

# 20 – 22 OKT GRASSIMESSE LEIPZIG 2023

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## Press release

**GRASSIMESSE LEIPZIG: 20.10. – 22.10.2023**

**Around 140 artists, designers from Europe, Asia and South Africa sell current works**

**140 exhibitors from eight European countries as well as from South Korea, Taiwan, Japan, South Africa and Israel have been selected to take part in the GRASSIMESSE, which will be held from 20 October to 22 October 2023 at the GRASSI Museum for Applied Arts in Leipzig. In addition, seven universities from Italy and Germany will present highly interesting semester projects.**

**The GRASSIMESSE, held annually in October, is considered to be one of the leading international sales fairs for applied arts and design, as a meeting place for creatives, galleries, experts, visitors from all over Europe. The Grassimesse invites you to look, buy and inform yourself and shows the latest in jewellery and accessories, ceramics, porcelain, fashion and textiles, furniture and wood, metal, glass and paper. About a third of the exhibitors are newcomers.**

### **Jewellery**

In the jewellery section, the courage to experiment is particularly great: Silke Spitzer (Berlin) relies entirely on textile techniques, while Michael Berger (Düsseldorf) fascinates with precision-mechanical, kinetic jewellery that surprises with amazing colour changes. The Dutch jewellery artist Paul Derrez (Amsterdam) has developed bowls and boxes in wood and silver especially for the Grassimesse together with the wood turner Nel Punt and is showing the results of this joint project for the first time at the fair.

Gabi Veit (Bolzano/Italy) and Dietlind Wolf (Lübeck) present "Der gedeckte Tisch" (The Set Table): a poetic symbiosis of spoons, bowls and plates that serve less for the purposeful intake of food and more for sensual enjoyment. A wonderfully morbid and yet lively combination.

### **Furniture**

The furniture and interior designer Annabella Hevesi from the Budapest design studio linearound will be represented at GRASSIMESSE for the first time. Her furniture from the "Burnt Geometry" series is modular, reminiscent of a building block system and yet individual thanks to the graphic decors. Stylistically, they are somewhere between Bauhaus and Op-Art. Luminaires, seating furniture and cabinet furniture are coordinated with each other and form a design family. The backs of the seating furniture are very high, so that they can also stand in the middle of the room and look like a sculpture. The furniture shown are prototypes, a product version is to follow shortly.

The Leipzig designer Josef Ehnert is represented by his company Machwerk and sells small pieces of furniture such as mirrors in addition to seating furniture.

### **Ceramics**

A total of 22 ceramic artists sell current pieces - from utilitarian tableware to sculptural individual objects. Several of the artists come from Asia, often working simultaneously in Germany and in their home countries. Their works represent the balance between constant reorientation and cultural imprint.

Nora Arrieta (Höhr-Grenzhausen) creates baroque show vessels that are visually overwhelming but often reveal ironic details at second glance. She plays with old iconography by interspersing topical details: narrative elements reflect motifs of everyday life such as cars, mobile phones or bathroom furniture, which are elevated from banality to the paradisiacal through their imaginative visualisation.

Sebastian Scheid (Büdingen) presents new powerful pieces in the permanent exhibition and surprises with a specially created installation.

### **Textile**

One can be very curious about Itamar Yehiel (Israel), who presents embroidered three-dimensional sculptures such as small branch fragments, leaves or tree mushrooms. He wants to revive the ancient technique of embroidery and tell cultural and personal stories with needle and thread.

### **Glass**

This year, the glass section is showing some very convincing works: The Italian glass artist Ivan Baj, who has his designs realised in Murano, is here for the first time. His designs seem slightly retro, but always in such a

way that a contemporary aesthetic shines through. Another young glass artist is Dagmar Christina Gerke (Hildesheim). She has designed a series of glass vases in memory of a stay in Taiwan, using the shape and colours of bamboo as inspiration.

### University projects

At the Grassmesse, old and modern techniques meet or go hand in hand. For example, in the "New Sources" project by Matthias Gschwendtner. His thesis at the Berlin University of the Arts is a hybrid of craft and AI. It is a case study on the use of waste wood such as dried birch twigs. With artificial intelligence, it becomes an unusual piece of seating furniture that is manufactured robotically. The result is an unusual chair. It offers an alternative solution to counteract the increasing deforestation and also questions the standardisation of naturally grown materials in the domestic environment.

