

THE GRASSIMUSEUM



1 View on the portal of the Grassi Museum
2 Vase "Jack-the-pulpit" Louis Comfort Tiffany, Glass & Decorating Company, New York, around 1900



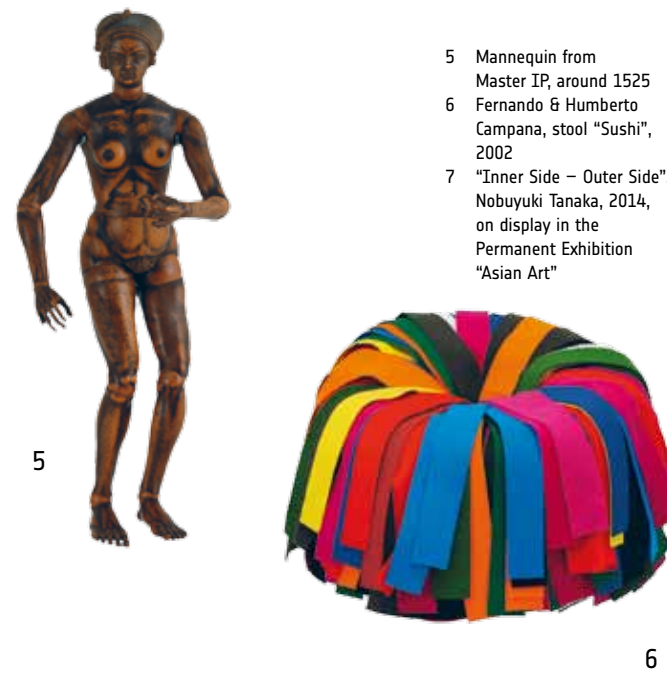
PERMANENT EXHIBITION WITH THREE TOURS:

FROM ANTIQUITY TO HISTORISM

The first tour invites the visitor on a journey through the art history: outstanding objects from Europe's art and cultural history will be displayed on a surface of 2,000 square meters divided into 30 rooms and smaller cabinets. Here, the classic material areas of ceramics, glass, furniture and wood utensils, precious and base metals, in particular Leipzig goldsmith's work, ornamental and everyday tin objects, scientific instruments and textiles are very well represented. Late Gothic carved sculptures and winged altars represent a special quality area. The recurrent reception of antiquity on the one hand and Saxony's art and cultural history in the European context on the other hand form the leitmotif of the tour. This raised the desire to trace the transformation of forms, the purpose of the objects and their embedding in the historical context. A number of historic interior decorations represent the special highlights.

ASIAN ART. IMPULSES FOR EUROPE

East Asian and Islamic influences in European art are already highlighted in the first tour. A core collection of the museum's collection of Asian art is presented at the Gallery of the Pfeilerhalle and in two cabinets accessible from there. In addition to ceramics and metalwork from the last 1,500 years from China and Japan, a collection of sword ornaments is also on display here. The first of the two cabinets is dedicated predominantly to lacquer art. The most important pieces include a twelve-piece, carved lacquer folding screen from China and a modern lacquer sculpture from Japan. In addition, Japanese tea ceremony vessels are on display. At the centre, it is possible to see objects from the collection – donated to the museum in 1907 – of Philipp Walter Schulz from Leipzig, one of the first German researchers to travel to Persia.



5 Mannequin from Master IP, around 1525
6 Fernando & Humberto Campana, stool "Sushi", 2002
7 "Inner Side – Outer Side", Nobuyuki Tanaka, 2014, on display in the Permanent Exhibition "Asian Art"

FROM ART NOUVEAU TO THE PRESENT

The third exhibition tour runs on two floors, from Art Nouveau to the present. On the upper floor, three major themes lead to international Art Nouveau, with top pieces from the Exposition Universelle held in Paris in 1900, to Art Deco, with its various forms. This is followed by the Modernism determined by functionalism, represented in particular by the Bauhaus and similar movements. Scandinavian and German product design of the 1930s and 40s conclude the tour on the upper floor. The tour continues on the ground floor with design after 1945. International impulses, radical breaks, but also the still living Bauhaus tradition determine the design tendencies in the first decades after the war. A central theme in both East and West Germany is the struggle for "good form". Further emphasis lies in the system design of the 1960s and 70s and the colourful world of forms of the Pop Art era. The visitor is confronted with the unique pieces of the studio glass and the studio ceramics movement. Thanks to the recent purchases at the GRASSIMESSE, the tour continues in the present. In the concluding interactive 360° room installation "Sinneslandschaften" visitors can get involved in design processes.



SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS AND GRASSIMESSE



The GRASSIMESSE is considered a melting pot for creative people, art and design lovers

The Permanent Exhibitions are accompanied by a versatile programme of Special Exhibitions. It is dedicated to all areas of design and ranges from historical topics to current design to photography and architecture. The GRASSIMESSE, held at the end of October, represents an annual recurrent highlight. Established as early as 1920, it entered the history of design as one of the first performance shows of its kind and as a "meeting point for modern art". Since its revival in 1997, it has re-established itself as an international forum for applied arts and design. A jury of experts guarantees the high standard of the exhibited works. The international participants present a broad spectrum between classical handicraft and experimentally conceptual design. Visitors can enjoy a variety of creative design options that invite them to have a look, get information and buy.

www.grassimesse.de

EVENTS AND CULTURAL EDUCATION

The Museum as a place of inspiration and education offers a variety of events and projects for all ages and interest groups. Not only art and culture lovers, but also design fans or lovers of arts and crafts, as well as architecture or photography enthusiasts will find their place in the museum. Visitors can experience the fascinating diversity of applied art from the antiquity to the present. The museum should be understood as an open place of culture in general, communication, exchange and personal stimulation. Regular tours attract both locals and tourists – whether as a journey through more than 3,000 years of art history or as short tours to the highlights of the collection. Those who prefer to explore the museum on their own initiative can use the multimedia guide in German or English or join collectors' talks, presentations or workshops. Families like to come to museum festivals, Family Sundays and prefer intergenerational offers. During school days, classes of all levels use the on-syllabus events offered by the school. During school holidays, the motto is "Ferien aktiv!" ("Holidays in action!"), and even for birthdays, the museum is a popular place for celebrations, whether for children and their guests or a group of adults.

Even the youngest are fascinated by the interactive 360° installation "Sinneslandschaften"



The Grassimuseum hosts three internationally acclaimed museums: the Museum of Applied Arts, the Ethnography Museum and the Musical Instruments Museum. The building owes its name to the merchant and patron Franz Dominic Grassi. Today's GRASSI Museum of Applied Arts was founded in 1873 as a museum of decorative arts and opened in 1874 as the second German museum belonging to this genre. Supported and promoted by the Leipzig citizenry, it developed from a collection of models to one of the most important museums of its kind in Europe. The museum displays changing exhibitions on arts and crafts, design, photography and architecture of international rank. In addition, it offers the artistically staged Permanent Exhibition with emphasis on Art Nouveau. The museum promotes the scene of artisans and young designers and accompanies children, adolescents and adults in their discovery tours through 3,000 years of art and cultural history.



3 Visitors at the exhibition "From Art Nouveau to the Present"
4 Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, model MR 90 "Barcelona Chair", 1929



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ARCHITECTURE

Built between 1925 and 1929, the Grassi Museum is one of the few major German museum buildings in the Weimar Republic. For the historic area between Alter Johannisfriedhof (Old Saint John's Cemetery) and Johannisplatz – the central gate to the east of Leipzig – the head of the Leipzig municipal planning and building control office, Hubert Ritter, in conjunction with the architects Zweck and Voigt designed a sprawling complex. It is grouped around two large representative courtyards and two small intimate courtyard gardens. The floor plan is committed to the tradition of European castle construction.

In architecture, a clear, functionalist oriented design language is combined with the expressive forms of Art Deco – visible from afar is the roof crowning, the “golden pineapple”. The Pfeilerhalle – the impressive centrepiece of the building realised in 1927 – is also characterized by this jagged style. The design of the 18 high windows of the main stairway, created by Josef Albers in 1926, is, however, committed to the rational idea of the Bauhaus.

- 10 View into the Art Deco Pfeilerhalle (Pillared Hall), the heart of Museum of Applied Arts
11 Rehgarten (“Deer Garden”) overlooking the Orangerie
12 Gallery of the Pfeilerhalle with meditating Bodhisattva in the background



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HISTORY

1874

Opening as the second museum of decorative arts in Germany

1892 – 1896

Construction of the first Grassi-museum on today's Wilhelm-Leuschner-Platz, funded by the legacy of the Leipzig businessman and patron Franz Dominic Grassi

1920

Founding of GRASSIMESSE under Museum director Richard Graul

1925 – 1929

Construction of the new Grassimuseum on Johannisplatz as one of the most modern museum ensembles of the time

1943 – 1945

Outsourcing of large parts of the collection, severe destruction of the building

1952

Opening of a temporary Permanent Exhibition in five of once thirty showrooms

1982

Closure of the Permanent Exhibition due to the progressive decay of the building

1994

Permanent Exhibition of a selected collection in five newly equipped rooms

1997

Revival of the GRASSIMESSE as a juried sales exhibition with an international profile

2000 – 2005

Renovation and modernisation of the Grassimuseum

2007

Reopening with the first tour of the Permanent Exhibition “From Antiquity to Historism”

2008

Opening of the Special Exhibition areas

2010

Inauguration of the restored Art Deco Pfeilerhalle and opening of the second tour of the Permanent Exhibition “Asian Art. Impetus for Europe”

2011

Reconstruction of the stairway windows by Josef Albers – the world's largest surface glass design of the Bauhaus

2012

Opening of the third tour of the Permanent Exhibition “From Art Nouveau to the Present”

2015

Reconstruction of the historic stairway lights

The museum is a member of the Conference of National Cultural Institutions.

