



Press Release

GRASSIMESSE LEIPZIG: 29.10. - 31.10.2021

Around 130 artists and designers from Europe and Asia

For participation in the GRASSIMESSE, which will take place from 29.10. to 31.10.2021 at the GRASSI Museum of Applied Arts in Leipzig, about 130 exhibitors from eight European countries, as well as Taiwan, Japan, South Korea and China have been selected. This year's guest country Italy will present virtuoso and surprising designs and crafts.

The GRASSIMESSE is considered one of the leading international sales fairs for applied art and design, a meeting place for the creative, gallery owners, experts and those interested in design and creation. The Grassi fair invites you to look, buy and inform yourself. It will showcase trends and innovations in the fields of fashion and textiles, jewellery and accessories, ceramics, porcelain, furniture, wood, metal, glass, paper and toys.

Main focus

The main focus of this year's Grassimesse is on jewellery, Ceramics, followed by wood, textiles and paper/book art. The range of works for sale extends from excellently crafted pieces of furniture and humorous wall installations to filigree paper jewellery and excellently crafted ceramics. Almost a third of the exhibitors will be present for the very first time at Grassimesse 2021, others have been participating at least on a previous Grassimesse.

New discoveries and experiments

In addition to established exhibitors, who have been associated with Grassimesse for a long time, there will be a number of premieres. For example, Sarmite Polakova, who comes from Latvia and lives in Frankfurt/M., is participating for the first time.

She researches natural materials intensively and is currently working with pine bark, which she transforms into different states. Cut in stripes and interwoven,

natural bark can be made into large objects and even seating furniture. In the combination with artificial material, these bark particles become waterproof vessels. Beate Eismann from Halle/Saale has also always worked experimentally; modern technologies indeed challenge her. With her object group "Units", the jewellery artist has deliberately explored the opposition between tradition and contemporary design. For example, she uses the raw forms of Matryoshka dolls as the starting material and places them in a new context by means of sequencing and rhythmization as well as individual decorations. The Leipzig-based company "Doppeldenk" presents humorous and biting works. The designer duo has developed its own repertoire of language that can be applied to free sculptures, wall installations and printed matter. It moves between comics, emojis and creative typography. The special focus, however, is on the processing of wood and refers to the roots of the Erzgebirge.

Specials and university presentations

The Munich Biró Gallery is a guest for the first time. Olga Zabel-Biró started out as a specialist for plastic jewellery. Today she and her team represent numerous internationally renowned jewellery artists. Another guest contributor to the fair is the design studio "The Fild". Based in Kyiv (Kiev), but internationally oriented, it offers products for friends of simple and sophisticated design. Ore Mountain traditions are the subject of the project "Schmuckes Erzgebirge", curated by Prof. Ines Bruhn/Westsächsische Hochschule Zwickau, Faculty of Applied Arts Schneeberg. It unites eight artists who deal with the basic materials of the "Männelmacher". The toy designers or the manufacturers of Christmas folk art can look back on a long tradition of craftsmanship, but in the meantime many of the objects are also assembled from automatically produced small parts. Is it possible to bring the traditional forms of handicraft from the Erzgebirge into new contexts and open up new applications by means of alienating effects? A group of artists is investigating this question and presenting the results at the Grassmesse.

In addition to the University of Applied Sciences and Arts from Hildesheim, which will present itself with jewellery and equipment, students from the neighbouring Burg Giebichenstein Kunsthochschule Halle will present themselves at two departments. The ceramics class of Prof. Martin Neubert and the book art class under the direction of Prof. Sabine Golde will be guests with selected works.

Host country Italy

Italy is a guest with two presentations. The show "Italia Plurale", put together by Waldemar Kerschbaumer, creative director of his agency 'adpassion', presents 15 Italian craftspeople and designers. There is something bizarre as well as virtuosic to admire. From a giant whale made of metal to a snail-shaped tobacco pipe. In contrast, the work of the students of the Free University of Bolzano is conceptual. The project "Bastoni" combines (not always seriously meant) walking sticks for almost every situation.

Exhibition areas

What was newly introduced last year as an emergency solution, has proven so successful that it is expected to be almost a matter of course in 2021. The expansion of the exhibition stands into the permanent exhibition "Antiquity to Historicism" will be continued this year. For visitors and exhibitors, this will result in attractive combinations and dialogues between tradition and the present.

History of the Grassi Fair

The historical roots of the GRASSIMESSE date back to 1920. It is true, yesterday as today, that artistic quality in design and execution are just as important as Independence and a willingness to experiment are decisive criteria for the Jury selection. <http://www.grassimesse.de/de/geschichte/>

GRASSIMESSE LEIPZIG:

Date: 29.10.2021 - 31.10.2021

**Opening hours: 29.10. + 30.10.2021, 10 am – 7 pm
31.10.2021, 10 am – 6 pm**

**Press conference and with announcement of the prize winners:
Thursday, 28.10.2021, 2 pm**

Admission: Day ticket 8 € for adults, free admission up to 18 years
Location: GRASSI Museum of Applied Arts, Johannisplatz 5-11, Leipzig
www.grassimesse.de

All exhibitors and details of individual projects you can find here:
<http://www.grassimesse.de/de/aussteller/>.

Leipzig, 26.10.2021

Do you have any queries? Please contact:
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