Jahr 2048" (21.05.) or WORKSHOP Pflanzenfarben (31.05.) offer an in-depth insight and the opportunity to actively participate in materials research.

Together with our network of cooperation partners, you can participate to various events to discuss future design scenarios (mostly in German):

- Spaziergang im Leipziger Westen: In Zirkeln spazieren mit Trash Galore und materialbuffet (26.04.)
- Symposium zur Ästhetik und Gestaltung klimagerechter Baukultur des Zentrums für Baukultur Sachsen (16.+17.05.)
- Netzwerksymposium „Spekulatives Design: Zukünfte für biogene Materialien“ (14.08.)

For more details, dates and to register please check our website: <https://www.grassimak.de/programm/kalender/>

## **Publication**

The exhibition is accompanied by a booklet FUTURES. Material and Design of Tomorrow. German and English, 96 pages, costs: 10 EUR

**The exhibition is curated by Sabine Epple and Silvia Gaetti.**

The chapter "Ready made Future" was conceived by Prof. Dr. Sascha Peters and Diana Drewes, Haute Innovation, Berlin.

**Exhibition Design:**

Ifm2 – Laufende Quadratmeter (Leipzig und Berlin)

**Grafical Design:**

KOCMOC brand, Leipzig

**Special thanks** go to the numerous cooperation partners and supporters.

The exhibition and the production of individual contributions were made possible by the generous support of: The Netherlands, Creative Industries Fund NL, Umweltbundesamt, Beauftragte der Bundesregierung für Kultur und Medien (BKM), Stiftung Kunstfonds, Bundesministerium für Kunst, Kultur, öffentlicher Dienst und Sport Österreich sowie Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft.

**FUTURES. Material and Design of Tomorrow**

GRASSI Museum of Applied Arts

Johannisplatz 5-11

04103 Leipzig

**Press tour**

Mo, 18.11.2024, 11 a.m.

**Opening:**

Mi, 20.11.2024, 7 p.m.

**Exhibition:**

21.11.2024-24.08.2025

Programme:

<http://www.grassimak.de/programm/kalender/>

**Opening hours:**

Di, Do-So, holidays: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Mi 12–8 p.m. (from 01.01.2025 special exhibition opens at 10 a.m.)

Closed on Mondays, 24.12. and 31.12.

**Entrance fees:**

10,00 €/ 7,00 € (reduced)

On the first Wednesday of the month 3.00 € for all special exhibitions

Groups (8 people or more): 8,00 € p.P.

Children up to and including 18 years free entry

More information:

GRASSI Museum für Angewandte Kunst, Johannisplatz 5-11, 04103 Leipzig

Katrin Haucke (communication, events)

Tel.: + 49-341/ 22 29 236, [katrin.haucke@leipzig.de](mailto:katrin.haucke@leipzig.de)

[www.grassimak.de](http://www.grassimak.de)