In the summer semester of 2023, students at Burg Giebichenstein investigated the panel material Funderplan and explored what can be built with it. This material consists exclusively of wood fibres and water, and is processed under heat and high pressure. The cell wall substance lignin present in the wood is used as an "adhesive". Funderplan is therefore "100% organic". The board material is currently used in the building sector, and a large number of furniture items have also been created as part of material experiments.

### Exhibition areas

The exhibition stands cover a large part of the entire museum. The exhibitors can be found in the foyers, in the Art Deco pillared hall, in all special exhibition areas as well as in the permanent exhibition "Antiquity to Historicism". The latter offers very appealing combinations and dialogues for guests and exhibitors between tradition and the present.

### Seven Grassi Prizes are awarded

The Grassmesse jury awards a total of seven Grass Prizes with a total value of € 11,000 for outstanding works and concepts.

- - The **smow Design Prize**, endowed with 2,500 € and intended for outstanding work in the field of product design/furniture, is newly endowed and awarded for the first time this year. Prize donor Jörg Meinel, one of the managing directors of the smow company, would like to "use the smow design prize to offer young designers a showcase for their designs and to encourage young designers to face the market and competition."
- - Since 1997, the Grassmesse has been sponsored by the Carl and Anneliese Goerdeler Foundation. The non-profit foundation was established by the descendants of the former Lord Mayor of Leipzig in 1995. In memory of Carl Goerdeler's courageous resistance during the Nazi regime and his wife Anneliese Goerdeler's attachment to the GRASSI Museum for Applied Arts, the **Grassi Prize of the Carl and Anneliese Goerdeler Foundation** has been awarded since then. It is endowed with 3,000 €.
- The **Grassi Prize of Sparkasse Leipzig** has served to promote contemporary arts and crafts and design since 1997 and has been awarded for 25 years. It is endowed with € 2,000.
- The **Apolline Prize** has been endowed since 2011 by the Lyscov-Saucier family, who are very fond of contemporary applied art. The prize is endowed with 1,000€.
- Rosemarie Willems from Rotterdam (NL), a collector who has been associated with the museum for a long time, has donated a prize of € 1,500 in memory of her father since 2022. This **Jan Willems Prize** is primarily intended to promote artisans as well as female designers from the field of wood.
- - In 2018, the Friends of the GRASSI Museum für Angewandte Kunst e.V. established a prize endowed with 1,000 €. This **Friends of the GRASSI Prize** is a committed step towards the special promotion of the Grassmesse, which has been an important concern of the Circle of Friends since the Grassmesse was re-founded in 1997.
- The **GRASSI Young Talent Prize** is awarded annually for the best final project in the design department at Burg Giebichenstein Kunsthochschule Halle and, in addition to a presentation at the Grassmesse, includes a CityCards postcard edition and purchase for the collections of the GRASSI Museum for Applied Arts, Leipzig. The prize is awarded by a jury at the Burg Giebichenstein annual exhibition.

### **About the Grassmesse**

The historical roots of the GRASSIMESSE can be found in the year 1920. Yesterday, as today, artistic quality in design and execution as well as independence and a willingness to experiment are decisive criteria for the selection of the jury. This internationally oriented sales fair is one of the most important of its kind in Europe.

### **Upcycling last year's Grassmesse advertising banners**

During the Grassmesse, a container with an advertising banner visible from far and wide stands on Johannisplatz directly in front of the museum. After the end of the Grassmesse, the fashion designer Maria Schenke from Leipzig and her label GRAUE MAUS turn these colourful advertising tarpaulins into casual bags for urban use. The variety ranges from small fanny packs to light and airy backpacks to voluminous boxes. Available for purchase during and after the Grassmesse at [www.graue-maus.de](http://www.graue-maus.de).

All exhibitors and details of individual projects can be found at [Exhibitors | Grassmesse](#)

## **GRASSIMESSE LEIPZIG: 20.10. - 22.10. 2023**

### **Opening hours:**

**Fri, 20.10. + Sat, 21.10., both 10 a.m. - 7 p.m., Sun, 22.10. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.**

### **Press conference:**

**Thu, 19 Oct, 2pm**

### **Prize award ceremony with preview:**

**Thu, 19 Oct, 6 - 10 pm**

### **Entry fee:**

**Day ticket €8 for adults, reduced €5.50 or €4; free admission for those under 18.  
The ticket also entitles the holder to visit all three areas of the permanent exhibition.**

### **Place:**

**GRASSI Museum for Applied Arts, Johannisplatz 5-11, DE 04103 Leipzig  
Tel.: +49 (0)341/22 29 100, [grassimuseum@leipzig.de](mailto:grassimuseum@leipzig.de)  
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If you have any queries, please contact:

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