

ELMHURST ART MUSEUM



For Immediate Release

Elmhurst Art Museum among international institutions celebrating 100th anniversary of influential Bauhaus school with U.S. debut of traveling exhibition and related experimental programming

Direct from Mexico City, *The Whole World a Bauhaus* on view February 16 – April 21, 2019

(Dec. 6, 2018) In celebration of Bauhaus100, the centenary anniversary of Germany's short-lived but influential Bauhaus school of art and design (1919-1933), the **Elmhurst Art Museum** will host the only U.S. appearance of the international traveling exhibition, *The Whole World a Bauhaus*, February 16 – April 21, 2019. This comprehensive, historic survey will be complemented by *Assaf Evron & Claudia Weber*, a pair of site-specific works being staged by the Chicago-based artists within the Museum's adjacent Mies van der Rohe McCormick House.

The Bauhaus was founded in 1919 in Weimar, moved to Dessau in 1925 and closed in 1933 in Berlin under pressure from the National Socialists; Elmhurst Art Museum will present a range of contemporary art and design programming to provide context for the ongoing influence of the school. In addition to the exhibitions, programming highlights include a virtual reality 'tour' of the Bauhaus in Dessau, lively oral histories by former residents of the McCormick House, a teen design competition and more.

"Overseeing one of only three houses in the U.S. built by Mies van der Rohe, the final director of the legendary school, the Museum is uniquely positioned with international partners to reveal the global impact and legacy of the Bauhaus," said John McKinnon, Elmhurst Art Museum executive director. "We're proud to present exhibitions and programs about the lasting legacy Mies left in Germany before he completely transformed modern architecture from a home base of Chicago."

***The Whole World a Bauhaus*: February 16 – April 21, 2019**

Touring the world, the exhibition *The Whole World a Bauhaus* will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Bauhaus, which revolutionized the parameters of art, craft,

and technology. Elmhurst will be the only stop in the United States following appearances at museums in Buenos Aires and Mexico City. The eight chapters of the show focus on different aspects of the work and life at the Bauhaus during its operation. Photographs and documents combine with art and design pieces by Bauhaus masters and students—such as Mies van der Rohe, Walter Gropius, Wassily Kandinsky, Josef and Anni Albers, László Moholy-Nagy, Marcel Breuer and more. The eight themes - Art, Crafts, and Technology; Floating; Community; Encounters; The Total Work of Art; New Man; Radical Pedagogy; and Experiment - highlight the work students did in their revolutionary workshops with industrial materials and processes, the school's major impact on the international avant-garde, and how the students and instructors sought to rethink their world.

Many of the influential figures and others involved at the Bauhaus left Germany and spread the school's lessons internationally, including Mies and other figures who emigrated to the U.S. Mies became the director of the Department of Architecture at the Armour Institute (now the Illinois Institute of Technology) and went on to create glass and steel structures that are now a hallmark of Chicago's skyline. He influenced generations of students and is now considered one of the 20th Century's greatest architects. His prefab prototype, the Museum's McCormick House, has been revitalized via recent restorations and will be the site for site-specific projects by two Chicago-based artists.

Assaf Evron & Claudia Weber: February 16 – April 14, 2019

With an experimental spirit and contemporary lens, the artists Assaf Evron and Claudia Weber will transform the former McCormick House. Israeli-born Evron will create an installation inspired by Mies's handmade collages to connect features of architecture with ideas about immigration, including his own personal experiences. The windows will be treated images of Germany and the Middle East furthering a conversation about global citizenship, while also collapsing rational architecture with the natural world. The German-born Weber will actually reside in the other half of the McCormick House. For the duration of the exhibition, she will research the house, create changing installations, showcase the works of Olivia Block and Kate Park, interact with visitors, and host a variety of events. As she lives, works, and exhibits in the space, Weber's projects will reflect on the structure's history as a prototypical home and current function as a museum space. Her activities can be followed online at <https://www.150southcottagehillave.net/> and via Instagram @150southcottagehillave.

The Whole World a Bauhaus and *Assaf Evron & Claudia Weber* are part of the Year of German-American Friendship initiated by the German Federal Foreign Office and the Goethe-Institut, and supported by the Federation of German Industries (BDI). *The Whole World a Bauhaus* was guest curated by Boris Friedewald and organized by ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen).

Related programming

A highlight of related programming is certain to be 'Virtual Bauhaus,' March 1-22, 2019, in which Museum visitors, via virtual reality glasses, are able to 'tour' the iconic Dessau Bauhaus School as former student, interacting with and exploring its architecture, design and educational philosophies. Additional elements are an oral history series, including the unique remembrances of the Sladek family, who resided in the McCormick House from 1961-63; curator-led House tours; talks by international Bauhaus scholars; and a Teen Design Workshop and Competition. A complete program calendar will be released in early 2019.

About Elmhurst Art Museum

Elmhurst Art Museum is located at 150 South Cottage Hill Avenue in Elmhurst (IL), 25 minutes from downtown Chicago by car or public transportation (Metra). The Museum is both an international destination for Mies van der Rohe scholars and fans and a regional center where people from Chicago and the western suburbs learn to see and think differently through the study of the art, architecture and design of our time.

The Museum is one block from the Elmhurst Metra station and open Tuesday-Sunday from 11am -5pm. Admission is \$12 (\$10 for seniors) and free for students and children under 18. For more information, please call 630.834.0202 or visit elmhurstartmuseum.org.

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Header photos (from left):

KURT SCHMIDT, CONSTRUCTION FOR FIREWORKS, FROM THE STAGE WORKSHOP, 1923, LITHOGRAPH / REPRODUCTION 2017. PHOTO: INSTITUT FÜR AUSLANDSBEZIEHUNGEN

ANNI ALBERS, CARPET FOR A CHILDREN'S BEDROOM, 1923 WOLLE, WOOL, HAND-SPUN AND HAND-KNOTTED / RE-WEAVING BY CHRISTOPHER FARR 2014. PHOTO: INSTITUT FÜR AUSLANDSBEZIEHUNGEN

PREPARATORY COLLAGE BY ASSAF EVRON FOR MCCORMICK HOUSE

COMPLETE PHOTO LINK [HERE](#)