COLLECTIONS

From the very beginning, the Museum's collection extended through all areas of material and all periods of European and Asian applied art. In recent decades, the view has also widened to art objects from other continents. Originally financed by the Leipzig citizenry, up to now the collection has grown significantly by the commitment of private donors. Today, it comprises around 230,000 unique pieces and serial components – textiles, fashion, metalwork, ceramics of all kinds, sculptures, medals and plaques, furniture and interior design, design objects, graphic sheets, book art, photographs and much more.

Only a small part of it can be shown permanently. However, the Special Exhibitions of the museum always provide new opportunities to bring the treasures of the collection to light.

In addition to existing publications, the digital museum is becoming increasingly relevant.



Nautilus goblet, Enkhuizen (The Netherlands), around 1600, silver, moulded, embossed, engraved, gold-plated

DIGITAL MUSEUM

The digital age is changing society, its communication and the demands of museum visitors. On the one hand, local visitors expect the widest possible portfolio of new placement offerings and strive for interaction and participation in the exhibitions. On the other hand, the museum is committed to the longterm mission of digitally sharing its knowledge in regards to the collections and art treasures with a worldwide audience. The digital museum is increasingly used as a source of information, turning into a hub of knowledge transfer and a place of global networking.

The GRASSI Museum of Applied Arts is gradually putting its collections online. This digital transformation is a multi-layered and lengthy process that affects all of the museum's core and work areas.

SPECIALISED LIBRARY

The library offers extensive literature on the history and technology of the arts and crafts from the beginning to the present day.

Opening hours Wed and Thu 10 am – 6 pm

The use is free of charge.*

FRIENDS OF THE GRASSI MUSEUM OF APPLIED ARTS

The association founded in 1991 is very committed to the support of the museum. It arranges visits to artist studios and multi-day excursions, initiates collectings for donations for the museum, and advocates its interests in public.

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SERVICE

CONTACT

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OPENING HOURS

Tue – Sun, holidays 10 am – 6 pm,
Mon and on 24/12 and
31/12 closed

ADMISSION*

up to and including 18-year-old
free single ticket for Permanent
Exhibitions and Special Exhibitions
Adults 8 €, reduced 5,50 € or 4 €
Group starting from 8 people 6 €
per person

COMBO CARD

THREE MUSEUMS IN THE
GRASSI

Adults 15 €, reduced 12 € or 9 €

HOW TO GET TO THE MUSEUM

By foot: 5 minutes from the
central Augustusplatz
Tram: N° 4, 7, 12, 15

It is possible to park directly on
the side streets Täubchenweg,
Prager Straße, Dresdner Straße
or in the parking garages on
Gutenbergplatz and Augustusplatz

ACCESSIBILITY

The entrances to the museum
are barrier-free. For the visually
impaired and the blind, an orientation
plan and audio guide are
available free of charge. An audio
guide in plain language in German
can be borrowed free of charge.

Picture title: Reconstructed stairway
windows, designed by Josef Albers, young
master at the Bauhaus Dessau
PICTURES: Karola Bauer,
Esther Hoyer, Christoph Sandig,
Helga Schulze-Brinkop

LAYOUT: Oberberg, Seyde, Lurette Seyde

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GUIDED TOURS

Public tours are free. Only the
admission fee is to be paid. Dates
in the current event programme
and on www.grassimuseum.de.
Special tours from 75 € (also in
English, French, Russian by
appointment)
Multimedia guide for children and
adults (German and English) through
the Permanent Exhibition

RENTAL

The unique rooms and foyers,
courtyards and gardens of the
museum are an ideal setting for
celebrations and events.

MUSEUM SHOP

Books, accessories, home design,
jewellery, postcards, posters,
ceramics, textiles, toys
Tue – Fri 11 am – 6 pm,
Sat and Sun 10 am – 6 pm

GRASSI CAFÉ

Weekly menu and lunch, Italian
coffee and large selection of cakes,
in summer with outdoor seating
Tue – Sun, holidays 10 am – 6 pm
www.cafeimgrassi.de

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*subject to change

Refitting of lights to LED in the
exhibition halls, Funded by:



due to a decision of the
German Bundestag

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MUSEUM MUSEUM OF APPLIED ARTS LEIPZIG

GRASSI

Unique art in
a unique building

