



GRASSIMESSE LEIPZIG: October 23–25, 2026

A total of 140 artists and designers from Europe, South America, and Asia selling their latest work

At this year's GRASSIMESSE (October 23–25, 2026), 140 artists, designers, and craftspeople from seven European countries, as well as South America and East Asia, will present their work. Across approximately 4,000 square meters of exhibition space, they will sell current pieces spanning jewelry, ceramics, furniture, woodwork, glass, metalwork, and textiles. Young product designers will surprise visitors with novel material combinations, while textile and footwear designers unveil their latest collections. The three-day GRASSIMESSE showcases emerging design trends, bringing together renowned designers alongside young craftspeople and recent university graduates.

GRASSIMESSE fosters direct interaction between the public and the creative community. Visitors can purchase high-quality unique pieces and limited editions while discovering the impressive diversity of contemporary design. For enthusiasts of art and design, this international sales fair is a highlight of the annual exhibition calendar.

A total of 82 stands are set up across the spacious exhibition halls—including the Art Deco Pillared Hall—and within the permanent exhibition itself. This immediate spatial proximity between contemporary exhibits and the collections' cultural-historical masterpieces is unique for a sales fair. Six additional stands are located in the foyer, where universities present current student projects.

A total of eight GRASSI Prizes, with a combined value of €15,000, will be awarded at the fair for outstanding work in the fields of applied arts and product design.

A common thread runs through many of this year's entries: an engagement with ecological issues, the responsible use of resources, and the future of materials. What is remarkable is the diversity and complexity of the artistic responses. Far from showing signs of repetition or fatigue, the work demonstrates undiminished innovative spirit. Here, sustainability is not a design constraint or a restrictive framework, but rather a productive starting point for surprising, poetic, and experimental work. In doing so, the GRASSIMESSE

once again highlights just how vibrant and forward-looking contemporary craft and design are today.

Ceramics

Diverse trends are evident in the field of ceramics. On one hand, there is the Argentine ceramicist Natalia Denegri, whose vessels—with their archaic aesthetic—reflect the memory of ancestors and can thus be viewed as a living archive. Standing in contrast to this are the free-form sculptural ceramics of South Korean artist Yoo Chungwoo; through works that appear both dynamic and unstable, he seeks to give voice to everything from everyday emotions to the tragedies of our time, such as violence, ceaseless wars, and religious conflicts.

Jewelry

As has been the case for many years, the diversity of artistic approaches in jewelry design is particularly striking. Victor Pavlov from Sofia creates fascinating brooches from polyurethane foam, with organic forms reminiscent of sponges and sea anemones. In contrast, the strictly ordered necklaces by Silke Trekel, Robert Wißmath, and Peter Frank embody a classicism that continually captivates through subtle, refined details. Gemstones—long a signature element for Georg Dobler—are incorporated into his clearly structured compositions with great restraint; they exert their impact without ever appearing ostentatious or overwhelming.

Wood

Dutch artist Ruben van der Scheer treats the material with great sensitivity. Subtle gradations not only impressively highlight the wood's grain but also lend a surprising softness and an almost organic dynamism to a material that is inherently hard. His works appeal equally to the eye and the sense of touch. For Benjamin Dittrich of Leipzig, however, the material almost recedes into the background. He uses discarded Swedish candlesticks, reassembling them into new, hybrid structures. Their rhythmic articulation and colorful rearrangements are vaguely reminiscent of three-dimensional diagrams. These form the starting point of his artistic exploration, which is also reflected in his painting. Treatment with lacquer creates additional visual surprises while simultaneously obscuring the objects' original function. The boundary between sculpture, painting, and object begins to blur.

Glass

Two contributions from Denmark also make a striking impression in the field of glass design. Jonas Niedermann explores the phenomenon of magnetism, applying its operating principle to the glass vessels in his *Bloom* series. Loose leaves on their surfaces appear to be drawn by invisible forces—distributed irregularly, yet condensed into clusters in places. Matter and color coalesce to form a unique, landscape-like surface. At first glance, the work of Laure Lærke Nielsen appears more traditional. She draws on the design language of Venetian table decorations but works consistently with discarded glass fragments, which she fuses onto or into the pieces, integrating them as decorative elements. These fragments retain traces of their origins, telling stories of

breakage, imperfection, and transformation. This concept extends into sculptural forms that push the material's physical limits to the extreme.

