



## **Press Release**

**GRASSMESSE LEIPZIG: 23–25 October 2020**

**Around 100 artists and designers from Europe, Asia and the USA will be selling their current works**

**100 exhibitors from twelve European countries as well as from Taiwan, Japan, South Korea and the USA have been selected to participate in the GRASSMESSE, which will be taking place from 23–25 October 2020 at Leipzig's GRASSI Museum for Applied Art. The main focus of this year's fair is on jewellery and ceramics, followed by accessories and textiles. In addition, there will be internationally renowned glass artists, young furniture designers, experienced textile and hat designers as well as artists and designers working in the metal, paper and toy sectors. Nearly half of the exhibitors will be here for the first time at the Grassmesse 2020 event, all others having already previously been guests at a previous Grassmesse.**

**This year's guest country, Lithuania, will present young and surprising design and handicrafts.**

### **Jewellery**

In the jewellery sector, some interesting pieces stand out, among others, by the young Japanese jewellery designer Sawa Aso, a graduate of the Burg Giebichenstein Kunsthochschule in Halle. In her hands, everyday objects such as flashlights, glasses or pens become exaggerated pieces of jewellery made of stainless steel. In contrast, Leipzig-based Florian Milkner plays with relics from historical cult and art objects. His pendants are shiny masks from the 3D printer and are reminiscent of occult objects from ancient cultures. Lee Masterson from the USA, on the other hand, picks up on the current mental state of his fellow countrymen. His "Generic Chains", whose chain links are cast from empty pill forms, are memorials to the ubiquitous pill abuse. The pistol-shaped packaging reinforces Masterson's gloomy image of a lost generation.

## **Ceramics**

In ceramics, on the other hand, it is not so much socially critical as material-intrinsic questions that are of interest. Ruta Indriunaite from Lithuania builds stoneware vessels that on the one hand echo forms from nature and on the other are reminiscent of digitally generated ornaments. With strong colours, she adds depth to the moving structure. The magnificent colours of birds have inspired Elke Sada to create her "Hallstadtspieces". She uses the surface of the vessel as a surface for a sensual painting in bold, juicy, dripping colours.

## **Accessories**

Lovers of practical things will finally find the desired mixture of comfort and style with Kioto Shoes. With her simple sneakers, Leipzig designer Claudia Opitz has already gained many followers. Also, in the textile sector, many accessories will make the cold season that little more pleasant. Scarves and headgear by Dutchwoman Simone van Eerdenburg will bring a splash of colour to the greyness of the season.

## **Furniture**

In the furniture sector, the Vienna-based designer duo Chmara.Rosinke (Maciej Chmara and Anna Rosinke) will be presenting not only lamps and shelves but also a mini kitchen. The "neomodernist kitchen" is a kitchen consisting of light individual modules that can be set up in various forms and placed within the room.

## **Glass**

Interesting glassworks can be seen mainly at the stands of the Swiss artist Noel Niedermann and Cornelius Réer. Niedermann will impress with delicate glassworks and Réer with a new series of coloured and multi-part vessels.

## **Special 2020: Lithuania**

As the guest country at this year's Grassmesse, Lithuania is presenting itself with its lively art and design scene and is taking up two positions: The Vartai Gallery, founded in 1991 as Lithuania's first private gallery, will be showing experimental furniture by Marija Puipaitė and Vytautas Gečas. The Design Forum Lithuania is bringing selected Lithuanian art and design objects, which are effectively presented in the museum's pillar hall.

## **University projects**

The class of Prof. Klaus Michel (Professor of Interior Design/Mobile Facilities at the Burg Giebichenstein University of Art and Design in Halle) will be presenting a new material in its various application possibilities. "Relea" is made of recycled leather and has a novel structure that can also be used as an upper material.

The Jewellery & Appliance class at the University of Applied Sciences and Arts in Hildesheim (HAWK) will be presenting current work by students under the direction of Prof. Melanie Isverding, who has been leading the class together with Prof. Hartwig Gerbracht since 2019.

## **Extended exhibition areas**

The Grassmesse has been a magnet for visitors for many years, for which special precautions have been taken in compliance with current hygiene regulations. Changes have not only been made to ticketing and directions but also to the spatial placement of the artists. For the first time, the sales stands will extend not only into the rooms of the special exhibitions and foyers but also into the large permanent exhibition "Antiquity to Historicism". An idea that demands great flexibility from all

those involved and can be interesting and surprising, especially when reflected in the historical context.

### **Grassimesse – The Facts**

GRASSIMESSE, which takes place at the end of October, is considered one of the leading international sales fairs for applied art and design, a melting pot for creatives, galleries, experts and visitors\*. The fair invites visitors to look, buy and become informed and shows trends and innovations in the fields of fashion and textiles, jewellery and accessories, ceramics, porcelain, furniture, wood, metal, glass, paper and toys.

The historical roots of GRASSIMESSE lie in the 1920s. Yesterday, just as it is today, artistic quality in design and execution, as well as independence and willingness to experiment, are decisive criteria for selection by the jury.

Out of solidarity with artists, designers and students, the museum is waiving the usual trade fair participation fee this year.

### **GRASSIMESSE LEIPZIG:**

**Date: 23–25 October 2020**

**Opening hours: 23–24/10 – 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; 25/10 – 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.**

**Soft opening with preview: 22/10 – 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

**Press conference with announcement of the prize winners:**

**Thurs. 10/10 – 2 p.m.**

**Admission: Day ticket – EUR 8 for adults, free admission for under 18s**

**Location: GRASSI Museum for Applied Art, Johannisplatz 5-11, Leipzig**

**[www.grassimesse.de](http://www.grassimesse.de)**

All exhibitors and details of individual projects can be found at

<http://www.grassimesse.de/de/aussteller/>

Leipzig, 18/9/2020

Please contact us if you have any questions:

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