Fashion

Alongside Slovenian designer Hristov Dragan—whose label LUDUS is known for a minimalist palette of natural colors and pared-back cuts—the Prague-based brand SOOLISTA also merits attention. It focuses on the architectural impact of clothing and, by extension, the relationship between body and space. As an architect, label founder Zuzana Basterrech emphasizes structural clarity without overlooking the tactile qualities of premium materials such as wool and cashmere.

Design Newcomers

The "Design Newcomers" category is a new addition to GRASSIMESSE 2026. The international company smow—which has supported the Grassi Design Award for several years—is providing further significant impetus through this initiative. By participating in GRASSIMESSE, smow aims specifically to foster young talent in furniture design and facilitate their entry into the premium furniture market. The company is covering the stand fees for six up-and-coming designers. Especially at the start of a career, it is often difficult to present an extensive portfolio of realized work. That is why participants in the smow Design Contest can also impress the jury with prototypes, sketches, and concepts. In this way, the competition offers young designers the opportunity to showcase their ideas to a broad audience and potential manufacturers.

NeuesWagen

The NEUESwagen is one of the special features offering the public new—and often surprising—insights into the diverse fields of design. A large truck, serving as both an exhibition space and a laboratory, is stationed in the entrance area of the Grassi Museum. The focus here is on "smart materials"—substances with extraordinary properties that adapt to environmental changes (such as light, temperature, or mechanical stress) without human intervention. When used effectively, they can contribute to greater sustainability, increased resilience, and more efficient solutions. The NEUESwagen allows visitors to experience and understand this new generation of materials firsthand.

University Projects + Galerie Haptik

Every year, semester projects from various universities and colleges impress visitors with their innovative and creative approaches, where traditional and modern techniques and materials converge.

- West Saxon University of Applied Sciences Zwickau / Applied Arts Schneeberg, Textile Design Class
- Staatliche Zeichenakademie Hanau (State Drawing Academy Hanau)
- Burg Giebichenstein University of Art and Design Halle / Product Design / Ceramics and Glass Design / Jewelry and Sculpture
- Galerie Haptik (Flensburg) presents high-quality functional ceramics from Japan and China.

Exhibitors

A complete list of exhibitors and details regarding individual projects can be found at:
<https://www.grassimesse.de/en/currently/exhibitors/>

About the GRASSIMESSE

As a platform for outstanding craftsmanship and innovative product design, the GRASSIMESSE boasts a long tradition dating back to 1920. For over a century, it has showcased pioneering approaches and current trends in the field of quality design.

Events during the GRASSIMESSE weekend

Thu, Oct 22 – Oct 25, from dusk onwards at the main gate:

Light in Motion. ALBERS/ REDUX

Sat, Oct 24, 2–6 pm: University Insights at GRASSI Himmel, 3rd floor

Sat, Oct 24, 11 am & Sun, Oct 25, 3 pm: Gallery talks with Schnuppe von Gwinner: “The Narrative of Surfaces – The Significance of Structures, Textures, and Tactility in Object Design”

Sat, Oct 24 & Sun, Oct 25, 1 pm each day: Casting demonstration with Moritz Ganzoni and Ludwig Menzel, using a casting technique that dates back millennia and is still practiced today by the Ashanti people in Ghana, West Africa.

GRASSIMESSE LEIPZIG: October 23–25, 2026

Opening hours:

Fri, Oct. 23 + Sat, Oct. 24: 10 a.m. – 7 p.m., Sun, Oct. 25: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Press conference with tour; selected artists and designers will be present:
Thu, Oct. 22, 2 p.m.

Award ceremony and fair preview:

Thu, Oct. 22, 6 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.; open to the public; free admission

Admission:

Day ticket: €8 (adults), €5.50 / €4 (concessions); evening ticket: €4

Free admission for ages 18 and under

Venue:

GRASSI Museum of Applied Arts (GRASSI Museum für Angewandte Kunst)

Johannisplatz 5–11, 04103 Leipzig

Tel.: +49 (0)341/22 29 100, grassimuseum@leipzig.de, www.grassimesse.de

Leipzig, September 1, 2026

For further information, please contact:

Anett Lamprecht (Deputy Director and Press Officer; Tel.: 0341/2229-104,
anett.lamprecht@leipzig.de)

or Sabine Epple (Curator of Modern Art; Tel.: 0341/2229-106, sabine.epple@leipzig.de)